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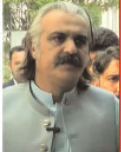
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KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 302 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, Rabi ul Sanni 18, 1446 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

PM Hails 26th Constitutional Amendment As A Game-Changer For National Stability And Welfare

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the parliament with a two-thirds majority would prove to be a milestone for the country's political and economic stability and public welfare.



He also mentioned the "successful" bilateral visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang after a hiatus of 11 years which led to the further strengthening of the bilateral relationship.

The prime minister highlighted the improving national economy with inflation down to 6.9% and the declining policy rate. Coming to the unabated Israel's barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon, he said the resolution of the UN Security Council and the rulings by the International Court of Justice had been thrown into the "dustbin of history".

Reiterating his appeal for donations to the PM Relief Fund on Gaza and Lebanon, he said the government was working on a comprehensive plan to send relief supplies to Gaza and Lebanon as a committee was working under Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal.—RT/Agency

Justice Yahya Afridi's Shocking Rise: Nominated As Next CJP In Controversial Parliamentary Move

ISLAMABAD: The special parliamentary committee responsible for appointing Pakistan's next Chief Justice has approved the nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi with a two-thirds majority, forwarding his name to the prime minister for final approval.



The decision not to participate was conveyed by PTI's Barnister Gohar Ali Khan following a meeting with parliamentary representatives in the speaker's chamber. "We have made our decision. We will not be part of this committee's meetings," Khan

confirmed after discussions. The committee, led by Speaker Sadiq, had previously tried to engage PTI members, hoping to involve them in the critical judicial selection process. A four-member subcommittee was formed, consisting of Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Ansari, Raja Pervez Ashraf, and Kamran Murtaza, to negotiate with PTI. However, despite these efforts, the boycott proved significant.

The committee initially postponed its meeting, which was set to discuss the three senior-most judges nominated for the position: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi. These judges represent the most senior ranks of Pakistan's Supreme Court, and one of them is expected to succeed the current Chief Justice, Qazi Faez Isa.

Despite the absence of PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council members, the committee pressed ahead with the judicial appointment process. The Secretary of Law and Justice presented the profiles and qualifications of the nominated judges, which included their legal careers, educational backgrounds, and timelines of their judicial appointments. After reviewing the profiles, the committee approved Justice Yahya Afridi's nomination with a two-thirds majority and forwarded his name to the Prime Minister for final approval.

Justice Afridi's appointment is expected to proceed to the President for formalisation once approved by the Prime Minister. This appointment marks a significant moment in Pakistan's judiciary, as the process for selecting the Chief Justice has undergone recent reforms. Under the new system, the three senior-most judges are shortlisted, and the parliamentary committee is responsible for making the final selection.—RT/Agency

IMF Official Presses Pakistan For Multi-Sector Overhaul In High-Stakes Talks With Delegation



ISLAMABAD: A top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stressed that Pakistan should stay on the course of reforms — which had helped it secure crucial funding from the lender. The development came during a high-level Pakistani delegation's meeting with IMF's Director of Middle East and Central Asia Department, Jihad Azour, in Washington on Tuesday, a statement from the Ministry of Finance said. Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb is leading the Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and IMF, being held in Washington DC from October 21-26.

Other delegates include Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary Economic Affairs Dr Kazim Niaz, and State Bank of Pakistan's Governor Jameel Ahmad, the ministry added. The delegation thanked the IMF for its continued support to Pakistan, especially for the recently approved \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility.

The delegation outlined the government's efforts towards fiscal consolidation, revenue expansion, energy and SOE reforms, aimed at transitioning Pakistan from stabilisation to growth. Meanwhile, the Pakistan delegation held a meeting with the representatives of Alvarez & Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services, comprising Dr Reza Baqir, Managing Director and Global Practice Leader, Peter Briggs, Division Executive for Sovereign Advisory Services, and Thibaud Fourcade. The Alvarez & Marsal team congratulated Pakistan on the successful conclusion of the EFF with the IMF and discussed various approaches through which Pakistan could access the international capital markets and external creditors. The team outlined the steps needed for the country to chart an accelerated path to capital markets following a well-sequenced strategy.—RT/Agency

Cabinet In Chaos: Key Bills Approved, But Hajj Policy Postponed Yet Again

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved eight key agenda items in a meeting at the Prime Minister's House on Tuesday.



However, the approval of the Hajj Policy 2025 was postponed once again due to the absence of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Chaudhry Saik.

One of the major approvals was for the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2024, which was sent to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases.

The bill, limited to the Islamabad Capital Territory, aims to establish an institutional framework for the prevention of domestic violence. "The bill will not only help in curbing domestic violence but also provide relief to victims and ensure appropriate punishment for offenders," the cabinet was informed.

In another decision, the cabinet approved the appointments of three private members, Lt Gen (retd) Moazzam Ijaz, Engineer Fa-

heem Iqbal, and Asim Shehryar Hussain, to the Board of Management of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, based on recommendations from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

The cabinet also designated the Ministry of Law and Justice as the Transmitting and Receiving Agency under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) Ordinance 1959, following the Ministry's recommendations.

This move is tied to Pakistan's accession to the 1956 Convention on the Recovery of Maintenance (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2024, which was sent to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases.

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Government Sparks Outrage By Axing Power Subsidy For Protected Consumers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has officially withdrawn the electricity subsidy for consumers using up to 200 units per month, media reported on Tuesday.



This decision means that consumers in this category will now face charges, starting from October, ranging from Rs9 to Rs29 per unit without any further relief in their electricity bills.

Protected consumers using up to 50 units will be charged Rs9.39 per unit, while those consuming between 51 and 100 units will pay Rs13.64 per unit. For consumers using between 101 and 200 units, the rate will increase to Rs29.21 per unit, significantly impacting these households. In addition, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has introduced a revised surcharge policy for late bill payments. As per the reports, a 5 percent surcharge will apply to bills paid within three days after the due date, while a 10 percent surcharge will apply to payments made beyond that period. Previously, a uniform 10 percent surcharge was imposed for late payments.

However, no surcharge will be applied if payments are made within the three-day grace period following the due date, offering some flexibility to consumers. Earlier, a uniform 10pc late payment charge was imposed on overdue bills, but this new structure aims to provide more flexibility for consumers.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Puts Pakistan In The Spotlight At Istanbul International Expo 2024

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday inaugurated the much-anticipated International Expo 2024 alongside delegates from various countries, marking a significant milestone in international cooperation and collaboration.



Upon his arrival at the expo venue, the minister received a warm welcome from senior Turkish officials, underscoring the importance of this event in fostering diplomatic ties.

During the event, Naqvi had a notable meeting with General Metin Gurak, Chief of the Turkish General Staff. The minister congratulated General Gurak on the successful organization of the expo, expressing his best wishes for its success. In response, General Gurak thanked Minister Naqvi for Pakistan's participation, highlighting the importance of representation from friendly nations.

As part of his visit, Mohsin Naqvi toured the expo, exploring various stalls and exhibits. He paid special attention to the stall set up by Pakistan Ordnance Factories, where he engaged with the organizers and praised the advanced Pakistani equipment on display.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Minister Naqvi remarked, "I was delighted to see the modern machinery and tools at the Istanbul International Expo." His keen interest in the advanced technologies showcased reflects Pakistan's commitment to innovation and collaboration in the defense sector.

The minister emphasized that the International Expo 2024 would serve as a platform to enhance mutual cooperation among friendly nations, paving the way for future partnerships in various fields. Pakistani Ambassador to Turkey, Dr. Yusuf Jind, along with other senior officials, also attended the event, further solidifying the presence of Pakistan at this international gathering.

As the expo continues, it is expected to facilitate valuable discussions and exchanges that could lead to strengthened ties and collaborative efforts among participating nations, fostering a spirit of partnership and mutual benefit.—RT/Agency

PM Applauds Pakistan Navy For Dramatic Interception Of Smuggled Indian Drugs In High-Sea Operation



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauded the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy for foiling an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of Indian-made narcotics pills and drugs. The prime minister, in a statement, said that the Pakistan Navy was not only safeguarding the maritime boundaries of Pakistan but also playing an effective role in curbing illegal activities in the region. The whole nation, including me, feels proud of the Pakistan Navy's officers and personnel deployed to safeguard the country's maritime boundaries.—RT/Agency

CJP Isa Drops Bombshell: July 12 Reserved Seats Verdict Not Final Amid Brewing Legal Storm

ISLAMABAD: In a detailed minority judgment, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday stated that the implementation of the top court's July 12 verdict in the reserved seats case was not binding as the review petitions in the case were still pending and not fixed for hearing.



The detailed note came days after the eight judges of the top court, in its second clarification, reiterated that parliament's amendment to the Elections Act does not have a retrospective effect and it cannot undo the SC's judgment in the reserved seats case — a move that irked the top judge.

istan is governed in accordance with the Constitution. In a detailed dissenting note, Justice Isa said that unfortunately, the review petitions against the majority short order could not be heard because his colleagues — Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar — outvoted him on the committee constituted under the SC Practice and Procedure Act, 2023.

He went on to say that the majority of eight judges decided to part ways with the court, comprising of thirteen judges, which had heard the appeals.

"The majority set up its own virtual court, permitted the making of an appropriate application" by the ECP and

Incidentally no party or counsel during the hearing ever suggested the course of action which the majority adopted, and neither the majority's short order nor the majority's judgment offers an explanation to justify it, CJP Isa added.

"In effectively legislating the Hon'ble Judges in the majority also contradicted themselves."—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



“We Will Never Allow This!” Syed Zain Shah Vows To Block Indus River Canals In Explosive Statement

By Murtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: Syed Zain Shah, the Central President of the Sindh United Party, delivered a powerful message at a workers' convention in Tando Adam, asserting that his party will steadfastly oppose any plans to construct canals on the Indus River. Shah's comments come amid rising concerns over resource management and governance in Sindh, a province that has long struggled with issues related to water distribution and political representation.



Jamiaat Ulema-e-Islam, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami, Awami Jamhoori Party, National People's Party, as well as factions from the PPP. This coalition aims to present a united front against perceived injustices and encroachments on the rights of the Sindh people.

Criticizing the PPP further, Shah accused the party of engaging in “historic rigging” during the last elections, alleging that they exploited a divided judiciary to introduce a “new conspiratorial system” in the country. He condemned the “Green Pakistan” initiative, likening it to “wrapping poison in gold and silver,” suggesting that it masks harmful policies under the guise of environmental progress.

Shah's remarks were part of a broader strategy outlined by the Sindh Bachao Committee, a coalition consisting of ten political parties, including the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Pakistan Muslim League (Functional),

them vulnerable to social evils such as drug addiction and gambling. He underscored the urgent need for a unified struggle against these challenges and called for immediate action to protect the Indus River and its resources.

Other prominent figures at the convention included Roshan Burro, Inam Bhatti, Manzoor Khaskheli, District President Muhammad Khan Panhwar, Sarwar Abro, Sambara Gul Lakho, and Baghi Mujahid Thahim, all echoing Shah's sentiments and emphasizing the importance of solidarity among Sindh political factions in their fight against exploitation and mismanagement.

As the meeting concluded, it was clear that the Sindh United Party and its allies are mobilizing for what they see as a critical struggle for the rights and resources of the Sindh people, determined to prevent any developments that could further endanger their livelihoods and environment.

Desperate Measures: 200 Food Packs Handed Out To Struggling Students In Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In a commendable effort to support the health and well-being of students, 200 nutritious food packs were distributed at Government Primary School Wami Wada under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmad Fawad Shah. The initiative was executed by Assistant Commissioner Sobhoder, Dr. Rana Haseeb, in collaboration with the administration of Mazhar Model School.



The distribution took place as part of a broader initiative led by Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Syed Fawad Hussain Shah, aimed at ensuring that every school in the area has access to essential food and clean drinking water. Dr. Haseeb emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating that it seeks to address nutritional needs among students, especially in areas where food insecurity is a concern. Dr. Haseeb highlighted the collaboration with the private school, which has been instrumental in facilitating this project. He expressed gratitude to the staff and volunteers who

helped make this initiative a reality, ensuring that students receive not only education but also the nourishment necessary for their growth and development.

