

REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Murad Showcases Vital Role Of Textile And Leather Industries In Economic Growth At TEXPO 2024



Nicole Kidman's Shocking Admission: 'Don't Touch Me'

Heartland

10 minority youths receive offer orders in Sanghar Police



Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 727.96 points to close at 87,194.53



NATIONAL

Ahsan Unveils Groundbreaking International Conference On 3D Printing



SPORTS

Pakistan Sticks To Winning Formula: Unchanged Line-Up For Third Test Against England



PM Shehbaz Extends Support And Aid To Palestinian Students In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has warmly welcomed the Palestinian students who reached Pakistan for study purposes.



Addressing the welcoming ceremony in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said more students from Gaza should be invited to study and live in Pakistan, where they can receive quality education in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad.

Mohsin Naqvi's Diplomatic Visit To Turkiye Strengthens Bilateral Relations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkiye's Minister of Defense, Yasar Guler, during his visit to Istanbul on Wednesday.

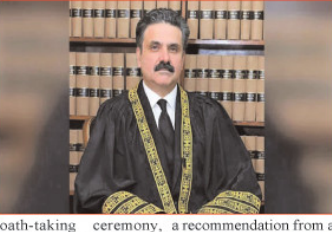


The meeting, which took place amid the backdrop of the International Expo, underscored the commitment of both nations to strengthen their cooperative relationship across various sectors.

Justice Yahya Afridi Appointed As New Chief Justice By President Zardari

Justice Yahya Afridi Appointed As New Chief Justice By President Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as the next chief justice of Pakistan.



The appointment was made in accordance with Articles 175A(3), 177, and 179 of the Constitution.

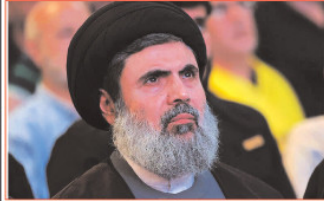
Justice Yahya Afridi will take over the role from October 26 for a three-year term.

The president has also given his approval for the

time to finalise Afridi's appointment.

The committee, which deliberated for over an hour and a half, approved Afridi's name with a two-thirds majority. All parties except Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) participated in the proceedings.

Hezbollah Confirms Assassination Of Nasrallah's Potential Successor By Israel



BEITUR: Hezbollah confirmed on Wednesday that Israel killed Hashem Safieddine, the apparent successor of its slain leader Hassan Nasrallah, in a strike, without saying when or where it happened.

Ankara Under Siege: Four Dead, 14 Injured In Attack On Turkish Aerospace Industries HQ

ANKARA: Four people were killed and 14 others wounded in an attack at the Turkish Aerospace Industries' headquarters on Wednesday, the government said, and witnesses said they heard gunfire and a loud explosion at the site near Ankara.



Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said two attackers were killed in what he called a terrorist attack, adding three of the injured are in critical condition. TV broadcasters earlier showed footage of armed assailants entering the TUSAS building.

Some media reports claimed a suicide attack had occurred and that there were hostages inside the building, though officials have not confirmed this. Witnesses told Reuters that employees inside the building were taken by authorities to shelters and no one was permitted to leave for a few hours.

President Zardari and PM Shehbaz Unite To Condemn Deadly Ankara Attack

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in the tragic loss of lives on Wednesday.



In separate statements on Wednesday, both leaders expressed deep condolences and affirmed Pakistan's solidarity with Turkiye in this time of grief.

President Zardari extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and expressed solidarity with the Turkish government and people.

Justice Hasan Rizvi Issues Critical Additional Note On NAB Amendments Case



ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi issued an additional note on the NAB review case, expressing concerns about the majority judgment.

PTI Cracks Down On Defiance, Issues Show-Cause Notices To Zain Qureshi And Others

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued show-cause notices to party members Zain Qureshi, Riyaz Fatyana, Aslam Ghuman, and Miqdad Ali Khan for violation of party instructions ahead of the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Parliament House.



In its show-cause notice to the lawmakers, issued by the party's central secretariat on Tuesday, PTI said it had directed all its members of the National Assembly and Senate to remain safe, secure, and not to be in touch with anyone for or on behalf of the government for the purpose of the constitutional tweaks.

Meanwhile, Zain was in communication since October 16 and his video regarding his status began circulating on October 21 following the passage of the legal reforms. On the other hand, PTI Opposition Leader Omar Ayub claimed about the lawmaker's wife being arrested from her house, Miqdad Ali being disappeared twice.

These instructions were issued to every MNA and Senator in order to avoid, not only harassment but also to be in touch with the party or its authorized representative for further instructions in the aforesaid matter," read the notices.

"Needless to add that you would be assumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and you will be proceeded against without further notice, including expulsion from the party," read the notice.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



KETI BANDAR: A group photo of the participants of the Induction Training of JEST Phase 3 at the GECE Women's College in Makli. —Photo by Sajid Ali Janjaro

LUMHS VC Prof Dr Ikramuddin Ujjan distributes scholarship cheques amongst Nursing students



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In a significant ceremony at the People's Nursing School, Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro, distributed scholarship cheques totaling PKR 2.684 million to deserving students of the BS Nursing program. This initiative, facilitated through the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund, aims to support the education of future healthcare professionals.

During his address, Dr. Ujjan underscored the global importance of the nursing profession, highlighting the critical role nurses play in healthcare delivery. He encouraged students to pursue excellence in their studies and embrace their responsibilities towards patients and society.

The event was attended by several distinguished faculty members, including Professor Dr. Munawar Alam Ansari, Dean of Basic Medical Sciences; Professor Dr. Moeen Ansari, Dean of Medical and Allied Sciences; Professor Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dean of Surgery and Allied Sciences; and Professor Dr. Feroz Ali Kalor, Dean of Dentistry. Also present were Director Parveen Akhtar of the People's Nursing School and a large number of enthusiastic students, who expressed their gratitude for the financial support.

Awareness seminar held at NN Hamidia High School Jacobabad



By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In a significant effort to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle among the youth, Government NN Hamidia High School Jacobabad organized an awareness seminar titled "Rejecting Drugs, Loving Sports and Books." The event aimed to educate students about the dangers of substance abuse while highlighting the importance of sports and academic excellence.

District Education Officer (DEO) Muhammad Ismail Buriro was a key speaker at the seminar, emphasizing the critical role education plays in shaping a healthy society. He urged students to not only excel academically but also engage in sports as a constructive way to channel their energy and aspirations. "We must work together to eliminate social evils like drug abuse," he said, calling on students to take pride in their achievements and contribute positively to their communities.

The seminar included an engaging discussion with various speakers, including Assistant Education Officer Abdul Rasool Pathan and teacher Syed Zameer Shah, who reinforced the importance of awareness and education in fighting drug-related issues. To encourage participation, cash prizes were awarded to students who excelled in various categories, fostering a spirit of healthy competition and motivation among the attendees.