The 200 food packs included a variety of healthy items designed to provide essential nutrients, promoting better concentration and learning among the students. This effort reflects a growing recognition of the link between proper nutrition and academic performance, particularly in underprivileged communities.

The initiative received positive feedback from both students and their families, with many expressing appreciation for the support

being provided to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals. Community leaders and educators also welcomed the program, calling it a significant step toward fostering a healthier generation. As the initiative unfolds, there are plans for continued distribution efforts in other schools across the region, with hopes of expanding the program further. The Deputy Commissioner's office remains committed to enhancing the quality of education and overall well-being of students in Hingorja and beyond, recognizing that a healthy child is more likely to succeed academically and socially.

Sunil Kumar's High-Stakes Meeting On Scholarships Sparks Intense Debate



TALHAR: In a proactive effort to address the challenges faced by underprivileged students, Pakistan Peoples Party Minority Wing leader Sunil Kumar convened a meeting with social activist and education expert Nasir Ali Baloch to discuss the implementation of scholarship programs. The meeting highlighted the pressing issue of financial constraints that many deserving students encounter as they pursue higher education.

Nasir Baloch raised significant concerns regarding the plight of poor students from Talhar who manage to secure admission to universities based on merit but often find themselves forced to drop out due to financial hardships. He proposed that the Town Committee of Talhar allocate a dedicated fund in its annual budget specifically aimed at supporting these underprivileged students.

In response, Sunil Kumar expressed his commitment to advocating for this funding. He assured Baloch that he

Journalists Unite! TDEA And FAFEN Hold Explosive Workshop On Press Rights At Tando Allahyar



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A one-day workshop focused on journalistic rights was organized at the Tando Allahyar Press Club by the Trust for Democracy, Education, and Accountability (TDEA) in collaboration with FAFEN. Esteemed journalists Nasir Zaidi and Syed Abdul Ahad led the session, providing valuable insights into the legal rights, responsibilities, and challenges faced by journalists.

Nasir Zaidi emphasized the necessity for journalists to have a solid understanding of their rights under national laws. He stressed the importance of relevant institutions in disseminating this information and called for a united front among journalists.

Other speakers at the event included Press Club President Ghulam Rasool Dars, General Secretary Syed Abdul Rasheed Jaffari, Senior Vice President Toufiq Khan Qaimkhani, and Joint Secretary Hasrat Laghari. The workshop provided a platform for robust discussions, and attendees expressed gratitude for the insights shared.

Badah Road Accident Leaves 5 Injured, 2 Dead

By Ibrahim Farooqi

BADAH: A tragic accident occurred on the Radhan-Larkana Road near the village of Punhal Brohi, where a collision between a truck and a loader motorcycle resulted in two fatalities and five injuries. Among the deceased is Faiz Muhammad Larik, whose son, Sajid Ali Larik, is among the injured. The injured also include Wahid Ali

Manzoor Hussain Wassan Showered With Praise After Returning From Umrah

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: In a warm gathering to celebrate his return from the sacred pilgrimage of Umrah, Manzoor Hussain Wassan, a prominent political figure and senior vice president of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh, received heartfelt congratulations from fellow party members and well-wishers. The event, held at Wassan's residence in Karachi, was hosted by Nisar Ahmed Wassan, President of the PPP Cultural Wing for the Shaheed Benazirabad Division.

During the gathering, Manzoor Hussain Wassan reflected on the significance of his pilgrimage and the spiritual renewal it provided. He emphasized his unwavering

commitment to the PPP, stating that all political ideologies, except for that of the PPP, have essentially faded away. “Other political parties are misleading the public with hollow slogans,” he remarked, asserting that the PPP remains the only party dedicated to the welfare and progress of the people.

Wassan highlighted the pivotal role of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in shaping a hopeful future for the nation. He described Zardari as a beacon of hope for many, reinforcing the belief among party supporters that his leadership can steer the country towards prosperity and stability.

The event also served as a platform for party members to rally around their shared

goals and reaffirm their dedication to the party's vision. As political dynamics continue to evolve in the country, Wassan's sentiments resonate with many within the PPP, who believe in the party's capacity to address the challenges facing the nation.

Guests at the event expressed their solidarity with Wassan and the PPP, acknowledging the historical significance of the party in Sindh and its ongoing efforts to connect with the grassroots.

The celebration concluded with a call for unity and a reaffirmation of their commitment to the PPP's ideals, as members prepared to face the political challenges ahead with renewed vigor and determination.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Hosts Controversial Documentary Screening Amid Heated Reactions

By Samad Ayaz Dahr

NAWABSHAH: The Media Department at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Nawabshah recently organized an engaging screening of a documentary film, drawing attention from both faculty and students alike. The event featured special guest Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Madad Ali Shah, who not only attended but also presented shields to celebrate the remarkable talents of the students involved in the project.

The screening was part of an initiative to enhance practical media education within the university. Professor Dr. Salman Bashir Memon, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, emphasized the significance of such events, stating that they would greatly benefit students by providing them with real-world insights and experience in media production.

Dr. Muhammad Ramzan Pahore from the Sindh University Media Department also participated in the event, sharing his thoughts on the film and its impact on the audience. His input contributed to a rich discussion about the relevance of documentary



filmmaking in contemporary media studies.

Dr. Dastar Ali Chandio, Chairman of the Media Department, expressed gratitude to the guests and participants, assuring everyone that initiatives like this would continue to foster creativity and collaboration among students. He highlighted the impressive performances of lead actor and director Bachal Baloch, alongside co-artist Miss Sumbal Jamali, whose work was pivotal to the film's success.

The screening attracted a large audience, including prominent attendees such as Dr. Abdul Samad Dahr, Director of the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC); Deputy Director of Public Relations Kashif Noorani,

Dr. Aftab Madani; Imran Jatoi; Dr. Tania Laghari; Madam Shadab Fatima; Madam Saida Sapna Shah; and Madam Mahareba, along with other faculty members.

Students were enthusiastic about the event, engaging in discussions and asking questions, which highlighted their interest in the film and the media field. The success of the screening underscores the Media Department's commitment to enriching the educational experience and nurturing the next generation of media professionals. As the university continues to promote such initiatives, it aims to strengthen the connection between academic learning and practical application in the field of media.

Faculty Training Drama: SAU And Sindh HEC Join Forces For Intense 5-Day Program

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a significant initiative aimed at enhancing faculty competencies and improving the quality of education, Sindh Agricultural University (SAU) Tando Jam has partnered with the Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) to launch a 5-day Training of Trainers (TOT) program as part of its Faculty Development Program (FDP). This program is specifically designed to bolster the teaching skills of young faculty members from SAU's main campus, Khairpur College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (KCAET), and SAU's Umerkot Campus.

The inauguration ceremony underscored the program's importance in fostering academic excellence and improving instructional quality across these institutions. Prof. Dr. Altaf Ali Syal commended the collaboration between SAU and SHEC, emphasizing that contin-

uous professional development is vital for academic progress. He highlighted that this Training of Trainers program offers invaluable opportunities for young faculty members to refine their teaching abilities.

Engr. Zaheer Ahmed Khan, the program's Focal Person and Coordinator, elaborated on the significance of learning from the expertise of master trainers hailing from prestigious institutions, including Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), University of Sindh (UoS), and the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Bhit-shah. This diverse pool of knowledge is expected to enrich the learning experience for the participants.

A total of 35 faculty members are participating in the program, eager to capitalize on this professional development opportunity. The event

featured insightful addresses from notable figures, including Prof. Dr. Saleem Sarki, Dr. Shoab Pirzaido, and Mr. Zubair Nizamani, all of whom underscored the pivotal role that faculty development plays in the success and growth of educational institutions.

Prominent attendees at the inauguration ceremony included Prof. Dr. Giasuddin Shah, Dean of the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences (FAHVS), Prof. Dr. Mubeen Lodhi, and Dr. Fahad Khoso. They collectively reiterated the significance of faculty development in cultivating a vibrant and progressive academic environment. As this training program unfolds, it is anticipated that the enhanced skills and knowledge gained by the faculty members will significantly contribute to the advancement of education at SAU and its affiliated campuses, ultimately benefiting the broader academic community in Sindh.

Horror In Badin: 5-Year-Old Boy Sexually Abused

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A 5-year-old boy was forcibly raped by the accused in Badin city. The cul-

prits identified as Danish Jamali managed to flee from the scene on the arrival of his relatives of the boy. An FIR has been lodged but the ac-

cused has not been arrested so far. The parents of the victim have demanded of the SSP Badin to take steps for the arrest of pedophile.

Outrage In Pithoro: Furious Family Demands Recovery Of Missing Youth Amid Growing Tension

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A community is in distress as Mukhtiar Ali, a young man from Pithoro, has been missing for the past three days. The 22-year-old, son of Muhammad Ismail Nuhri, had traveled to attend the annual Urs of Saman Sarkar but has not returned home since the event, leaving his family and friends deeply worried.



Despite their efforts to locate him, the family has been unable to trace Mukhtiar Ali's whereabouts. In a heartfelt plea to the media, family members expressed their anguish and desperation, urging local authorities to take immediate action to ensure the safe recovery of their loved one. They emphasized the importance of swift intervention, stating that every moment counts in find-

ing Mukhtiar. The family described Mukhtiar as a kind and responsible individual, underscoring the impact his disappearance has had on their lives. “We are frantic with worry. He went to the Urs, and we never expected this would happen. We just want him back,” said a close rela-

tive. Community members have also rallied around the family, organizing search efforts and distributing posters in hopes of gathering information about Mukhtiar's whereabouts. Local residents are being encouraged to report any sightings or relevant information to the authorities.

Authorities have been notified of the situation, and families are hopeful that a coordinated effort will lead to Mukhtiar's safe return. They are urging anyone with information to come forward and assist in the search.

As the search continues, the family remains hopeful and united in their quest to find Mukhtiar Ali, emphasizing the need for community support and the swift action of law enforcement to bring their loved one home safely.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



Gandapur Threatens To Unleash Nationwide Protests Over Controversial Constitutional Amendments

PESHAWAR: Without giving a date, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday said he would lead the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) nationwide protests against the recent constitutional amendment.

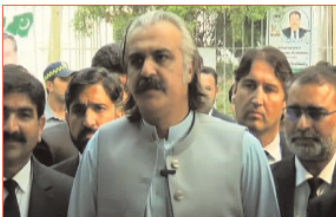
Addressing the media persons in Peshawar, Gandapur said the PTI did not accept the constitutional tweaks focused on judicial reforms.

"The amendment is an onslaught on independent judiciary. We will raise our voice against this 'illegitimate' tweaks to the Constitution," he said, vowing that his party would revoke the amendment.

Through this legislation, he alleged, the incumbent rulers would get judges of their choice appointed for favourable verdicts.

His remarks came after the ruling coalition succeeded in pushing the highly contentious judicial reforms through the parliament via a two-thirds majority with 225 and 65 votes in the lower and upper houses, respectively.

Under the judicial reforms - opposed by the PTI which boycotted the voting process - the chief justice of



Pakistan will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. A new constitutional bench will also be formed under the constitutional package.

Following the late-night marathon session in the parliament which began on Sunday evening and ended in the early morning hours on Monday, PM Shehbaz sent an advice to President Asif Ali Zardari to give his assent and sign the legislation into law.

After the president's assent, the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2024 has now become a law followed by the formation of a Special Parliamentary Committee responsible for the appointment of the new CJ under clause 3 of Article 175A of the Constitution.

KP Governor Shakes Up Cabinet, Appoints Two New Special Assistants To CM



PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday appointed two special assistants to the chief minister on the advice of the latter.

A notification issued here said that Tufail Anjum and Rengez Ahmad have been appointed as special assistants with immediate effect.—RT/Agency

Maryam Stands Unshaken On Public Welfare Agenda, Azma Bokhari Issues Defiant Statement



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is diligently working on various projects for the welfare of the common people.