The event concluded with a rallying call for students to commit to a drug-free lifestyle and to pursue their dreams through education and sports.

Brick kiln owners address press conference against DC Khairpur's order on brick prices



By Azhar Ali Kubar

SETHARJA: In a significant press conference, Gulam Asghar Wassan, President of the Brick Kiln Owners' Union for Thari Mirwah and Sobhodo, condemned a recent directive from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khairpur that mandates the sale of one thousand bricks for a fixed price of 9,000 rupees. This order, they argue, threatens the financial viability of their operations and could result in widespread job losses.

Wassan articulated the grave implications of the order, warning that it could lead to millions of rupees in losses for brick kiln owners and push thousands of laborers into poverty. "The DC issued this directive without consulting us, and it is imperative that he engages with kiln owners to understand our concerns before imposing such decisions," he insisted.

In response to the uproar, the DC met with the brick kiln owners and agreed to form a committee to evaluate production costs. Wassan assured attendees that they are committed to ensuring fair pricing if the assessment is reasonable. Over 20 brick kiln owners, including General Secretary Ashfaq Ahmed Awan and Vice President Mohsin Ali Arain, attended the conference, united in their call for a more equitable solution.

10 minority youths receive offer orders in Sanghar Police



By Farooq Bugti

SANGHAR: In a landmark initiative promoting diversity and inclusion within the police force, SSP Sanghar Gulam Nabi Keerio distributed offer letters to ten candidates from the minority community who successfully passed the IBA test and received medical approval.

The ceremony was a moment of celebration as SSP Keerio congratulated the new recruits on their achievement, emphasizing the importance of representation in law enforcement. "Diversity strengthens our police force and enhances community trust," he stated during the event.

The successful candidates—Dev Kumar, Malook, Sanjay Kumar, Prem Chand, Adnan Masih, Gyan, Mehtab, Gyan Chand, Ghamo, and Suraj Mal—expressed their gratitude for the opportunity, highlighting their commitment to serving the community with integrity and dedication.

This recruitment marks a significant step towards fostering inclusivity within the police department, reflecting the government's commitment to ensuring that all communities are represented in public service roles.

Creative writing workshop held at Govt Arts and Commerce College Larkana



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A successful creative writing workshop organized by the Department of English at Government Arts and Commerce College attracted 28 participants. The event, presided over by Principal Prof. Rizwan ul Haq Pathan, featured guest speaker Prof. Dr. Azad Khatun, focusing on enhancing students' literary skills.

The workshop included a Quran recitation followed by an introduction from Prof. Umed Ali Samtio, who underscored the importance of creativity in education. Interactive sessions encompassed activities like "Creative Writing Frenzy" led by Prof. Aniza Ghakhar, and the "Five Parts of Plot" analysis with Prof. Saeed Ahmed Soomro. Participants engaged in object writing, listening comprehension tied to song lyrics, and group collaboration on story conclusions.

The workshop culminated in a timed vocabulary challenge and was celebrated for fostering creativity among students. Final remarks from Prof. Samtio and Principal Pathan praised the English Department's efforts, with a group photo marking the successful conclusion of the event.

Man kills his stepmother and brother over property dispute

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In a tragic incident fueled by a property dispute, Rashid Bhatti has been accused of killing his stepmother, Sajida, and his brother in Moro. Eyewitnesses reported that the violence erupted as tensions over inheritance issues reached a boiling point, culminating in Rashid opening fire on his family members.

The shooting also left a shopkeeper, Gulam Sarwar Rehmani, in critical condition, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of the attack. Emergency responders rushed the deceased and the injured to a local hospital for urgent medical attention.

Following the incident, Rashid Bhatti fled the scene, prompting law enforcement to initiate a manhunt. The community is left in shock as they grapple with the aftermath of this tragic event, which underscores the potentially deadly consequences of unresolved familial conflicts.

Authorities are conducting a thorough investigation into the matter, and the police have urged any witnesses to come forward to assist in apprehending the suspect.

HANDS, Local Govt Dept launch Management Information System to improve water supply management

By Raja Zafar Iqbal



BADIN: In a progressive step towards enhancing water management in Jacobabad, HANDS, in collaboration with the Local Government Department Sindh and supported by USAID, has launched a new Management Information System (MIS) aimed at improving water supply management, wastewater handling, and solid waste services in the region.

The launch event was attended by prominent figures including Khalid Hyder Shah, Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Government Department, and Ms. Amy Hood, Deputy Consul General of USAID, along with several Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs), including Halar Wassan, Mazahir Amir, Sajjad Soomro, and Jamal Ahmed. Ms. Cindy Kuntner, Chief WASH & Climate Change UNICEF Pakistan, also graced the occasion, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing water governance challenges.

Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed, Chief Executive of

HANDS, delivered the opening remarks, outlining the objectives of the MIS and its potential to transform water governance in Jacobabad. Dr. Hina Kazmi, Chief of Party for the Water Governance for Sindh Activity, presented comprehensive project updates, detailing the system's features and anticipated impact.

In addition to the launch, various stakeholders, including Maqbool Ahmed, Deputy Chief Executive of HANDS, and Ahmed Dayo, Chief of WASH at HANDS, shared their insights on the significance of effective water management. Rafiq Buleedi, Chief Municipal Officer of Jacobabad, and Syed Waseem Shah, Head of WASH at HANDS, emphasized the role of community engagement in the success of the MIS.

The event also showcased the achievements of WASH Caucus members, Muhalla WASH Committees, and School WASH Club members from Jacobabad, who presented their models and initiatives aimed at improving water and sanitation facilities in the community.

The participation of representatives from UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the media contributed to the overall success of the event, highlighting a collective commitment to sustainable water management.

SABS University hosts Board of Studies Meeting

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: The Department of Fine Arts at Shaheed Allah Bukh Soomro (SABS) University of Arts, Design, and Heritage in Jamshoro held its second Board of Studies (BOS) meeting, bringing together faculty members and external experts for a comprehensive review of the Fine Arts curriculum.

The meeting featured contributions from notable experts Nuraya Shaikh Nabi and Naveed Sadiq from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi. Chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts, Fazal Elahi Khan, welcomed all BOS members and outlined the agenda, which included a thorough examination of the curriculum across all academic years.

The discussions acknowledged the invaluable contributions of faculty, administrative staff, and support staff, whose collaborative efforts are vital to the success of academic initiatives. The meeting emphasized the importance of adapting the curriculum to meet evolving educational needs and industry standards, ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education in the fine arts.

Liaquat Jatoi condemns victimization of his supporters in Dadu

By Ayaz Buriro

KN SHAH: At a press conference held at Korija House, former Chief Minister Liaquat Ali Jatoi raised alarms regarding the alleged police harassment of his supporters in Dadu district. He claimed that a "black law" is prevalent, with false cases being filed against his voters to coerce them into switching political loyalties.

"Such tactics are unacceptable, and I demand the immediate withdrawal of these fabricated cases against my workers," Jatoi declared, urging accountability for the police officials involved. He warned that if the harassment does not cease, he would initiate widespread protests across Dadu district, potentially paralyzing the area.

In addition to discussing the police situation, Jatoi also highlighted concerns about illegal canal constructions along the Indus River, warning that these actions threaten the agricultural viability of Sindh. Addressing the controversial 26th amendment, he criticized it for serving the interests of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) while undermining the rights of the people. The press conference was attended by notable figures including Sardar Ashiq Ali, Niaz Hussain Bhutto, and Dr. Shahnawaz Gadhi, reinforcing Jatoi's calls for justice and accountability.

Four Hindu families leave Kashmir for India

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: The recent wave of unrest and a troubling rise in criminal activities have compelled four Hindu families to make the difficult decision to leave Kashmir for India permanently. This migration comes on the heels of several high-profile incidents of abduction and robbery that have instilled fear within the local community.

Among those departing is Sagar Kumar, who experienced a harrowing ordeal just months ago when he was kidnapped by robbers. His release came after a historic protest at Dera Mor, a pivotal intersection of three provinces, where community members rallied to demand his freedom, ultimately resulting in the payment of a substantial ransom.

Today, Sagar Kumar has cited the deteriorating security situation in Kashmir and persistent fears of re-abduction as primary reasons for his departure. His decision reflects a broader trend of insecurity felt by many residents in the region, leading to disappointment and distress within the local Hindu community, which has deep historical ties to the area.

The departure of these families highlights urgent concerns regarding safety and the need for effective measures to combat the escalating culture of violence and crime in the district.

Community leaders and activists are calling for increased protection and support for minority communities facing such threats.

NATIONAL



SECP And PSX Lead The Way With IPO Roundtable 2024: Paving Future Of Capital Markets

LAHORE: The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) jointly organized the IPO Roundtable 2024 in Lahore under the theme "Empowering the Future of Capital Markets." Building on the success of the IPO Summit held in Karachi earlier this year, the event aimed to raise awareness among growth-oriented private companies on leveraging capital markets (IPO) for expansion, diversification, and corporatization.

The roundtable brought together key stakeholders, including business leaders, market participants, consultants, investment banking professionals, and potential issuers from 30 companies. Notable attendees included SECP Chairman Mr. Akif Saeed, SECP Commissioner Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich, and PSX Board Member Mr. Ahmed Chino, alongside representatives from top capital market institutions like AKD Securities, Arif Habib



Limited, and Next Capital Limited. Prominent listed companies from the Lahore region, such as Fast Cables Limited, Hi Tech Cables Limited, and Pak Electron Limited, also participated.

The event focused on guiding companies interested in raising equity and debt through PSX. Discussions addressed the IPO process, regulatory requirements, and the benefits of listing on the stock exchange. Representatives from listed companies shared their experiences, highlighting improvements in corporate governance and stakeholder relationships post-listing.

In his opening address, SECP Chairman Akif Saeed emphasized that the capital market offers businesses flexible and cost-effective solutions for raising capital. He also responded to questions regarding regulatory ease in the listing process.

PSX Board Member Ahmed Chino noted, "Following the success of the IPO Summit in Karachi, this roundtable in Lahore is a significant step towards encouraging companies to go public. IPOs not only raise capital but also mark a crucial milestone in enhancing corporate governance and transparency."—RT

Punjab Lawmakers Rally Behind Maryam Nawaz's Ambitious Development Vision



LAHORE: Punjab Assembly lawmakers called on Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, MPA Safdar Hussain Sahi and Muhammad Zubair with CM Maryam Nawaz and they exchanged views on public issues, political and party affairs.

MPAs hailed the CM Maryam Nawaz's public welfare vision.

Maryam Nawaz asserted that public service was the PML-N vision and first and foremost priority and she led the Punjab province towards development and progress within a short span of time.—RT/Agency

Historic Achievement: Punjab Officer Beenish Fatima Earns Global Recognition

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chief Traffic Officer and Superintendent of Police Beenish Fatima has received the prestigious '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The award, held annually in the United States, honours 40 police officers aged under 40 from a pool of hundreds of nominations from around the world.

The ceremony this year was held in Boston where Fatima - who serves Rawalpindi - was among the police officers honoured for excelling and leading in their fields.

Fatima was presented the award by the IACP president during a grand ceremony celebrating "Proud moment for Pakistan!"

According to the IACP's website, the 'awardees represent the top rising leaders from around the globe, exemplifying leadership, dedication, and service to their communities and the law enforcement profession'.

Reacting to the young officer's achievement, the Punjab Police took to its official X account and wrote: "Proud moment for Pakistan!"

It added: "SP Beenish Fatima, a valuable asset of Punjab Police," said the top Punjab cop on her feat.—RT/Agency



Traffic Officer Rawalpindi, is the only one in Pakistan who got selected for this award." Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar also congratulated Fatima for bringing Pakistan's name in good light to the world and winning the international award. "SP Beenish Fatima is a valuable asset of Punjab Police," said the top Punjab cop on her feat.—RT/Agency

The United Nations: A Failing Guardian Of Global Peace?



By Niaz Ali Janwri

Through history, treaties and organizations have been established to promote peace and harmony across the world. Early examples include the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah and the Charter of Madina, both initiated by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to maintain peace and coexistence between Muslims and non-Muslims. These early agreements set a precedent that later influ-

enced the founding charters of modern organizations, such as the League of Nations and the United Nations (UN).

The UN was formed on October 24, 1945, following the failure of the League of Nations, which was unable to prevent World War II. The UN's primary goal was to maintain global peace, ensure security, and foster cooperation among nations. Member states pledged to resolve disputes peacefully and avoid interfering in each other's affairs. The UN Security Council was given the authority to enforce peace, with provisions in Chapters 6 and 7 of the UN Charter dedicated to resolving conflicts. However, the effectiveness of the UN has come under scrutiny, especially concerning its response to conflicts involving Muslim-majority countries. Recent events, particularly the ongoing crisis in Gaza, have highlighted perceived biases and failures within the organization. Despite its mandate to uphold peace, the UN has been criticized for inaction and for appearing powerless, especially as Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has struggled to address the crisis effectively. Many believe the UN has not adequately addressed the plight of Palestinian Muslims, leading to accusations of bias and double standards. The ongoing suffering of Palestinians, coupled with what some view as UN indifference, has eroded confidence in the organization's ability to fulfill its founding mission. As the world marks UN Day on October 24, it raises a critical question: Can the United Nations truly be seen as a successful guardian of peace, or has it become an institution that falls short when needed most?