During a press conference in Lahore, she highlighted the "Apni Chahat Apna Ghar" programme, which was completed within two and half months.

"The programme provides loans of up to Rs1.5 million for home construction. The chief minister is personally monitoring prices of essential goods through a dashboard, leading to reduced prices in Punjab compared to other provinces," she added.

She also emphasised a 43 percent decrease in crime rate in Lahore and praised the police department's efforts.—RT/Agency

CENTRAL PUNJAB

Gujranwala Police Launch High-Stakes Operation In Shocking Kidnapping And Murder Case

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In a commendable operation, the Arup police station successfully traced a murder case following a kidnapping. Two suspects, part of an inter-district women's gang, were arrested, along with the recovery of 80 tolas of gold jewelry worth approximately 2.16 crore rupees and 350,000 rupees in cash. Under the supervision of SSP Operations Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanveer and DSP Cantt Ejaz Ahmed, SHO Sub-Inspector Zubair Sial and his team executed the operation effectively. The suspects, posing as housekeepers, had gained the trust of Mirza Muhammad Asif Ashfaq's wife in Shamilar Town, allowing them to steal gold jewelry and cash from a safe. After the kidnapping, the police discovered the victim's body near the Nandipur canal. The successful arrests have been widely praised.

DC Naveed Ahmed Honors National Hero Noah Dastagir Butt In A Dramatic Ceremony

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: On the invitation of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed, national hero Noah Dastagir Butt arrived at City South Africa, in which Deputy Commissioner's office, Deputy Commissioner welcomed him, presented a bouquet of flowers, green crescent flag of Pakistan. He congratulated him on raising the world, said that the city of wrestlers spot of Gujranwala has made Pakistan proud by winning 7 titles including 2 gold medals in the championship.

According to the details, two separate events of the World Powerlifting Championship were held in Gold City, South Africa, in which Noah Dastagir Butt, representing Pakistan, won gold medals by lifting weights with a belt and without a belt. Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed thanked Noah Dastagir Butt for his visit to the office and inquired about the resources required, assured full cooperation, wished him further success in future. The Deputy Commissioner expressed his best wishes to the world champion Noah Dastagir Butt and presented him with a shield as a tribute for bringing the name of the country to light. He was sent off on his way back from the office, on this occasion Divisional Sports Officer Faisal Amer Khan, Rana Sajid Ali Khan District Sports Officer and Noah Dastagir's father were also with him.

Toba Tek Singh Police Bust Notorious Blackmail Ring, Arrest Four Suspects

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Pirmahal Police have apprehended four suspects involved in secretly recording inappropriate videos of women under the guise of a yogurt shop located in front of a girls' high school. Approximately three dozen explicit videos were also seized from the suspects' mobile phones. According to details, the Pirmahal police received a tip that across from Madina Town Girls High School in Pirmahal, some individuals had set up a yogurt shop (Khan Dahi Bhalla).

These individuals were secretly recording videos of customers, particularly women and schoolgirls, who would sit in the shop's cabins, and then blackmailing them for large sums of money. Acting on this information, the police successfully raided the yogurt shop and arrested four individuals including Sajjad Ali, Faisal Ikram, his brother Qaiser Ikram, and Jahanzab.

Four mobile phones used by the suspects were also seized. Police stated that 33 explicit videos were recovered from the confiscated mobile phones. A case has been registered against the suspects under various sections of the law, under the direction of Imran Ghafoor, Assistant Sub-Inspector and in-charge of Pirmahal police station.

Gojra Bar Association Fires Explosive Warning Over False Reporting Scandal

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chaudhry Riaz Ahmed Baryar, interim president of the Bar Association Gojra, has issued a press release addressing all religious groups, journalists from media channels and print media, the business community, and the public.

He urged them not to fall victim to false news regarding the Punjab Bar Council and the Bar Association Gojra. Baryar emphasized that individuals should not believe any fake or fabricated news circulating on social media or in certain newspapers, with the exception of Daily Tehzeeq. He also announced that legal action would be taken against those responsible for spreading such misinformation.

Pollution Crisis Escalates As Pakistan And India Detain Farmers Over Crop Burning Catastrophe

As part of their efforts to curb alarming levels of hazardous air pollution on both sides of the border, Pakistan and India arrested dozens of farmers for illegally burning crop waste.

At least 16 farmers have been arrested in India's northern state of Haryana for illegally burning paddy stubble to clear fields, a practice that stokes air pollution in the region around New Delhi at the onset of winter, authorities said on Tuesday.

India's national capital region battles pollution each year as temperatures fall and cold air traps construction dust, vehicle emissions and smoke, much of which officials say travels from the neighbouring breadbasket states of Punjab and Haryana.

Police in Haryana's Kaithal region told Reuters that 22 complaints of stubble burning have been registered this year, and 16 people have been arrested.

Birbhan, a deputy superintendent of police, who uses only one name, said those arrested had been released on bail.

Investigations have been launched against almost 100 farmers across Haryana, while fines have been imposed on more than 300, local media reported.

Delhi recorded "very poor" air on Tuesday morning, according to the Central Pollution Control Board states of Punjab and Haryana.

Police in Haryana's Kaithal region told Reuters that 22 complaints of stubble burning have been registered this year, and 16 people have been arrested.

It was the second-most polluted city in the world on Tuesday, a live ranking by IQAir indicated, after only Lahore in neighbouring Punjab's Punjab province, whose chief minister earlier urged 'climate diplomacy' with India to combat smog.

At least 182 complaints have been registered and 71 people arrested for burning stubble and trash, operating prohibited brick-kilns and driving smoke-emitting vehicles, Punjab police said.

"Resources have also been allocated for artificial rain and other measures," said senior Punjab minister Marriyur Aurangzeb, adding each instance of artificial rain will cost between 5 million rupees (\$18,000) and 7 million rupees (\$25,200).—RT/Agency



NA Speaker And British MP Push For Unprecedented Strengthening Of Pak-UK Relations

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and British MP Mohammad Yasin on Tuesday vowed for strengthening Pakistan-UK partnerships, especially parliamentary cooperation. During a courtesy visit at Parliament House, British Member of Parliament from the House of Commons, Mohammad Yasin and Speaker emphasised the importance of furthering the strong partnership between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across multiple areas of mutual interest, including enhanced parliamentary cooperation.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the longstanding and exceptional bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UK, which are built on a foundation of mutual respect and cooperation.

He expressed optimism that continued interaction between the legislatures of both nations would foster further growth in various sectors, driving momentum in bilateral relations.

Reflecting on the ongoing parliamentary cooperation, the Speaker emphasized the significance of the Pakistan-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group, describing it as an active and vibrant platform that plays a key role in strengthening ties between the two countries. He also stressed that high-level parliamentary exchanges would serve to further solidify these relations.—RT/Agency



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BISP Strikes Major Partnership Deal With ADB To Empower Millions Of Beneficiaries



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid in a meeting with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan held Tuesday discussed initiatives for empowering beneficiaries of the programme through imparting skill-based training. The meeting focused on promoting a future partnership between BISP and ADB, identifying key sectors for skill training of deserving families, facilitating international certifications, providing overseas job opportunities, and strengthening coordination with provincial poverty graduation and awareness campaigns for deserving women. On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that BISP is currently providing financial support to 9.3 million deserving families, a number expected to rise to 10 million by the end of the year. To further economically empower these families, BISP is initiating a skill training program. She emphasized the importance of acquiring international certifications to help beneficiaries secure employment abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also stressed the need to link existing provincial-level poverty graduation and skill development programs with BISP. Country Director, Emma Fan assured ADB's full support in enhancing BISP's efforts to uplift deserving families and strengthen the ongoing partnership. Both parties agreed to hold further consultations to identify suitable sectors for skill training and develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing key initiatives, including raising awareness among deserving women.—RT/Agency

ISLAMABAD: IG Islamabad submitted detailed report to the Islamabad High Court in the PTI Founder's Missing focal person Intizar Hussain Panjtoha's recovery case, media reported on Tuesday.

The high court adjourned further hearing of the case till tomorrow (Wednesday).

Chief Justice IHC Justice Aamer Farooq told PTI's Ali Bukhari to arrange Islamabad Police team's contact with the spokesman of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

The court also summoned the Attorney General of Pakistan. IG Police submitted report in the court. "Did you read the Intelligence Bureau's report. I didn't understand it, did you understand it," chief justice asked Ali Bukhari. "We have also saw the report but didn't understand," Bukhari replied.

IG Islamabad said, according to the IB report, this sim is not being used for Internet. "We have asked for the FIA and the CTD Punjab for the IP address of the WhatsApp." "As per the report, there are three sims in the name of Intizar Panjtoha, one of the sims have Peshawar's location," IG Police said. "Did you accessed the Peshawar location," the court asked. "The sim has been issued in the name of Intizar Panjtoha and activated on December 10. Eight SMS came and two were sent," police chief said. "Did you summon those who received messages asking about content of the message," Justice Farooq questioned. "What are reports from the defence ministry and the interior ministry," the bench asked Deputy Attorney General. "The reports have been submitted, which have been in negative," DAG said.

The bench adjourned further hearing of the missing case until 2:00 PM tomorrow.—RT/Agency

IGP Delivers Shocking Report To Court In Mysterious Intizar Panjtoha Missing Case

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Police Make Breakthrough Arrest In Explosive Alleged College Propaganda Case

LAHORE: A Lahore police team on Tuesday arrested a woman from Karachi who masqueraded as being mother of the alleged rape victim in a private college scandal.

The woman was brought back to Lahore from Karachi. A case was registered in Gulberg police station under the newly enacted Peca Act by

the Punjab government. The woman will be presented in front of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) where her statement will be recorded. According to police, total number of the cases involving spread of fake news in the alleged scandal had reached four. Meanwhile, the JIT found that the social media page which first disseminated

the fake rape story was created on the very same day and a college student shared a misleading video involving story of another girl who was injured and admitted to a hospital. Moreover, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) found more than 950 online pages which proliferated lies without verifying news.—RT/Agency

BNP Senator Qasim Ronjo Shocks Political Circles With Resignation After Defying Party In Crucial Vote



QUETTA: Senator Qasim Ronjo, a dissident member of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) Mengal, has resigned from his position in the Senate. Sources indicate that Ronjo submitted his resignation to the Senate Secretariat, following his dissent from the party's policy by voting in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Yesterday, Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) chief Akhtar Mengal instructed the party's two senators to resign immediately after they voted in favour of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Senate on Sunday. Mengal directed Senator Naseema Ehsan and Senator Qasim Ronjo to submit their resignations, warning that if they fail to do so by tomorrow, they would be expelled from the party. The two BNP-M senators had supported the government's amendment, which passed with a two-thirds majority, gaining 65 votes. Senator Ehsan arrived in the Senate wearing a face mask, while Ronjo was brought in a wheelchair. Although efforts were made to seat them with government members, they returned to the opposition benches.—RT/Agency

Polio Crisis Hits Pakistan Hard: Over 1 Million Children Miss Critical Vaccinations As Cases Skyrocket

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is witnessing a troubling resurgence of polio, with officials reporting more than a dozen new cases in October, bringing this year's total to 39—a significant jump from just six cases last year. The surge is attributed to a decline in vaccination rates, with over 1 million children missing their polio doses in September. Ayesha Raza, the Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication, highlighted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on vaccination efforts,

which has widened the existing immunity gap. Polio, a highly contagious disease primarily affecting children under five, can lead to paralysis or death. It spreads through contaminated food and water, but vaccines remain the only effective prevention. Pakistan, along with Afghanistan, is among the last countries where polio is endemic, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Vaccination efforts have faced resistance due to widespread misinformation and distrust, particularly after allegations that a fake vaccination program was used during the U.S. search for Osama bin Laden in 2011. Most of the new cases are concentrated in Balochistan, where vaccine hesitancy among parents remains high. Many affected children were partially vaccinated but did not receive the complete four-dose regimen. Raza warned that the number of cases could rise further as surveillance improves, emphasizing ongoing efforts to close the vaccination gaps.—RT/Agency

MQM-P Pushes Game-Changing Bill In NA To Revolutionize Local Governments

ISLAMABAD: The Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Tuesday introduced a constitutional amendment bill-seeking empowered local bodies across the country in the National Assembly, media reported. MQM-P MNA Muhammad Javed Hanif introduced the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 140A) which has been referred to the relevant committee for further deliberation. Federal Minister for Information, Attaullah Tarar said that the government has no objections to the bill and agreed to its referral to the committee. Muhammad Javed Hanif along with his party colleague Syed Mustafa Kamal, highlighted the bill's key features, and said that the devolution of powers would enable the people to address their issues more effectively at the local level. It is to be noted here that the MQM-P had demanded the government to amend the Article 140-A alongside the 26th constitutional amendment. The party, however, withdrew from its demand after the assurance from a delegation led by Federal Minister of Planning Ahsan Iqbal that visited MQM-P headquarter in Karachi.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, October 23, 2024



From Chaos to Control...?

The nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi as Pakistan's next Chief Justice marks a turning point for a country in desperate need of stability. After months of political infighting, judicial gridlock, and an economy teetering on the edge, the approval of Afridi's appointment by a two-thirds majority is a crucial step toward restoring confidence in the nation's institutions. His leadership at the Supreme Court offers hope for a return to a balanced judiciary, one that can function above the fray of political disputes.

Pakistan has been plagued by a lack of cohesion between its branches of government, leading to widespread confusion and diminished

public trust. Justice Afridi's nomination signals an opportunity to correct course, offering the judiciary a chance to focus on what it does best—



ensuring justice and protecting constitutional rights. In recent months, the judiciary has been drawn into political drama, often seen as a battlefield for party interests. This appointment could serve as a reset, restoring the Supreme Court's role as an impartial and stabilizing force.

While PTI's boycott of the nomination process may highlight ongoing political ten-

sions, the decision to move forward without them is necessary. Prolonging this process only adds to the sense of uncertainty that has gripped the country. By pressing ahead with Afridi's appointment, the parliamentary committee sends a clear message: Pakistan is ready to move forward, and restoring the integrity of its institutions is the first step.

Justice Afridi's leadership may not solve all of Pakistan's challenges, but it offers a much-needed starting point. At a time when the country is in dire need of direction, his nomination provides an opportunity for stability and progress, particularly in areas of governance and justice that have been strained in recent months.

THE HEARTLAND



Fear Grips Gambat: Traders Shutter Down In Protest Over Rising Insecurity

By Hafeez Mallah

GAMBAT: A significant shut-down strike took place in Gambat as local traders and citizens voiced their frustration over escalating insecurity and the unresolved issue of 1.5 crore rupees owed to businessman Sarfraz Memon. The strike saw major commercial areas, including Bhattai Chowk, Sheikh Muhalla, and Resham Gali, come to a complete standstill, with shops and businesses shuttered in solidarity.



In a show of unity, citizens and political activists organized a march from Phool Bagh to the local press club, culminating in a six-hour sit-in outside the venue. The protesters called for immediate action from authorities to address their concerns regarding safety and the financial grievances affecting local businesses. Despite their efforts, no officials appeared to engage with the demonstrators, leaving many feeling unheard and frustrated.

The protesters called for immediate action from authorities to address their concerns regarding safety and the financial grievances affecting local businesses. Despite their efforts, no officials appeared to engage with the demonstrators, leaving many feeling unheard and frustrated. The sit-in highlighted the dire state of security in the region, citing recent incidents that have left traders and residents feeling unsafe in their own community. The protesters demanded not only the recovery of the owed funds but also enhanced measures to ensure the safety and security of Gambat's residents and businesses.

During the sit-in, speakers highlighted the dire state of security in the region, citing recent incidents that have left traders and residents feeling unsafe in their own community. The protesters demanded not only the recovery of the owed funds but also enhanced measures to ensure the safety and security of Gambat's residents and businesses.

The strike reflects growing discontent among the local populace, who are increasingly concerned about both financial instability and personal safety. As tensions rise, the traders and citizens of Gambat are determined to make their voices heard, pressing for immediate and effective solutions to the challenges they face.

Democracy's Big Win: 26th Constitutional Amendment Celebrated Amid Growing Controversy

By Abdul Sattar



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Dr. Mir Hassan Mallah, the Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Tando Muhammad Khan district, has lauded the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment as a pivotal milestone in Pakistan's democratic journey. During a recent event, he emphasized that this momentous day symbolizes the supremacy of democracy and the parliamentary process within the country.

Dr. Mallah reflected on the significance of the amendment, asserting that it represents the fulfillment of the promises made by the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He characterized this achievement not just as a legislative victory, but as a reaffirmation of the democratic values that un-

derpin the nation. In particular, he commended the leadership and unwavering dedication of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, attributing the success of the amendment to his tireless efforts and strategic vision. Dr. Mallah noted that under Bilawal's leadership, the party has been able to navigate the complexities of governance and champion the cause of democracy.

The celebration of the 26th Constitutional Amendment has resonated deeply within the PPP and among its supporters, who see it as a reaffirmation of their commitment to advancing democratic principles. As the party continues to advocate for social justice and political accountability, Dr. Mallah's remarks serve as a reminder of the importance of robust democratic institutions in shaping Pakistan's future.

Financial Scandal! Trader Naresh Kumar Demands Justice In Shocking Money Dispute

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Naresh Kumar, a Hindu trader from Sukkur's date market and a resident of Thari, held a protest in Khairpur, voicing serious allegations against his brother, Mukesh Kumar, and nephew, Om Prakash, for committing fraud amounting to 80 million rupees. During the demonstration, Naresh claimed that his relatives not only defrauded him but also threatened his life and safety, warning that they would implicate him in false cases should he demand his rightful share.



Naresh detailed that Mukesh and Om Prakash had seized 15 million rupees in cash that belonged to their late father. Additionally, he accused them of manipulating bank accounts, resulting in a loss of 30 to 40 million rupees in their date market business. The situation escalated as they allegedly confiscated 70 tolas of gold that belonged to their father, along with 150 tolas of gold stored by their mother at their sister's house. Fearing for his life, Naresh asserted that when he sought to reclaim his rights, he and his family faced threats

of financial and personal harm. He reported that despite some false cases against him being dismissed due to lack of evidence, he continues to worry about additional cases being filed. Naresh emphasized that the intimidation tactics are exacerbated by the connections his brother and nephew have with criminals and local law enforcement. Despite attempts to resolve the matter through discussions with business leaders in Sukkur's date market, including Chairman Abdul Majeed Sheikh of Thari, Naresh lamented that Mukesh and Om Prakash refuse to adhere to any agreements reached in his appeal for justice, Naresh Kumar called upon several officials, including the Provincial Minister for Minority Rights, the Inspector General of Sindh, the Deputy Inspector General of Sukkur, the Hindu Panchayat of Sukkur and Khairpur, and the Senior Superintendent of Police of Khairpur. He urged them to take notice of his plight and to take necessary legal action against Mukesh, Om Prakash, and their associates to ensure his safety and the restoration of his rights.

Toxic Oil Scandal: Substandard Depot Sealed And Fined In Thatta After Shocking Discovery

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a troubling development for public health, a well-organized mafia has been inundating towns and villages across Thatta district with fake and substandard cooking oil, raising serious concerns among residents, particularly regarding the safety of children and young adults. Recent reports indicate a troubling rise in stomach-related illnesses linked to the consumption of this dangerous product, prompting urgent action from health authorities.

The seizure, a hefty fine of 500,000 rupees was imposed on Mal, marking a critical step in the fight against food adulteration in the region. The disposal of the seized oil was conducted immediately to prevent any further harm to the community. Sources within the Sindh Food Authority revealed shocking details about the production process of this adulterated oil, which involved boiling bones and discarded organs from poultry and animals. This dangerous practice not only poses significant health risks but also raises ethical concerns regarding food safety standards in the region.

In a significant response to this alarming situation, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA), under the leadership of Natasha Hashmani, conducted a successful raid on a cooking oil depot located in Thatta city. The depot, owned by Govinda Mal, was found to be operating with blatant disregard for public health standards. During the operation, authorities confiscated an astounding 12,000 liters of substandard cooking oil, which was confirmed to be unfit for human consumption. In addition to

the fraudulent oil was reportedly being sold at 400 rupees per kilogram and was widely used in local hotels, bakeries, and among rural households in Thatta. The prevalence of such harmful products in the market has sparked outrage among the community, with many calling for stricter enforcement of food safety regulations. The SFA's crackdown on the sale of substandard cooking oil has garnered widespread praise from residents and health advocates alike. Many view this operation as a crucial step toward safeguarding public health and holding accountable those responsible for endangering the community with harmful products. As the Sindh Food Authority intensifies its efforts to combat food adulteration, there is a growing demand for increased transparency and regulation in food production and sales. Community leaders are urging local authorities to enhance their surveillance and inspections to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

Bloody Attack In Home: Woman Shot Dead, Another Clings To Life After Savage Assault

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic incident unfolded in the Ayub Colony area under the jurisdiction of the Hyderi police station, where armed assailants allegedly stormed a home, resulting in the death of 60-year-old Rahiman Khatian and injuries to her 24-year-old granddaughter, Sidra Khatian.

Witnesses reported that the attack was linked to a family dispute. The assailants, identified as Zulfiqar Buledi and an accomplice, allegedly entered the home armed and opened fire indiscriminately. Following the incident, local authorities were alerted, and police arrived on the scene shortly after. The injured women were rushed to the trauma center, where medical professionals confirmed the death of Rahi-

Illegal Immigrant Crackdown: Badin Police Nab Three Afghan Nationals In Shocking Arrest

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a significant operation, Badin police successfully apprehended three Afghan nationals who were in the country illegally, along with a stolen van used in their transportation. The raid, executed on Tando Ghulam Ali Road, followed credible intelligence that led law enforcement to the scene.

Authorities are providing details on the arrests. He revealed that one of the detained Afghans, Jamil Pathan, had allegedly directed his associate, Azizullah Pathan, to create a fraudulent Pakistani identity card. This information underscores the sophisticated methods employed by those facilitating illegal immigration, complicating efforts to enforce the law.

The operation resulted in the arrest of the three Afghan individuals, as well as their facilitator, identified as Amir Khan Pathan, hailing from Peshawar. The police have indicated that the suspects were part of a larger network involved in facilitating illegal immigration, raising concerns about the ongoing challenges related to border security and undocumented migrants. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Badin, Sheeraz Nazir Abbasi, addressed the media fol-

lowing the operation, working to determine whether there are more individuals involved, both within and outside Pakistan, in facilitating the illegal entry of Afghan nationals. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges faced by law enforcement in managing illegal immigration, particularly in regions close to the Afghan border. The local police are expected to ramp up their efforts to identify and dismantle networks that pose a risk to national security. As investigations continue, the Badin police remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of the region, sending a clear message that illegal activities will not be tolerated. Community leaders are encouraged to report any suspicious activities to assist law enforcement in their efforts to maintain order and protect the integrity of the area.

SPORTS



PAK vs ENG: Saud Shakeel Boldly Bets On Rawalpindi Test Pitch For Pakistan's Victory



LAHORE: Pakistan's Test team batter and vice-captain, Saud Shakeel, has expressed hope that the pitch for the upcoming Test match will resemble that of Multan, which offered favorable conditions for spinners.

Shakeel emphasized that efforts are being made to prepare a spinner-friendly pitch in Rawalpindi, noting the experience of spinner Nauman Ali, who understands how to bowl according to the pitch conditions.

"The pitch is being worked on, and heaters are being used to ensure optimal playing conditions," he explained.

Disaster Strikes! Pakistan's Medal Dreams Shattered As Key Sports Axed From 2026 Commonwealth Games

KARACHI: Pakistan's prospects at the 2026 Commonwealth Games have suffered a blow with the exclusion of several key sports from the event.

The host city, Glasgow, announced that wrestling, hockey, shooting, cricket, and several other games will not be part of the games, significantly reducing Pakistan's chances of securing medals.