Ahsan Unveils Groundbreaking International Conference On 3D Printing

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday inaugurated the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology. The National Center for Physics (NCP) at Quaid-i-Azam University hosted the inaugural session of the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology, said a press release. The three-day conference, running from October 23 to 25, 2024, will bring together more than 50 eminent researchers and scientists from around the globe to discuss the latest advancements in these transformative technologies.

In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized the pivotal role of science and technology in driving national development and progress. He called on scientists, researchers, and innovators to work tirelessly to position Pakistan at the forefront of technological advancements. Addressing the audience, which included esteemed figures like Dr. Ansar Pervaiz, Dr. Qaisar Ahsan, and Dr. Muhammad Maqsood, the Minister highlighted the profound potential of 3D printing and vacuum technology.—RT/Agency

CENTRAL PUNJAB

Gujranwala Division Eyes Major Overhaul With Plans To Outsource Waste Management



By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi has emphasized the need for complete arrangements regarding the outsourcing of waste management companies in the division. This initiative, led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, aims to enhance cleanliness across Punjab starting November 1st.

During a video link meeting with Deputy Commissioners from various districts, Sheerazi highlighted the expansion of Gujranwala Waste Management Company (GWMC) to cover all tehsils and districts in the division. Previously, GWMC operated in only 64 union councils of Gujranwala city, now, it will extend its services to urban and rural areas, including Gujarat, Mandi Bahaudin, and Hafizabad. Sheerazi urged all relevant officers to work diligently to achieve a clean environment for citizens. He also requested the provincial government to address financial challenges faced by the company, assuring that funds would be released soon. Deputy Commissioners committed to improving cleaning services and fulfilling their mandates effectively.

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Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Skips Full Court Reference For CJP Isa's Farewell

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah is set to skip the full court reference in honour of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, media reported, citing sources.

According to sources, Justice Shah along with his family is set to depart for Makkah tomorrow (Thursday) to perform Umrah and will be unable to attend the farewell full court reference for CJP Isa.

The full court reference in honour of CJP Qazi Faez Isa will be held on October 25, as per the Supreme Court's Registrar Office. Senior advocates including the president Supreme Court Bar Association have been invited to the full court reference.

However, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah will miss the reference as he will return to Pakistan from Umrah on November 1, as per sources.

It is worth mentioning here that Justice Shah was among the three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court considered to succeed outgoing CJP Qazi Faez Isa.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Rescue Team Gujranwala Shines At International Rescue Challenge 2024

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Pakistan Rescue Team (Rescue 1122 Gujranwala) triumphed in the International Rescue Challenge 2024, held at the Emergency Services Academy in Lahore. Under the supervision of Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Secretary of the Emergency Services Department, teams from various countries including the UK, China, South Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines participated in challenges such as height rescue, deep well rescue, and fire fitness. The Pakistani team emerged as champions, with the Philippine team securing the runner-up position. Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, alongside other officials, congratulated both teams, praising their dedication to humanitarian efforts. He highlighted Rescue 1122's role in saving lives across Punjab and commended the Emergency Services Academy for its training contributions. Dr. Naseer noted that the challenge aimed to enhance emergency services' capabilities and foster international relations. The winning team received a warm welcome upon returning to Gujranwala.



METRO KARACHI

WFH Specialists Conduct Critical Assessment At Karachi's Hemophilia Treatment Centre

KARACHI: A team from the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH), led by Dr. Pierre Fontana from the Hemophilia Treatment Center in Switzerland, visited the Hemophilia Welfare Society Karachi (HWSK) treatment centre-Sindh's only facility for hemophilia care. The visit was part of the WFH's Medical Twinning Program Assessment, which fosters cooperation between established and emerging hemophilia treatment centers globally.

Dr. Fontana, along with WFH's Middle East Regional Manager Rana Saifi and Dr. Dure Naz Jamal, Secretary of the Sindh Blood Transfusion



Authority, met with the centre's medical team and patients to evaluate the facility's progress.

Rabeel Ahmed, CEO of HWSK, expressed gratitude for the visit, calling it a significant milestone in their collaboration with Geneva's Hemophilia Treatment Centre. The team conducted a SWOT analysis to help identify areas for improvement and growth, aiming to elevate hemophilia care standards in Pakistan.

This collaboration, part of the WFH Twinning Program, is essential for building sustainable practices and improving treatment outcomes for hemophilia patients in the region.—RT

Pakistan Air Force Takes Charge In High-Stakes Multinational Air Drills

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force is currently conducting important multinational air exercises involving several key allies, including the air forces of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir is scheduled to observe the Indus Shield 2024 air exercises and will receive a comprehensive briefing on the scope of the operations.

The exercises are part of ongoing efforts to bolster military ties and ensure readiness to address common security challenges in the region.

Indus Shield 2024, a joint air exercise, commenced in Pakistan, focusing on enhancing military cooperation between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkey, and Egypt.

This exercise aims to demonstrate the professionalism, capabilities, and readiness of the involved air forces amidst rising tensions in the Middle East.

The Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) has deployed six Panavia Tornado fighter jets for the exercise. The Turkish Air Force is participating with F-16 fighter jets, while the Egyptian Air Force has contributed Mirage 2000 aircraft. Pakistan is represented by its J-10C fighter jets.

The Panavia Tornado, chosen by Saudi Arabia for its versatility, is a multi-role fighter jet capable of conducting ground attacks and various tactical support missions.

runner-up position. Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, alongside other officials, congratulated both teams, praising their dedication to humanitarian efforts. He highlighted Rescue 1122's role in saving lives across Punjab and commended the Emergency Services Academy for its training contributions. Dr. Naseer noted that the challenge aimed to enhance emergency services' capabilities and foster international relations. The winning team received a warm welcome upon returning to Gujranwala.

PPP Leadership Continues To Champion The Cause Of Kashmir: Murad

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah stated that the leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), from Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has consistently championed the cause of the oppressed people of Kashmir. Speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), led by Convenor Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq, Shah reiterated the PPP's unwavering support for Kash-

mir. The delegation, which included Advocate Parvaiz Ahmed, Hamed Lone, Syed Aijaz Shah, and Majeed Shaikh, discussed the Indian occupation of Kashmir, which began on October 27, 1947. They also invited the PPP to attend an upcoming event marking the day, aimed at showing unity on the Kashmir issue.

Murad Ali Shah highlighted the historic efforts of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who took the Kashmir issue to the United Nations, and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who secured Observer status for the APHC in the OIC. He affirmed that President Asif Ali Zardari kept the issue alive on the global stage, while Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari continues to be a strong advocate for the people of Kashmir.

The Chief Minister confirmed the PPP's participation in the APHC program, reinforcing the party's long-standing commitment to the Kashmir cause.—RT

Call for Expression of Interest (EOIs) / Proposal
(Micro grants for Setting up Micro/Small Businesses)
Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development across Rural Sindh Program (PAIDAR)

PAIDAR is a five-year program funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the Government of Sindh in implementing its Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). With the aim of driving sustainable poverty reduction in Sindh, PAIDAR is supporting technical assistance, capacity building and financial support to a significant number of micro and small enterprises in target districts to support enterprise development and business development.

Under the PAIDAR Program, the SRSO is the designated implementing partner in the district BADIN. Through this Call for EOIs / Proposal, SRSO invites prospective and eligible entrepreneurs across the district BADIN to set up or expand micro and small businesses that demonstrate strong potential for enterprise development, income generation, and job retention and job creation.

Who Can Apply: Entrepreneurs/Businesses-owners running micro-enterprises operating in BADIN having a valid CNIC and preferably a bank account are eligible to apply.

An indicative list of the areas for businesses is given here for the convenience of eligible entrepreneurs.

S. No.	Thematic Areas	S. No.	Thematic Areas
1	Handicrafts	2	Tech Based Business /Internet
3	Solid Waste Management	4	Wood/Wooden Products Businesses
5	Fast Moving Consuming Goods Business	6	Perishable Items (Bakery/Milk Products) Business
7	Nano Garments Business	8	Alternate Energy Products Selling/Repairing/ Installation Business
9	Academic/Education Suites Businesses	10	Food/Edible Items Businesses
11	Vehicles Mechanic/Spare Parts Businesses	12	Transport Business

*Please note that the grants cannot be awarded for certain activities which include infrastructure or construction support, subsistence of consumption grants, grants for non-income generating activities such as appliances, and agriculture & livestock production.

The deadline for submitting applications is (25 November 2024).

To Apply: (<https://forms.gle/VKtzkdjG8XsTYV6A>)

Eligible and potential women entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply for the grants.

SRSO District Office Badin
Civil Hospital Road Near Thalassemia Center Badin
CellPhone: 03003144765Cell
Email: ahmedkhansoomro@srso.org.pk

SRSO Regional Office Hyderabad
House 146 Citizens cooperative near Jamia masjid Hyderabad
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EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, October 24, 2024



Polio's Resurgence Demands A Constitutional Amendment Also!

The recent surge in polio cases in Pakistan is a stark reminder of a persistent health crisis that has yet to be fully addressed. The confirmation of the 40th polio case this year, involving a child from Kohat, is deeply alarming. With new cases emerging in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the virus has shown its ability to persist, threatening to undo years of progress. The presence of the virus in sewage samples further highlights the urgency of a nationwide effort to close immunity gaps.

The government has recently demonstrated its ability to mobilize and act decisively, as seen in the swift passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. It is now time for the same sense

of urgency and determination to be applied to polio eradication. The upcoming nationwide vaccination drive is a step in the right direction, aim-



ing to immunize over 4.5 million children across the country. However, this must be part of a broader, more sustained effort that includes enhanced coordination with neighboring countries, better management, and thorough oversight.

Pakistan's struggle against polio is not just about administering vaccines; it involves tackling structural issues like poor sanitation, misin-

formation, and vaccine hesitancy. The presence of poliovirus in environmental samples underscores the need for improvements in basic health infrastructure.

Education campaigns must also continue to dispel myths about vaccines, especially in regions like KP, where reluctance to immunize children remains a significant barrier.

Pakistan cannot afford to lose this battle. The government's resolve in passing crucial legislation shows that rapid, decisive action is possible. Now, the same energy must be directed towards achieving a polio-free future. Only through a holistic, persistent approach can Pakistan finally eradicate this crippling disease.

THE HEARTLAND



SEPA inspects eight factories violating environmental protection laws

By Farooq Junjo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has intensified its enforcement efforts by inspecting eight cotton factories situated on the Mehran Highway near Nawabshah. Regional In-charge Dr. Gul Ameer Sunbal led the inspection team and reported that these factories are operating without the necessary environmental approvals from SEPA and lack

essential filter plants and dust control systems. Dr. Sunbal emphasized the importance of adhering to environmental regulations, stating that the Sindh government is committed to protecting the environment and ensuring compliance among industrial units. "Legal action against these violating factories will be pursued," he noted, indicating that all factory owners have been summoned for a personal hearing with DG SEPA Naem Ahmad Mughal at the regional office in Hyderabad on October 25, 2024.

The inspections reflect SEPA's dedication to maintaining environmental standards and holding industries accountable for their impact on public health and the environment. The initiative aims to foster a culture of compliance and responsibility among industrial operators, ensuring that economic activities do not come at the expense of environmental sustainability.

Bhutto Welfare Organization organizes community program

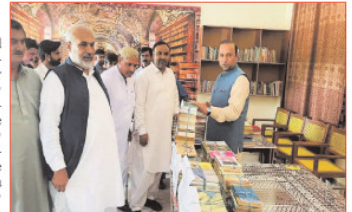


By Aijaz Johio

DAULATPUR: The Bhutto Welfare Organization held a grand community program at the residence of Riaz Hussain Bhutto, drawing a large crowd from the Bhutto community. The event served as a platform for promoting unity and collaboration among community members. Special guest Deputy Commissioner of Korangi Karachi, Masood Ahmed Bhutto, emphasized the transformative power of education, urging the youth to pursue their education and the overall progress of the country.

AC Abdul Basit Hakro inaugurates public library in Thari Mirwah

By M Iqbal Soomro



THARI MIRWAH: In a bid to promote literacy and learning, Assistant Commissioner Abdul Basit Hakro officially inaugurated a new public library in Thari Mirwah. The event was attended by key educational figures, including the Headmaster of the Model High School, Taluka Education Officer Primary Muhammad Hassan Weesar, and TEO Secondary Shamsuddin Laghari.

Town Chairman Dr. Rehan Jogi played a pivotal role in restoring the library and provided books to ensure it is well-stocked for the community. During the inauguration, Assistant Commissioner Basit urged the youth to make productive use of the library facilities, emphasizing the importance of reading and education over unproductive activities. "Investing time in books will empower you and broaden your horizons," he encouraged attendees.

The establishment of the library is seen as a significant step towards enhancing educational resources in the area, offering residents access to a wealth of information and opportunities for personal development.

Ombudsman's Regional Director Riaz Ahmed Siddiqui holds an open katchery

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In a proactive effort to address grievances faced by government employees, Riaz Ahmed Siddiqui, Regional Director of the Ombudsman, organized an open katchery at the District Accounts Office in Sujawal. The session focused on addressing issues related to pensions, GP funds, gratuities, and other concerns of both serving and retired employees.



Siddiqui instructed relevant officials to prioritize and resolve employees' issues in compliance with established rules and regulations. "We must create an environment of ease for the people and ensure their concerns are addressed promptly," he emphasized.