Other sports facing cut include badminton, table tennis, squash, rugby sevens, beach volleyball and mountain biking.

Wrestling has been one of Pakistan's most successful sports at the commonwealth games, contributing 46 medals, including 21 golds. The exclusion of wrestling will have a major impact, as cricket has been a consistent source of top podium finishes for the country.

Hockey, another sport with a rich history in Pakistan, has also been excluded. Pakistan's hockey team previously won multiple medals at the commonwealth games, and its removal further narrows the country's opportunities to earn medals.

Cricket, which was featured in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, will also be absent. Given Pakistan's strong cricket team, this omission further weakens its medal chances.

Shooting, a sport in which Pakistan has won three commonwealth games medals (one silver and two bronze), has also been dropped from the 2026 program. This removes yet another potential avenue for Pakistan to add to its medal tally.

In total, Pakistan has claimed 27 gold, 27 silver, and 28 bronze medals across all Commonwealth Games appearances. The absence of wrestling, hockey, cricket, and shooting will likely make it harder for Pakistan to build on this success in 2026.

The sports to be featured in the 2026 Games include athletics and para-athletics, swimming and para-swimming, artistic gymnastics, track cycling and para track cycling, netball, weightlifting and para weightlifting, boxing, judo, bowls and para bowls, along with 3x3 basketball and 3x3 wheelchair basketball, which leaves Pakistan's realistic hopes dependent mainly on two sports i.e., athletics - if Ahsad Nadeem participates - and weightlifting.—Agency

PAK vs ENG: Major Shake-Up As Mohammad Ali Poised To Replace Zahid For Third Test



RAWALPINDI: As the third Test is set to take place from Thursday, October 24, Pakistan has decided to make a change in their playing XI, sources told media.

The medium pacer Mohammad Ali will replace leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood in the decisive Test, sources confirmed.

This decision aims to utilize reverse swing on an 'expected' rough surface, and Ali is the best option for that according to the team management's strategy.

The 31-year-old Ali has been bowling in the nets under the supervision of the coaching staff for the past two days.

On the contrary, Mir Hamza's injury came as a shock for the Shan Masood-led side.

The left-arm pacer is dealing with a niggle in his right knee, rising uncertainty over his participation in the match. In regards to this, the player focused on rehabilitation rather than bowling during Pakistan's three-hour practice session on Tuesday.

It is worth noting here that both Pakistan and England have secured one victory each in the series. The third and final Test will be the decisive match for the series between the men in green and the three lions.—Agency

Rameez Ibrahim Shocks The World As Pakistan's New Fitness God Snatches Gold At Mr. Universe 2024



LAS VEGAS: Pakistani bodybuilder Rameez Ibrahim brought home the gold he earned in the Mr Universe 2024 competition organised by the World Fitness Federation in Las Vegas, USA.

It is worth noting that, alongside Pakistan, 44 other countries participated in the global event.

The other countries included Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada, Argentina, UK, USA, Philippines, Japan, Korea, China, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, New Zealand, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Muscat, Ireland, Netherlands, Egypt, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Brazil, Amsterdam, Armenia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

Besides winning a gold medal, he earned a pro card in the Men's Physique category.

Meanwhile, after clinching the medal, the bodybuilder posted on his Instagram handle, addressing those who were sceptical about his ability to achieve such a big win.

England Shakes Up Squad: Two Big Changes To Playing XI For Third Pakistan Test

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Tuesday, announced their Playing XI for the third Test against Pakistan, making two changes to the lineup.

After a crushing 152-run defeat in the second Test against Pakistan on a spin-friendly pitch in Multan, England opted to add leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed to their Playing XI for the series decider.

The final Test is scheduled to be played in Rawalpindi from 24-28



October and the pitch is expected to assist spin bowlers. He will join fellow spinners Shoaib Bashir and Jack Leach who played in the earlier two matches of the series.

Meanwhile, pace bowler Gus Atkinson will also return to the side for the third Test after missing out in the second match. He took four wickets in England's dominant first Test victory.

Brydon Carse, who made his debut in the first Test, and Matthew Potts who played the second Test, will sit out of the final of the three-match series.—Agency

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Returns With A Bang, Set To Kick Off On October 26



LAHORE: Pakistan's premier first-class tournament, Quaid-e-Azam Trophy is scheduled to start from October 26.

Eighteen teams from 16 regions will participate in the four-day tournament that will conclude on December 19.

The 18 regions include Abbottabad, AJK, Bahawalpur, Dera Murad Jamali, Faisalabad, FATA, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi Blues, Karachi Whites, Lahore Whites, Lahore Blues, Larkana, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, and Sialkot.

It is worth noting here that Karachi Whites will defend their title this year.

Earlier in 2023, Sarfaraz Ahmed-led side defeated Faisalabad in the final show-down by 456 runs at the Gaddafi Stadium.

In regards to the forthcoming Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, the director of the Domestic Cricket Operations, Abdullah Khurram Niazi called the tournament a "pin-nacle of domestic cricket."

"Quaid-e-Azam Trophy is the pinnacle of domestic cricket in Pakistan as it is not just a tournament but also an event that showcases the immense talent across the country and prepares them for the challenges of international cricket."

"As always, we will continue to provide the best possible platform for players to excel and show their capabilities on the biggest stage in domestic cricket as they will be rubbing their shoulders with the best players of the country."

Adding further, he said: "Earlier we demonstrated a successful Champions One-Day Cup, and are fully committed to strengthening our domestic structure.—Agency

BAN vs SA: Verreynne's Stunning Century Puts South Africa In Command, Leaving Bangladesh Reeling

DHAKA: A hard-fought century by Kyle Verreynne on Tuesday helped South Africa take themselves into a strong position on the second day of the first test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

Verreynne scored 114 as South Africa took a 202-run first innings lead, advancing from 140-6 overnight before being dismissed for 308.

Bangladesh were 101-3 in their second innings when bad light brought play to a close, trailing by 101 runs as they attempted to fight back after South African speedster Kagiso Rabada took two wickets in his second over to have them reeling at 4-2.

Rabada reached the milestone of 300 test wickets on the first day on Monday as Bangladesh were skittled out for 106 in their first innings after winning the toss and choosing to bat.

Opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who top scored for his team in the first innings, will resume on Wednesday on 38 not out, along with veteran Mushfiqur Rahim on 31.

The pair put together an unbeaten partnership of 42.

Earlier on Tuesday, Verreynne and Wiaan Mulder defied the conditions, after 16 wickets had fallen on the opening day, to extend their overnight partnership to 119 runs and take South Africa from 140-6 to 227-7 before Mulder was dismissed after scoring a maiden test 50.

Allrounder Mulder made 54 before getting a healthy edge to a delivery from Hasan Mahmud, after Bangladesh brought back their lone seamer into the attack as their spinners failed to make a breakthrough.

Verreynne then featured in a 66-run ninth wicket partnership with Dane Piedt, who contributed 32 runs and helped see his teammate to a second test century, brought up in 134 balls.

Verreynne was eventually stumped off a slower ball from Mehdi Hasan Miraz as the visitors' innings came to a close. Tajul Islam proved Bangladesh's best bowler with figures of 5-122 in 36 overs but was unable to add a wicket on Tuesday. The test in Dhaka is the first of a two-match series with the second in Chittagong next week.—Agency



Kids' Corner



Name: Tooba D/o Shaikh Abdul Majeed Sindhi
From: Kotri
About Me: I adore my parents!

Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT



Lady Gaga 'Fuming' After Major Scene Cut Drama In 'Joker: Folie A Deux'

Lady Gaga is reportedly furious over how Joker: Folie A Deux has made her look.

The sequel to Joker, labelled as flop, did not earn the anticipated amount and the Grammy-winning artist is said to be shocked.

Many of her scenes from the film has been chopped from the final cut, and the way songs were presented has left Gaga furious.

An insider has told Life & Style magazine, "She was not only irate, embarrassed and shocked over how most of her scenes were excised but also furious about how the songs were presented."

According to source this movie has made the singer look "like an amateur."

from violence and dread to upbeat, jazzy songs. It made her look foolish and inept."

This movie has served as a "wake-up call" for Gaga to prioritise her singing career over acting.

"It was a wake-up call that she needed. A pretty clear message that she's a singer and songwriter first - and an actor, second," an insider claimed.

However, they added that although Gaga has "made numerous critically acclaimed movies before this flop, but they don't make up for this embarrassment."

Cardi B Explodes As She Breaks Silence On Child Protective Services Raiding Her Home

Cardi B has fired back at an alleged prank caller for sending child protective services to her home.

The Grammy winner, 32, slammed the move as a "***** up" prank in an Instagram Live Monday night that was taken from a hospital bed.

"So I wanna make this very ***** clear and I can't even breathe right now," she said in the video, which she later explained was because she's been sick for days, and has been in the hospital since Saturday.

"Mother***** have taken s**** too ***** far when you mess with my ***** kids"

The WAP rapper stressed the gravity of the situation, noting how sensitive the matter was given that they're the only black family in the neighbourhood.

"For the Child Protective Services to come to my house? Not my house, my gated mansion at 11 p.m. while my children are sleeping because there's an anonymous call that there been going on that, that my kids have been getting abused and beaten. Are you ***** dumb?"



"We're the only colored people in my neighborhood completely and for m***** to pop up in my house with cops and child protective services because you m***** wanna do an anonymous call involving my children. I promise you this, I'm gonna sue CPS for f***** coming to my house at whatever the f*** time it is."

Cardi as she vowed to "sue the person that did this anonymous call."

The rapper also warned that she won't let the matter slide due to how much it cost her, leaving her "***** up."

"I'm gonna get to the bottom of this. I'm gonna hire the best private investigator in the whole ***** country because y'all take joking and y'all take s**** a little too far," she continued.

"Play with my motherhood or with my ex-husband's fatherhood," she said of her ex-husband Offset, adding that their kids are off limits.

The rapper went on to explain how their kids are perfectly taken care of and how much money goes into their wellbeing.

"We don't play that s****. My kids have never been touched, never gotten hit no matter how annoying they are," she said, adding, "I never hit my kids."

THE HEARTLAND



Riaz Chandio Declares War On Illegal Canals In Indus River Showdown

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADAPUR: Riaz Ali Chandio, Central Chairman of Jeay Sindh Mahaz, visited Shahdadpur to rally support for a peaceful protest scheduled for the 26th in Matiari. During his visit, Chandio emphasized a firm stance against any canals being drawn from the Indus River, which he described as part of a conspiracy to transform Sindh's fertile land into barren wasteland.



Chandio criticized the recently passed bill, stating that it serves only the interests of the political elite and not the general public. He called on political leaders, including Bilawal Zardari and Fazl ur Rehman, to adopt a more cautious approach, asserting that the people of Sindh are well-informed and prepared to resist any actions that threaten their natural resources.

Taluka President Manzoor Umrani announced plans for a sit-in protest at the Matiari bypass, scheduled for the 26th, to voice opposition against the extraction of six proposed canals from the Indus River. Chandio's remarks were supported by other local leaders, including Parvez Sanghar, President of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz District. Other prominent figures such as Panhul Jamali, Minthar Chandio, Saleem Umrani, Jan Muhammad Umrani, Rais Iqbal Khan Chandio, Zahir Chandio, Waheed Chandio, Mazhar Chandio, and Khan Muhammad Chandio. Media representatives from Shahdadpur, including Sajjan Jani, Aslam Azad, and Fakir Muhammad Malano, were also in attendance. This gathering marks a significant step in the ongoing efforts to protect Sindh's resources, as community leaders prepare to stand united against what they view as harmful legislative measures affecting the region.

Sakrand Police Crackdown: 11 Arrested In Shocking Operation Sweep

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Following directives from SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Tanveer Hussain Tunio, the Sakrand Police conducted successful operations across multiple police stations in the district, resulting in the arrest of 11 suspects. These raids led to the seizure of a significant quantity of illegal substances and weapons.



Participating units included Sakrand Police, A-Section Police, B-Section Police, Jam Datar Police, Qazi Ahmad Police, Daultpur Police, Mari Jalbani Police, and Pubjo Police. The arrested individuals are identified as Shah Zaman Lund, Sanauallah Brohi, Ikhtiyar Ali Sheikh, Sain Bakhs Machhi, Abdul Khaliq Brohi, Khan Muhammad Jatoi, Ali Asghar Malah, Ghulam Shabbir Anar, Hamir Machhi, Ghulam Din Rand, Azam Ali Alamani, and Shabbaz Machhi.

Authorities confiscated a total of 41 kilograms and 340 grams of marijuana, along with various illegal weapons and ammunition. Cases have been registered against the suspects under the Narcotics Act and Arms Act at the relevant police stations. In a statement, SSP Tanveer Hussain Tunio commended the police officers and their teams for their diligent efforts, announcing that they would receive commendation certificates for their work. He also emphasized the need for continued vigilance and operations to combat illicit activities in the region.

Cash Controversy! LUMHS VC Prof Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan Hands Out Scholarships Amid Allegations

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In a meaningful ceremony held at the People's Nursing School, Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), distributed scholarship checks totaling 2.684 million PKR to students from the first and second sessions of the BS Nursing program. This initiative, facilitated through the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund, aims to support aspiring nursing professionals in their educational journeys.

Director Parveen Akhtar of the People's Nursing School also participated in the ceremony, alongside a large number of students eager to receive their scholarships. The distribution of these funds not only alleviates some of the financial burdens on students but also encourages them to pursue their studies with renewed vigor and determination.

As LUMHS continues to champion educational opportunities in healthcare, this scholarship initiative stands as a testament to the university's commitment to fostering excellence in nursing and ensuring that dedicated students can achieve their academic and professional aspirations. The event was well-attended by distinguished faculty members, including Professor Dr. Munawar Alam Ansari, Dean of Basic Medical Sciences; Professor Dr. Moin Ansari, Dean of Medical and Allied Sciences; Professor Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dean of Surgery and Allied Sciences; and Professor Dr. Faroz Ali Kalwar, Dean of Dentistry. Their presence underscored the commitment of LUMHS to advancing nursing education and supporting its students.

Journalist Lala Javed Chandio In Desperate Appeal For Life-Saving Liver Transplant

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: In a heartfelt plea, Lala Javed Chandio, a young journalist and social worker from the village of Qazi Anif near Mehar, has reached out to the community for financial assistance to undergo a life-saving liver transplant. Bedridden due to severe liver disease, Chandio is facing an urgent medical situation that requires immediate intervention.

Chandio's situation has sparked concern among journalists and social leaders in Mehar, who are rallying to support his cause. They are calling for financial contributions from the community and have urged local authorities to consider conducting his treatment at government expense. The appeal has resonated with many, highlighting the urgent need for compassion and support in times of crisis. In addition to his work as a journalist, Chandio has been actively involved in social initiatives in his community, making his current plight all the more poignant for those who know him. His colleagues and friends are mobilizing efforts to raise awareness and gather funds, emphasizing the importance of community solidarity in addressing such urgent health crises. As the community rallies around him, there is hope that collective efforts will provide the necessary support to facilitate Chandio's treatment and ultimately save his life. Those wishing to assist are encouraged to contribute, as every little bit can make a significant difference in his battle against this critical illness.

Armed Attack Near Faizu Laro Sparks Chaos And Fear Among Locals

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: An alarming incident unfolded near Faizu Laro on the Indus Highway when armed assailants opened fire on officials from the PARCO Oil Company and other passengers. Thankfully, no casualties were reported in the attack, but the incident has raised significant concerns about safety in the area.

Travelers expressed their relief at narrowly escaping the attack, but many voiced their fears about the ongoing insecurity in the region. They urged the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shikarpur to increase police presence along the route from Faizu to Gohar Shakh, emphasizing the need for heightened security measures to protect both commuters and PARCO employees.

The incident underscores a growing sense of unease among residents and travelers, as they grapple with the reality of armed violence in what should be a safe transit area. Local authorities are now under pressure to take immediate action to restore a sense of safety and security for those traveling on the Indus Highway.

The assailants targeted the vehicle after it failed to stop, highlighting the brazen nature of criminal activities along this stretch of road. Passengers described a chilling atmosphere, noting that armed criminals have been operating with impunity throughout the day, engaging in various illicit activities without fear of repercussions.

Khanpur Mahar On Lockdown: Police Tighten Security After Alarming Incidents

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: In a concerted effort to bolster security in Khanpur Mahar, Station House Officer (SHO) Barkat Ali Bhatti led a proactive foot march through the city, accompanied by police officers. The initiative aimed to conduct snap checks and verify identification at local hotels, reinforcing the police presence in the area.

Importance of community involvement in maintaining safety, encouraging citizens to report any suspicious activities or individuals to the authorities promptly.

During the operation, officers were strategically positioned at key entry and exit points, inspecting vehicles and ensuring that all documentation was in order. This comprehensive approach is part of the police's ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and deter criminal activity in the region.

The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, with citizens expressing their full trust in the Khanpur Mahar police. Many took to chanting slogans in support of the Sindh police, reflecting a strong sense of collaboration between law enforcement and the public.

SHO Barkat Ali Bhatti assured residents that the police are on high alert, urging them to remain calm and vigilant. He emphasized the importance of community involvement in addressing security challenges effectively.

This initiative not only aims to enhance security but also fosters a spirit of cooperation, empowering residents to take an active role in safeguarding their community. As the police continue to ramp up their efforts, the collaboration between law enforcement and citizens remains crucial in addressing security challenges effectively.

Miracle Recovery: Injured Girl Found On Indus Highway Finally Regains Consciousness

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A girl who was found abandoned and injured on the Indus Highway 12 days ago has made a remarkable recovery after receiving medical treatment and has now regained consciousness. During a recent visit to the Dadu Hospital, Dr. Amjad Mastoi, the civil surgeon, provided updates on her condition, revealing that she has identified herself as Kulsoom, with her father's name being Allah Bakhs and her mother's name Arbab Khatoon. However, she has yet to disclose her community or residence.

ward-in-charge Raja Rafiq Panhwar, and the nursing staff, have provided not only medical care but also compassionate support to the young girl during her recovery. Their dedication has played a crucial role in her healing process. In an effort to locate her family, letters have been dispatched to local police, requesting assistance in finding Kulsoom's relatives. Despite these efforts, no family members have been located thus far, leaving the situation uncertain. The hospital staff remains committed to ensuring her well-being and hopes that they can reunite her with her family soon. As the community rallies around this distressing case, authorities continue their search for Kulsoom's relatives, highlighting the urgent need for familial support during her recovery. The hope is that with further investigation and outreach, her family will be found and she can begin to heal emotionally as well as physically.

The hospital team, including Dr. Fahmida Jamali,

PPP's Sardar Muhammad Nawaz Shaikh Shows Praise On Bilawal For 'Game-Changing' Constitutional Win

LARKANA: In a show of political solidarity, Sardar Muhammad Nawaz Shaikh, Vice President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the City District of Larkana, expressed his heartfelt congratulations to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the successful passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. He hailed the approval as a significant victory for all democratic forces within the country.

In his statements, Shaikh emphasized the collaborative efforts of various political party leaders, attributing the successful passage of the amendment to their dedication and hard work. "This is a moment of triumph not only for the political parties involved but also for the 260 million people of Pakistan," he asserted. The 26th Constitutional Amendment, which has now been approved by both the Senate and the National Assembly, is seen as a landmark development in Pakistan's legislative history. Shaikh noted that this amendment marks a new chapter in the political landscape, reinforcing the importance of democratic principles and governance. As the political landscape evolves, Shaikh's comments reflect a growing consensus among party members about the importance of unity and collective action in addressing the needs and aspirations of the people. The passage of the amendment is expected to have far-reaching implications for governance and democratic processes in Pakistan, and party leaders are optimistic about the future. Both events in Larkana illustrate the challenges and triumphs facing the community, underscoring the need for justice and progress in a rapidly changing political environment.

Tariq Anwar Siyal Hosts Open Katchery In Baqrani, Sparking Heated Debates Among Locals

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a proactive outreach initiative, Tariq Anwar Siyal, President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the Baqrani taluka, hosted an open katchery at his residence, Siyal House in Anwarabad. This event aimed to engage with local residents and address their concerns directly.

long-standing dedication to serving the people. "The Pakistan People's Party has always stood by the common man, and this commitment continues today as we advocate for their rights," he stated. He highlighted that their efforts are firmly aligned with the party's manifesto, a framework that guides their ongoing work.

During the katchery, Siyal listened attentively to the issues raised by community members, promising to collaborate with relevant officials to ensure their resolution. His commitment to the public was evident as he emphasized the importance of open dialogue between citizens and their representatives.

The katchery not only served as a platform for residents to express their grievances but also reinforced the PPP's dedication to grassroots engagement. As community members left, many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with their representatives, hopeful that their issues would be addressed promptly.

In a subsequent media interaction, Tariq Anwar Siyal reaffirmed the PPP's

This initiative reflects the PPP's ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with the community, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and acted upon.

Urgent Call To Action! Govt Degree College Marks Global Day For Prevention Of Iodine Deficiency In Qazi Ahmed

By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

QAZI AHMED: In a proactive effort to raise awareness about iodine deficiency, Qazi Ahmed Degree College organized a seminar and walk rally to commemorate the Global Day for the Prevention of Diseases Caused by Iodine Deficiency. The event was held in collaboration with Nutrition International and attracted a diverse group of attendees, including students, faculty members, and local community leaders.

was emphasized, with attendees encouraged to take an active role in educating others about iodine deficiency and its prevention.

Key speakers at the event included District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Asadullah Dahri, District Focal Person Dr. Wazir Langah, and Dr. Aurangzeb Panhwar. Dr. Dahri delivered a compelling presentation emphasizing the critical role of iodine in maintaining health. He discussed the serious consequences of iodine deficiency, such as goiter, cognitive impairments, and other health issues, particularly in vulnerable populations like pregnant women and children in Pakistan.

The event culminated in a rally, where students and faculty members marched through the campus, carrying banners and placards to reinforce the message of the day. The enthusiasm displayed by the participants underscored the significance of the cause and the collective commitment to addressing this public health issue.

During the seminar, participants were urged to adopt the practice of using iodized salt in their households and to spread awareness about the health benefits it provides. The importance of community engagement in promoting dietary changes

With a large turnout, the event not only educated attendees about the dangers of iodine deficiency but also fostered a sense of community action towards better health practices. The college's initiative serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for public awareness campaigns to combat preventable health issues and improve the overall well-being of the population.

Judge's Warning Sends Shockwaves: Stern Action Promised For Tree-Cutting Violators

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In a decisive move to protect the environment, District and Session Judge Abdul Qudous Memon has issued clear instructions to all departmental officials in Umerkot, emphasizing that no tree shall be cut without prior permission. He highlighted that in cases of extreme necessity, obtaining approval from the district judge is mandatory before any tree removal can take place.

community-conscious approach to preserving local flora and addressing environmental degradation. In addition to his environmental concerns, Judge Memon addressed educational issues within the district. He mandated that every child enrolled in public schools must be provided with free teaching materials, warning that legal action would be taken against any employees found negligent in fulfilling this responsibility.

Judge Memon stressed the importance of environmental conservation and urged the public to report any instances of unauthorized tree cutting immediately. His directive aims to foster a

comprehensive approach highlights a commitment to both environmental protection and social welfare, aiming to create a more sustainable and equitable community in Umerkot. His directives serve as a reminder of the critical need for accountability and proactive measures in safeguarding both the environment and the rights of the local population.

Dr. AG Ansari Leads Explosive Protest Against Unapproved Canals Threatening The Indus River

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A spirited demonstration led by District Ameer Dr. AG Ansari of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam took place to protest against the construction of dams and canals on the Indus River. The protesters raised their voices against what they termed "illegal canals," warning that such projects could render up to 5 million acres of agricultural land in Sindh uncultivated.

stern warning about the potential consequences of mismanaging seawater, stating that coastal areas such as Thatta, Sujawal, and Badin could face severe environmental impacts if immediate action is not taken.