During the session, various issues raised by retired and serving employees were discussed in detail. Siddiqui assured participants that immediate action would be taken to alleviate their difficulties. District Accounts Officer Abdullah Jakhro reaffirmed the commitment of their office to function as financial advisors, ensuring that essential issues of retired and serving employees are resolved efficiently. The event saw participation from officials across various departments, highlighting a collective effort to enhance employee well-being.

PPP's Rana Abdul Sattar Rajput celebrates passage of 26th constitutional amendment

By Khuda Dino Kachhai



SANGHAR: Rana Abdul Sattar Rajput, a prominent leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), hailed the recent 26th constitutional amendment as a triumph for democratic forces in Pakistan. Speaking to supporters, he credited PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto for his tireless advocacy that led to the amendment's passage in both the Senate and National Assembly, marking a pivotal legislative achievement.

Rajput emphasized that the 26th amendment is a victory not only for political parties but also for the 260 million people of Pakistan. He articulated that it fortifies parliamentary supremacy, the rule of law, and institutional balance, while also preventing any entity from undermining democracy. He concluded by reiterating the critical role of a robust constitution in ensuring effective governance.

4th Hamdia Naat Mushaira held in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The cultural landscape of Thul was enriched by the fourth Hamdia Naat Mushaira, held at the Shah Abdul Latif Library and hosted by the esteemed writer and journalist AK Azad Mughal. The event brought together a vibrant assembly of poets and literary enthusiasts, fostering a celebration of art dedicated to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).



Presided over by poet Ghulam Haider Abbasi, the Mushaira featured special guest Mehboob Ali Soomro, along with other esteemed figures such as Syed Sikandar Ali Shah Jilani, Professor Abdul Razzaq Brohi, and Asghar Sujag

Sindhi. The event commenced with beautiful verses from the poetry of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (RA), setting a reverent tone for the gathering. Qari Zakir Soomro delivered an inspiring recitation that captivated the audience. The participating poets, including Hafiz Soomro, Arif Karim Mughal, Nawab Ali Sarki, and many others, presented heartfelt poetry that honored the Holy Prophet, showcasing their literary talents and devotion. The Mushaira not only provided a platform for artistic expression but also reinforced community ties through shared cultural values and reverence for the Islamic faith.

Tando Allahyar Police arrest a notorious criminal

By Afaque Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the leadership of SDPO Usman Laghari, a successful operation was carried out by the A-Section police station, resulting in the arrest of a notorious criminal. Acting on a tip-off, SHO Mir Afzal Gul Magasi and his team apprehended the suspect, identified as Fayaz, son of Saleem from the Matari district. During the operation, authorities recovered four stolen motorcycles and a pistol with five rounds from the arrested individual. While one accomplice managed to escape, police are intensifying their efforts to apprehend him. Separate cases have been registered against the suspects for theft and illegal possession of firearms at the A-Section police station, under Crime No: 348/2024 U/S: 381/A, 34 PPC and Crime No: 349/2024 U/S: 236(a) of the Sindh Arms Act 2013.

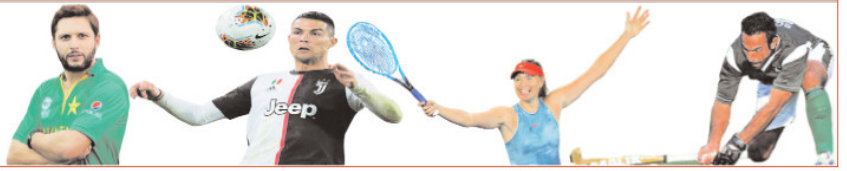
Pahel Pakistan holds International Home-Based Workers Festival in Sukkur

By Salman Ali

SUKKUR: Pahel Pakistan, with the backing of the National Endowment for Democracy, successfully hosted the International Home-Based Workers Festival in Sukkur, Sind, celebrating the resilience and accomplishments of women home-based workers from Sukkur and Khairpur districts. The festival was not only a vibrant marketplace for showcasing the skills and products of these women but also featured a series of workshops aimed at enhancing financial literacy, ensuring women's safety, and fostering community

engagement. Deedar Ahmed Mirani, the Chief Executive Officer of Pahel Pakistan, expressed his organization's commitment to empowering these workers, stating, "This festival provides a vital platform for them to connect with customers, partners, and acquire essential skills." The event drew attention from local officials, including Mayor Sukkur, Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh, who acknowledged the significant economic contributions of home-based workers to the community. Additionally, Ruksana Mangi from the Women Protection Cell promoted the Sindh Police's new online complaint system, which aims to empower women in reporting instances of harassment and violence with greater ease. Zubair Ahmed, Deputy Director of Child Protection, attended the event and praised the initiatives undertaken by Pahel Pakistan. Fatima Jaffari, Program Manager at Pahel Pakistan, emphasized the organization's ongoing commitment to supporting these talented women, ensuring they have access to the resources and opportunities necessary for success. The festival attracted over 8,000 visitors, indicating strong public interest and support for the empowerment of home-based workers.

SPORTS



White-Ball Captaincy Fate Hinges On Crucial Naqvi-Rizwan Meeting: Rashid Latif



KARACHI: Former Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif has revealed that the national team's white-ball captaincy will be determined following a crucial meeting between PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan. Latif shared this update on social media, stating that the decision, which has been delayed due to Naqvi's absence from the country, will soon be finalised. "The decision regarding the captaincy for ODIs and T20s will be made after a meeting between the PCB chairman and Mohammad Rizwan," Latif posted, hinting at Rizwan as the frontrunner for the leadership role. The captaincy position has been uncertain since Babar's resignation on October 2. Babar's departure came after a series of leadership changes within Pakistan cricket, including his earlier resignation as all-format captain under former PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf. At that time, Shan Masood took over the red-ball team, and Shaheen Afridi was handed the T20 captaincy. However, Babar was reinstated as the white-ball captain ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup during Naqvi's tenure as PCB chairman. With Babar now stepping aside from white-ball leadership, Rizwan and Mohammad Harris have emerged as the main candidates for the captaincy. Rizwan is believed to be the likely successor to lead the team in both formats. The Pakistan Cricket Board is expected to announce the squads for the upcoming white-ball tours of Australia and Zimbabwe within the next few days. —Agency