The rally featured prominent leaders, including District General Secretary Maulana Saleemullah Brohi and Dr. Khalif Ahmed Khoso, who mobilized supporters from the contact office, holding banners and placards. As the speakers issued a

In light of these concerns, the protestors demanded the immediate withdrawal of the anti-Sindh projects, emphasizing that failure to address their demands would lead to escalated protests in the future. The rally reflects a growing frustration among Sindh residents regarding water rights and environmental issues, underscoring the need for a collaborative and fair approach to resource management in the region.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Government Shakes Things Up With Bold Plan To Launch Double-Decker Buses In Karachi



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that the Sindh government is set to introduce double-decker buses on Karachi's roads, with preparations for their procurement already underway.

At a key meeting chaired by Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, who also oversees Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, officials including Director Soheeb Shafiq and People's Bus Service Operations Manager Abdul Shakoor discussed the initiative. It was decided that 50 new buses will be added to the People's Bus Service fleet.

Minister Memon directed the Mass Transit Authority and other relevant bodies to expedite the procurement process, emphasizing the government's commitment to up-

Murad Unveils Jaw-Dropping Rs6 Billion Infrastructure And Energy Projects In Karachi



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated major infrastructure and energy projects worth approximately Rs6 billion during a five-hour tour of the city. These initiatives aim to improve Karachi's road network, enhance recreational facilities, and boost energy sustainability.

Accompanied by cabinet members Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and Waqar Mahdi, the CM inaugurated two road projects, two solar energy installations, and the newly rehabilitated Shaheen Football Ground in Manzoor Colony.

Road Infrastructure Development: The CM launched three key road projects in Districts West and Central. The reconstruction of Mirza Adam Road, a 1.6 km dual carriageway from Sher Shah Chowk to Mirza Adam Khan Road, was completed at a cost of Rs901 million, including stormwater drainage to prevent flooding.

Sukhan Police Nab Impostor Cop In Shocking Fake Policeman Arrest

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: On the directives of SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, Sukhan Police, under the leadership of DSP Sukhan Shaukat Ali Tanoli, carried out an operation and arrested a fake policeman. Based on a tip-off, the police apprehended the suspect in uniform within the jurisdiction of the Sukhan police station.

DSP Sukhan Shaukat Ali Tanoli informed the media that the arrested fake policeman has been identified as



Amir Khan, son of Rozi Khan. The accused illegally wore police uniform, posing as an officer to extort money from residents in the area.

The suspect would stop citizens under the pretense of conducting searches and rob them while impersonating a police officer.

He admitted to being involved in several criminal activities. The police recovered a stolen motorcycle and police uniform from his possession. The arrested individual has previously been jailed for multiple offenses.

million, improving access to critical healthcare facilities like Cardio Hospital and Mamji Hospital.

Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan, another major project, now features a 6.1 km main dual track and a 4.35 km dual service track, completed for Rs3,367.735 million. This upgrade is expected to alleviate traffic congestion in North Nazimabad and North Karachi, offering a vital alternative to Shahrah-e-Sher Shah Suri.

Solarization of Public Buildings: As part of the government's renewable energy push, solar power projects were inaugurated at Dow University Hospital, Ojha Campus, and Central Jai Karachi. Dow University has been equipped with 2.32 MW of solar power

under a Rs290 million project, while Central Jai Karachi now runs on a 614.8 KW solar energy system. Both projects are set to generate significant savings and reduce reliance on traditional power sources.

Shaheen Football Ground and Park: In Manzoor Colony, the CM inaugurated the newly rehabilitated Shaheen Football Ground, a project costing Rs213 million as part of the 2022-23 CLICK schemes. The ground features seating for 400 spectators, modern amenities, and a family park with walkways and children's play areas. The CM also inaugurated a new road and boundary wall for the facility.

Public Meeting and Future Initiatives: Addressing a public meeting at Shaheen Football Ground, CM Murad Ali Shah announced a 400 MW solar power project nearing completion in Karachi, with plans to bypass NTDC by laying a provincial transmission line. He highlighted the first phase of solarization for 50 government buildings and the second phase's completion at Dow University Hospital, Ojha Campus, and Central Jai Karachi. The CM also revealed plans to provide home solar systems to 200,000 households and launch a 400 MW solar power project at Keenjhar Lake.

The CM emphasized the success of Thar Coal-fired projects in producing the cheapest electricity in the country and discussed a new

Bilawal Pays Emotional Tribute To Begum Nusrat Bhutto On Her 13th Death Anniversary



By Ashraf Kunbar

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid a heartfelt tribute to the mother of democracy, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, on the occasion of her 13th death anniversary. He praised her extraordinary contributions and sacrifices in the struggle for democracy, justice, and equality in Pakistan. In a press release from the Bilawal House Media Cell, the PPP Chairman expressed deep admiration for Begum Nusrat Bhutto's selfless dedication to the cause of democracy, stating that she symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice for democratic values. He highlighted her determination and courage as a testament to her remarkable legacy, despite facing continuous challenges. Bilawal noted that Begum Nusrat Bhutto's influence extends far beyond politics, as she stood as a symbol of resistance against tyranny and oppression, guiding Pakistan through its darkest times. He emphasized that her leadership serves as a permanent movement, and the history of Pakistan's political struggle remains incomplete without mentioning her contributions. The Chairman reiterated that Begum Nusrat Bhutto's tireless efforts to uphold democratic values and protect the rights of the people continue to guide the Pakistan Peoples Party in its mission for a progressive and inclusive Pakistan. The party reaffirms its commitment to the principles for which the mother of democracy devoted her life. Her memory will remain a symbol of hope, strength, and guidance for both the party and the nation.

Sindh Energy Minister Demands Constitutional Gas Supply Rights In Heated Showdown



KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has reiterated that Sindh is the largest gas-producing province in Pakistan, contributing between 1,800 and 2,000 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD), which accounts for 65% of the country's total gas output. However, he expressed concern that the province is only receiving 900 MMCFD of gas, while its actual requirement is 1,600 MMCFD.

Speaking during a high-level meeting of the Directorate of Oil and Gas, the minister emphasized that under Article 158 of the Constitution, the province from which gas is extracted has the first right to its use, but this right is not being implemented. As a result, the people of Sindh are facing a severe gas shortage.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary Energy Mosaad Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Council Sukkur Syed Kumail Haider Shah, Director Oil and Gas Khadim Hussain, and Aamir Mujtaba. Discussions centered around the unequal distribution of gas resources and the lack of representation for Sindh in the boards of major federal oil and gas companies, such as PSO, PPL, OGDCL, OGRA, and Sui Southern Gas. Despite multiple efforts, Sindh's representation in these companies has not been ensured.

The minister also raised concerns about the interim government's decision to allow the sale of 35% of natural gas to third parties and the approval of the Tight Gas Policy 2024, both of which he claimed were outside its authority. Additionally, the federal government's proposed new LNG policy has sparked further apprehension within the Sindh government.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah called for immediate action to ensure Sindh's rightful representation on the boards of oil and gas companies in accordance with Article 172(3) of the Constitution, which mandates equal distribution of mineral resources between the Federation and the provinces. He pledged to engage with the federal government for the enforcement of Articles 158 and 172(3) to safeguard the province's interests. The minister concluded by stressing that the gas consumers of Sindh are the government's top priority, and directed that solid steps be taken to boost revenue in the oil and gas sector.—RT

Manghopir TMC Chairman In Desperate Plea To Public To Stop Massive Water Line Leaks

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Town Municipal Corporation (TMC) Manghopir Chairman, Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, highlighted the pressing issue of water line leakages, stressing that it not only leads to water wastage but also creates hardships for residents. Leaks not only exacerbate water scarcity but can also damage roads and create hazardous conditions in local streets.

"Preserving our water resources is a shared responsibility," said Chairman Brohi while inspecting water line repairs at UC One My Garhi. "Water leaks not only waste this precious resource but also impose financial and social burdens. We must recognize that water is a valuable asset, and its protection requires our full attention."



He urged the public to promptly report any water line leaks to the relevant authorities, emphasizing that while the government is employing modern technology to address the issue, public cooperation is crucial. "Raising awareness at every level is essential to stop water wastage," he added.

Chairman Brohi called on everyone to join hands in safeguarding water resources and enhancing the local environment. Accompanying him during the inspection were Municipal Commissioner Agha Khaliq, Superintendent Engineer Hassan Sheikh, AEE Afaq Alam, Sub-Engineer Junaid Siddiqui, and a large number of local residents and dignitaries.

SECP Sounds Alarm On Fraudulent 'SMARTPAYS' Investment Scheme, Warns Public Of Massive Scam

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has uncovered an illegal investment platform operating under the name "SMARTPAYS," according to media reports on Tuesday. The platform, promoted through a misleading website, falsely promises high returns on investment schemes. A press release issued by the SECP revealed that "SMARTPAYS"

also falsely claims to be a licensed non-banking finance company, displaying a fake Certificate of Incorporation under the name "SMARTPAYS (PRIVATE) LIMITED." The SECP clarified that "SMARTPAYS/SMART FINANCE (PRIVATE) LIMITED" is neither registered nor authorized as a non-banking finance entity. The public is strongly advised against de-

SHC Takes On Explosive Case Of Tree Cutting For Controversial Red Line Bus Project

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) was informed on Tuesday that more than 16,000 trees will be planted to compensate for those removed during the construction of the Red Line bus project, according to media reports.

During the hearing of a petition against the tree cutting, the contractor's lawyer stated that 1,564 trees were felled along the Malir Halt to Mosmiat stretch, with 75% of them being Conocarpus. The replacement plan includes the plantation of Gulmohar (Royal Poinciana), Sukhchain (Indian Beech), and Neem trees.

Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput questioned the choice of Sukhchain, quipping, "If it's planted in Karachi, neither 'Sukh' nor 'Chain' (peace) will come to the city." The bench emphasized the importance of planting native species like

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Constitutional Amendment Sparks Outrage As Barrister Saif Warns It Could Destroy Judicial Independence

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that the constitutional amendment has paved way for political interference in the judiciary.

He lambasted the passage of the unconstitutional amendment without representation of KP, terming it a significant question mark.

The constitutional benches will be no panacea for complicated matters, he regretted.



complete parliament. "The KP government condemns this amendment and will go for litigation against it," Saif said.

He said the appointment of the CJP by the executive would hamper doling out of justice, adding that subjugating justice for political gains was a treacherous act.

He further said that those who voted against party policy would be singled out and held accountable.—RT/Agency

Quaidabad Police On A Roll: Three Criminals Snagged In Multiple High-Stakes Operations

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Under the special directives of SP Malir Muhammad Saeed Rind and the supervision of DSP Quaidabad Mansoor Bozdar, SHO of Quaidabad, Syed Farasat Hussain Shah, arrested three suspects during various operations, recovering weapons and drugs. In a conversation with the media, SP Malir Muhammad Saeed Rind reported that the Quaidabad police apprehended three criminals in separate actions. In the first operation,

the patrolling police stopped a suspect, Zohaib son of Ali Akbar, near the Sherpao Colony rice godown. Upon a thorough search, a pistol was recovered. The police seized the weapon, rounds of ammunition, cash, and a mobile phone from him. It was found that he had two pending cases registered at the Ban Qasim police station. In the second operation, conducted near the NADRA office at the Hospital Chowringi, the police arrested Abdul Hamid son of Ali Muhammad while he

was selling harmful mawa gutka. Fifty packets of mawa were recovered from him, and he also has a case registered against him at Malir City police station for selling mawa. In the third operation, the Quaidabad police arrested Azmat Khan son of Fazal Rabi with prohibited drugs, including crystal meth. The suspect is reportedly involved in selling crystal meth to addicts in the area and has three previous drug-related cases registered against him at the Quaidabad police station.

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

—Oscar Wilde

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 2024

PTI Escalates Tensions, Confirms Explosive Boycott Of Chief Justice Appointment Committee

ISLAMABAD: Members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council have confirmed they will not participate in the parliamentary committee tasked with appointing the next Chief Justice of Pakistan, further delaying the judicial selection process.

The decision was conveyed after a meeting between members of the parliamentary subcommittee and representatives from the PTI-SIC, held in the speaker's chamber on Tuesday.

Despite efforts by the committee, including National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, to convince the PTI members to attend, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan confirmed that their political committee had decided to abstain from the proceedings.

"We have made our decision. We will not be part of this committee's meetings," Gohar Ali Khan stated, following discussions in Speaker Sadiq's office.

Earlier in the day, the speaker met with members of



the special parliamentary committee to discuss the ongoing deadlock. The committee had formed a four-member subcommittee to engage with the PTI, consisting of Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Ansar Raja, Pervez Ashraf, and Kamran Murtaza, in an attempt to bring them into the discussions. Despite these efforts, the boycott continues. The boycott is seen as a significant development in the appointment process, as the parliamentary committee is responsible for selecting the next Chief Justice. The absence of both PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council

members has caused the committee to postpone its meeting, initially scheduled to discuss the three senior-most judges nominated for the role of Chief Justice: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi.

Despite the setback, the committee remains determined to push forward with the judicial appointment process, but it faces mounting pressure to ensure inclusivity in its final decision.

The Supreme Court Registrar had earlier submitted three names for consideration by the committee. These include the most senior judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, followed by Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Yahya Afridi. The nominees represent the three most senior justices of the Supreme Court, and one of them will be selected to succeed the incumbent Chief Justice, Qazi Faez Isa.

The submission also included a brief one-page report providing a summary of

the judges' backgrounds, including their dates of birth, educational qualifications, legal careers, and timelines for when they were appointed as high court chief justices and their elevation to the Supreme Court.

During the committee's meeting, the Secretary of Law and Justice presented the profiles and qualifications of the nominated judges. However, the absence of PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council members led to a delay in proceedings, and the meeting was rescheduled for later that evening, at 8:30 pm. The absence of PTI members from the meeting highlights the ongoing political tensions surrounding the appointment of the Chief Justice, a post that has become increasingly politicised in recent years. Sources suggest that PTI's reluctance to participate may stem from its dissatisfaction with the current political setup, especially after several judicial decisions went against the party in recent months.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Demands Immediate Report On Shocking Surge In Polio Cases

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday sought a report on the growing number of polio cases in the country and directed the authorities concerned to immediately formulate a comprehensive strategy on the matter.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, expressed his concern over the surge in polio cases and called a meeting to discuss the situation.

Discussing the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill recently passed by the parliament, the prime minister said the legislation was inevitable for judicial reforms and improvement of judicial system. Expressing his gratitude to the political parties and leadership for their support, he said the amendment was also the accomplishment of the vision of Charter of Democracy signed in 2006.

The prime minister also thanked for the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government and appreciated the performance of the departments involved.

Discussing the agenda items, the federal cabinet re-



ferred the Domestic Violence (Preventing and Protection) Bill 2024 to Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases.

The bill will provide for an institutional framework to curb domestic violence.

The cabinet was told that the proposed legislation will help punish the perpetrators of domestic violence and ensure relief to the victims.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Professional Training, the cabinet approved the appointment of Lt. General (ret'd) Moazzam Jjaz, Engineer Fahim Iqbal and Asim Shahryar in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission Board as private members.

The body approved the law ministry as a transmitting

and receiving agency of applications under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) 1959.

It was told that Pakistan had ratified the Convention on the Recovery Abroad 1956 in 1959 and an ordinance in this regard was also promulgated the same year.

The federal cabinet also approved the appointment of Dr Shafia Arshad as Chairperson of National Council for Tibb and Dr Rizwan Asif, Muhammad Khurshid Alam, Ikramullah, Mooinuddin and Dr Attallah as its members.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Health, the cabinet also approved the restructuring of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

CII Pushes Controversial Proposal For One-Year Jail Term For Dowry Law Violators

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has suggested tweaks to the Dowry and Bridal Gift Act proposing an enhanced penalty from six months to up to one-year imprisonment for those found violating the law, media reported on Tuesday.

During its 239th meeting on Monday, the CII also recommended increasing the maximum limit of the amount of dowry from Rs5,000 to two tolas of gold along with a hike in expenses of marriage from Rs2,500 to the amount equivalent to the same amount of gold.

On the change of the family laws, the body further proposed tweaks to the family laws and suggested declaring the announcement of three divorces in one sitting a punishable act.

Furthermore, the council decided to convene a conference involving health experts, religious scholars, and other stakeholders to gather input regarding Pakistan's first human milk bank, a sensitive issue that has sparked considerable debate within the country.

The CII's decision comes in the wake of intense criticism from religious circles, leading to the suspension of the milk bank, which had been launched in collaboration with Unicef at the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology (SICHN) in Karachi in March this year.

The meeting, chaired by Dr Raghbir Hussain Naemi, deliberated on the issue which had been referred to the council by the Sindh government after Ulema raised



concerns. These concerns centred on the Islamic concept of "milk kinship" which stipulates that a parental bond is formed when a woman provides breast milk to a child who is not her biological offspring. Islamic teachings suggest that this bond could create future complications, particularly regarding incestuous marriages between milk siblings, if not properly documented.

The Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) welcomed the CII's decision to consult all the stakeholders and urged the council to expedite the planned conference, emphasising that timely action is crucial for saving neonatal lives. The milk bank at SICHN, considered a "significant milestone in maternal health," was suspended after Darul Uloom Karachi issued a revised fatwa in June 2024. The updated fatwa cited religious concerns and instructed the immediate discontinuation of the bank's operations.

In response, SICHN issued a statement affirming their compliance with the latest religious guidance, while expressing their intent to seek further clarity from both Darul Uloom and the CII.

Shehbaz Orders Urgent Dispatch Of Humanitarian Aid To War-Torn Gaza And Lebanon



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to immediately dispatch two plane-loads of relief goods to Gaza and Lebanon and called for using both land and aerial routes for the aid supply.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief activities for Palestine and Lebanon, asked for improving coordination with Pakistan's ambassadors in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt to ensure a better supply of relief goods.

Stressing for an accelerated pace of relief aid, he called for ensuring that the relief goods reached the deserving people. Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his appeal to the countrymen and the expatriates to donate generously to the PM Fund for Gaza and Lebanon with Account Number IBAN-PK11SBPD00000111114292. He also instructed the relevant author-

IMF Sounds The Alarm: Global Growth Forecast Slashed For 2024 And 2025

ISLAMABAD: Global growth is expected to ease slightly to 3.2 per cent this year and remain at that level in 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on Tuesday, while warning that the stable figures masked "important" regional and sectoral shifts.

In its new World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the IMF also estimates that global inflation will continue to ease, hitting 5.8 per cent this year, before falling to 4.3pc in 2025.

"We are seeing inflation moving in the right direction without a major slowdown in economic growth or a global recession," IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told AFP in an interview ahead of the report's publication.

"In our baseline analysis, in advanced economies [inflation] will be back at central bank targets in 2025," he continued, adding it would take "a little bit longer" for emerging markets.

The Fund's WEO report is expected to trend to a lacklustre 3.1pc by 2029, and warned of growing risks to that metric.

Beneath the relatively calm outlook for growth through 2025, "the picture is far from monolithic," the Fund said, warning of "important sectoral and regional shifts" taking place over the past six months.



The WEO's publication comes a day after the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings got underway in Washington, bringing together finance ministers and central bankers from around the world for meetings on the health of the global economy.

The report finds that the United States has remained an engine of global growth — in sharp contrast with the euro area, where expansion remains slow.

The world's largest economy is now expected to grow by 2.8pc this year, down ever-so-slightly from the 2.9pc seen in 2023, but still a shade better than the Fund's previous estimate in July.

It is then expected to ease somewhat to 2.2pc in 2025 — up 0.3 percentage points from July — as fiscal policy is "gradually tightened and a cooling labour market slows consumption," the IMF said.

"The US economy has been doing very well," Gourinchas said, pointing to strong productivity growth

and the positive effects of a surge in immigration on economic growth. He added that the US is "very close" to achieving a soft landing — a rare feat in monetary policy, where inflation falls to within targets without spurring a severe recession.

In Europe, growth is still trending higher, but remains low by historical standards, and is on track to be at an anemic 0.8pc this year, rising slightly to 1.2pc in 2025.

While France and Spain saw upgrades in their outlook for 2024, the IMF cut its projections for German growth by 0.2 percentage points this year, and by half a percentage point next year, citing its "persistent weakness in manufacturing".

There was some good news in the United Kingdom, where growth is projected to accelerate in both 2024 and 2025, "as falling inflation and interest rates stimulate domestic demand".—RT/Agency

ECP Gives Punjab 6-Week Ultimatum To Implement Local Government Laws

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday granted the Punjab government six weeks to finalize the draft law and legislation for local body elections, allowing adequate time to ensure that all necessary preparations are in place for a successful electoral process in province.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was approached for a six-week extension to prepare the draft and legislation for local body elections in Punjab.

This request for a six-week extension to prepare for the Punjab local government elections was made by top officials, including the Chief Secretary of Punjab, Local Government Secretary, Interior Secretary, and Islamabad Chief Commissioner, during an in-chamber hearing at the ECP.

The Punjab Chief Secretary briefed the Election Commission, revealing that the draft Local Government Act is nearly complete, with 99 per cent of the work



done. He assured that six months would be needed to complete the final adjustments to the draft law.

Accepting the request of top officials, the ECP granted Punjab extra time to finalize election arrangements. The Interior Secretary updated the Election Commission on a committee's progress, formed after the ECP's September 11, 2024 meeting.

The committee, comprising the Interior Secretary, Law Secretary, Chief Commissioner, and Election Commission Secretary, has drafted necessary amend-

Pakistan Renews Kartarpur Corridor Pact In Bold Move To Support Sikh Pilgrims

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has renewed an agreement with India for the facilitation of pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal for an additional period of five years, the Foreign Office said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Originally signed on 24 October 2019 for a five-year term, the Agreement is set to complete its initial duration on 24 October 2024. Its renewal underscores Pakistan's enduring commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence," the statement added.

The agreement continues to offer visa-free access to pilgrims from India enabling them to visit the sacred site of Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, where Baba

PTI's Swati Granted Bail In Explosive Terrorism Case Linked To Fiery Protests

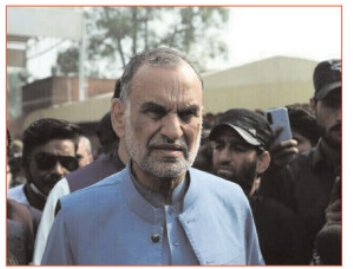
ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati in a case filed under terrorism provisions.

The case, registered at Sangiani Police Station, charged Swati with terrorism-related offences following protests and vandalism. Judge Abu Al-Hasanat Muhammad Zulkernain presided over the case and approved Swati's post-arrest bail against surety bonds of Rs20,000.

The PTI leader is currently in judicial custody.

Swati had been detained under terrorism clauses following allegations of inciting protests that led to property damage. Swati's legal team maintained that the charges were politically motivated.

Meanwhile, an ATC ordered the publication of a newspaper advertisement against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in the ongoing case related to vandalism charges during the so-



called Azadi March yesterday.

The court has initiated proceedings under Section 87 of the Criminal Procedure Code to declare the K-PCM, Ali Amin Gandapur, a proclaimed offender.

The hearing was conducted by Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Abu Al-Hasanat Muhammad Zulkernain. The court summoned Ali Amin Gandapur through an advertisement to appear on November 21. It is noteworthy that the

court has already issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Ali Amin Gandapur.

Including CM Gandapur, around 350 PTI leaders and activists, including Azam Swati, Omar Ayub, and Barrister Saif, were charged with blocking GT Road and engaging in vandalism during the Azadi March.

A total of 12 cases, including terrorism and attempted murder, have been registered across multiple police stations in Islamabad.—RT/Agency