Zimbabwe Sets T20I World Record With Dominant Win Over Gambia



NAIROBI: Zimbabwe's cricket team smashed a series of T20 international records in a commanding 290-run victory over Gambia during the Africa Sub-Regional World Cup Qualifiers on Tuesday in Nairobi. Zimbabwe posted an astonishing total of 344/4, the highest-ever score in a T20 international, surpassing the previous record of 314/3 set by Nepal against Mongolia in 2023. The remarkable innings featured a record-breaking 27 sixes, eclipsing Nepal's previous record of 26 sixes, achieved against Mongolia. In addition to their dominance with sixes, Zimbabwe equaled the record for the most fours in a T20I innings, hitting 30 boundaries, a record previously set by Sri Lanka in a match against Kenya in 2007. The team amassed 282 runs from boundaries, surpassing the previous highest of 216 set by Punjab against Andhra in India's domestic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In T20Is, the previous record for amassing most runs from boundaries was 212, created by Nepal, against Mongolia, in Asian Games match. Zimbabwe's inning run-rate was 17.20, which is highest ever in a completed T20 innings, surpassing the previous record of 15.7 runs per over - also by Nepal against Mongolia. Zimbabwe's all-rounder Sikandar Raza played a pivotal role in the record-breaking performance, smashing an unbeaten 133 off 43 balls. Raza's innings included 33-ball century, tying him for the second-fastest T20I century alongside Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton, who also reached the milestone in 33 balls. The fastest T20I century remains 27 balls, held by Estonia's Sahil Chauhan against Cyprus. In reply, Gambia was bowled out for 54 runs to mark a record-breaking 290 runs win for Zimbabwe. The victory margin of 290 runs also set a new record for the largest win by runs in T20 internationals, surpassing Nepal's 273-run win over Mongolia. —Agency

Pakistan Shaheens Surge Into Semi-Finals With Commanding 74-Run Victory Over UAE



AL-AMERAT: Pakistan Shaheens progressed to the semi-finals after defeating United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 74 runs in a virtual quarter-final of the ACC Emerging Team T20 Asia Cup on Wednesday. The UAE was bundled out by Mohammad Harris and Co at 65 runs in 16.3 overs. Earlier, Harris, leading his side from the front, scored a rapid 71 off 49 runs to help his side post a 180-run target against UAE. Harris, who demoted himself in the batting order following back-to-back failures as an opener, smoked six boundaries and three maximums and remained not out at till the end. Omair Bin Yousuf, after Shaheens opted to bat first, opened the innings alongside Yasir Khan. The first 21 runs of the opening innings were fired by Omair after which he was unlucky to get run-out. Harris came in and joined Yasir at the crease who then gave confidence to his skipper while hitting a couple of hits out of the park. Muhammad Farooq, the leggie, cleverly bowled to Yasir who tried to play with the spin but failed to clear the long-on boundary. UAE skipper Rahul Chopra took a stunning catch running backward which also saw him falling where the back of his head was hit hard on the ground. He was taken off the field for a while. Meanwhile, Shaheens' skipper went berserk on the opposition bowlers with his traditional cheeky style. Qasim Akram, who sailed the ship of Shaheens in the match against Oman, managed just 23 runs. Whereas, Haider, who returned after resting in the previous match, proved his worth this time by scoring 32 off 17 balls including a boundary and three maximums. —Agency

David Warner Eyes Test Comeback, Declares Himself Ready For Action



MULTAN: The former Australian opener David Warner expressed willingness to play against India in the five-match Test series, scheduled to start from November 22. Speaking to the Code Sports, he stated: "I'm always available, just got to pick up the phone. I'm always dead serious. Honestly, if they really needed myself for this series, I'm more than happy to play the next Shield game and go out there and play." It is worth noting here that the 37-year-old Warner announced his retirement from the red-ball format following three-match Test series against Pakistan late last year. Despite bidding farewell, the veteran mentioned that he would be willing to showcase his skills for his domestic side, New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield. In addition, the former Test vice-captain retired last summer after scoring 8,786 runs and 26 centuries, including a career-best 335 not out. Reflecting on his excitement, Warner said he messaged Australia's head coach and chief selector to include him in the squad for the In-Reasons to finish the game, and I wanted to finish. But my hand is up if they desperately need someone. I'm not going to shy away from that," Warner said, adding that he had cheekily messaged both Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald and chief selector George Bailey about the situation. "I've spoken to Torch (McDonald) and his answer back to me was, 'you retired,'" Warner laughed. "I don't think he wants to give me the pleasure of him saying, 'can you come back?'" Meanwhile, the Baggy Greens are looking for a capable opener batter for the series as Steve Smith has returned to his usual spot at four after Warner's retirement. —Agency

World School Summit Celebrates Pakistani Women Pioneers In Football Promotion



DUBAI: In a significant recognition of women's football in Pakistan, Sadia Sheikh and Naila Sheikh have been awarded at a World School Summit ceremony in Dubai. The event was organized to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women in football and highlight their contributions to the sport. The event saw Sadia, the founder of Diya Football Club, being honoured with the "Visionary Leader Award" for her relentless efforts to promote women's football and develop grassroots programmes that had inspired countless young girls to participate in sport. In addition to this accolade, she was awarded an honorary PhD from the University of Maryland for her research and outstanding contributions to women's sports development. Expressing her gratitude on the occasion, Sadia said that the awards were not just personal achievements but a source of pride for the country. Noting that football is a beloved sport among women and youth as it is watched by millions in competitions spanning throughout the years, she underscored the growing interest in the game in Pakistan. Naila's efforts were also recognised for her unwavering commitment to guiding the next generation of female footballers and she was conferred with the "Inspirational Leadership Award" for her dedication to promoting women's football. The event marks a pivotal moment for women's sports in Pakistan, showcasing the efforts and successes of female athletes and leaders in the field. —Agency

Jason Gillespie Speaks Out: 'I Am A Matchday Strategist' Amid Selection Snub



LAHORE: Pakistan red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie has opened up about his role in the team management after the recent changes in the selection committee. Previously head coach and captain of the respective formats were part of the selection committee as voting members. However, following Pakistan's heavy defeat in the first Test against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) overhauled the selection committee, removing the captain and coach from the selection process. "The Pakistan Cricket Board [PCB] has confirmed the reconstitution of the men's national selection committee. It now includes Aleem Dar, match. It was decided that a new selection panel would come in, and they would be making decisions," said Gillespie. "I was not involved in the decision-making. I'm now just the coach for England have added an additional spinner to take advantage of the conditions. —Agency

them ready for cricket." The former Australian pacer stated that he is only focused on creating team strategy and has nothing to do with the team selection. "Look, it's not for me to talk about now. I am not a selector, I am a matchday strategist as head coach, and I'm all about the players," he added. "My focus is on them. I will let the selectors do their job, and we will just go out there and play the best cricket we can possibly play." It's worth noting that Pakistan have announced an unchanged Playing XI for the third Test, while England have added an additional spinner to take advantage of the conditions. —Agency

Pakistan Sticks To Winning Formula: Unchanged Line-Up For Third Test Against England



RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday, confirmed that they will stick with the same Playing XI for the third Test against England, scheduled to run from October 24 to 28 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Pakistan will field the same line-up which crushed England by 152 runs in the second Test in Multan to level the three-match series. The pitch in Rawalpindi is anticipated to favour spin bowlers, much like the conditions seen in Multan. As a result, Pakistan will go with the same spin-heavy bowling attack, featuring Sajid Khan, Noman Ali, and Ahmed, Jack Leach, and Matthew Potts. Pakistan Playing XI: Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (c), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel (vc), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Zahid Mahmood. England Playing XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jamie Smith (vc), Gus Atkinson, Rehan Khan, Noman Ali, and Ahmed, Jack Leach, Zahid Mahmood while Shaohab Bashir. —Agency

Kids' Corner



Name: Heer Makhija D/o Raj Makhija
Location: Salehpat
About me: I love my parents up to the Moon and back!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Nicole Kidman's Shocking Admission: 'Don't Touch Me'



In Babygirl, Nicole Kidman had to pause the shooting because she could not control herself in racy scenes. Dishing about those x-rated moments, she told The Sun ahead of the film's release that the erotic movie directed by Halina Reijn had scores of steamy scenes, which, in her words, physically frustrated her. "There was an enormous amount of sharing and trust and then frustration. It's like, 'Don't touch me,'" adding the exhaustion from the process had her like, "Come near me, I hate doing this. I don't care if I am never touched again in my life! I'm over it." "It was so present all the time for me that it was almost like a burnout." She continued, "There were times when we were shooting where I was like, 'I don't want to ***** anymore.'" Making this kind of film, which involved an extra amount of touching, required a lot of trust between actors and their directors. So, in Nicole's case, she said her experience was good because of a female filmmaker. "There's a sort of a jump off the cliff thing where you go, okay, I'm just going to abandon everything and explore this with the people that I trust in a genre that is already set, but hopefully we can explore new territory and especially with the female at the helm."

Kylie Jenner Opens Up About Timothée Chalamet Romance And Renewed Friendship With Jordyn Woods



Kylie Jenner has opened up on why she keeps her romantic life with actor Timothée Chalamet private. During a new interview with Elle, Kylie made a brief comment on the subject without naming the Dune star. She said, "I think it's important to keep things to yourself. It's hard for me to make a decision by myself sometimes, so the opinion of the whole world... it can be tough." Elsewhere in the interview, she also revealed more about her friendship with Jordyn Woods, who was accused of kissing Tristan Thompson when he was with Khloe Kardashian. "I was heartbroken," the Khy founder said of the aftermath of the scandal. "We've always tried to talk through things, so it's never been a full cold-turkey cut-off; it was needed distance. Anytime something happened, good or bad, and I needed to call someone, it would always be her. To lose that person felt really lonely, but I had to go through that." "I learned so much, gained so much independence, and there was for myself. It helped me grow up a little bit, because we were so attached at the hip. I think that in order for us both to grow, she needed to spread her wings and do what she needed to do as well," Kylie reflected. Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet first ignited rumors of a relationship in April 2023, when her car was seen outside his home multiple times. They went public in September the same year at a Beyoncé concert.

THE HEARTLAND



Badin Municipal Committee allocates Rs 60 Million for development projects

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: The Badin Municipal Committee has approved development projects totaling Rs 60 million for the city. During a session chaired by Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, all elected councilors and reserved seat members unanimously agreed on various initiatives, including the construction of streets, drainage systems, and water supply lines, along with repairs to existing pumping stations.

Additionally, the council approved renaming Golarchi Road to Pir Luari Road and Hyderabad Road to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Road. Chairman Qureshi expressed gratitude to the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party for their ongoing commitment to



Badin's development, stating his optimism that the city will soon emerge as a model for others.

SBBU signs MoU with Shinawatra University Thailand

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: In a landmark move to foster international collaboration in academia, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU) Shaheed Benazirabad has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Shinawatra University, Thailand. This agreement represents a significant step forward in establishing cooperative efforts in research and educational exchanges between the two institutions.

The MoU was signed by Professor Dr. Madad Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor of SBBU, and Professor Zoha Fai, President of Shinawatra University. The signing ceremony was attended by key officials including Dean Dr.



Salman Bashir, Director of Quality Enhancement Cell Dr. Ashiq Hussain, and Director of Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization Dr. Abdul Samad Dahri. Mrs. Julie from Shinawatra University also participated online, underscoring the importance of this collaboration. This partnership aims to

enhance academic programs, research capabilities, and student exchanges, providing opportunities for both faculty and students to engage in meaningful cross-cultural experiences. The MoU signifies a mutual commitment to improving educational standards and fostering innovation through shared resources and knowledge.

Residents of Sono Khan Gadhi protest for reopening of closed school

By Ibrahim Farooqi

BADAH: In a passionate demonstration for their right to education, residents and students from the village of Sono Khan Gadhi near Badin staged a protest demanding the reopening of their primary school, which has remained closed for the past eight years. The protest was led by community leaders including Waqar Gadhi, Amanullah Gadhi, Qamar Ali Gadhi, and Hubdar Gadhi, alongside a group of schoolchildren who joined in raising strong slogans.

The leaders expressed their deep frustration over the closure, noting that over 300 children have been deprived of education as a result.



Many children have been forced to attend stock instead of attending school, highlighting the severe impact of the closure on their future prospects. The protesters articulated their exhaustion from repeated pleas to elected representatives and education officials for the reopening of the school. They called on the Minister of Education and higher authorities to take immediate action, insisting that teachers be appointed to facilitate the education of their children. The community warned that if their demands are not met, they will escalate their protests and consider sit-ins to draw attention to their plight.

Meghwar community men demand justice in land dispute

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADADPUR: Residents of Ganesh Marwari village near Shahdadpur have staged a protest to demand justice against illegal attempts to occupy their homes. The demonstration was led by community leaders Sarop Meghwar, Mano, Qaiser, Bhanrio, and Sudho Meghwar, who accused individuals from neighboring areas, particularly Bongyo and Sawrio Meghwar, of harassment and intimidation.

Protesters passionately voiced their concerns, emphasizing that their families have lived in the village for generations and are rightful owners of the land. "We will not allow anyone to encroach on our property," they declared. The community is seeking immediate action from local authorities to protect their rights and ensure their safety amidst



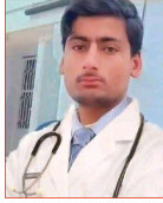
ongoing threats. The leaders called for a thorough investigation into the harassment claims and urged officials to take decisive measures against those attempting to unlawfully seize their land. The protest highlights the community's resolve to defend their rights and uphold their long-standing ties to the area.

Injured youth succumbs to injuries

By Gada Hussain Bhanhro

NARO: In a tragic turn of events, Asif Ali, a young resident of Nara, has succumbed to his injuries at Khairpur Hospital after being involved in a serious wagon accident. The news of his passing sparked an emotional uproar among family and friends as his body was brought home, leaving the community in mourning.

The accident, which occurred earlier, involved multiple individuals who sustained varying degrees of injuries. Reports indicate that several of the injured are in critical condition and are receiving medical attention. The local community has rallied together to support the victims' families during this difficult time.



Asif Ali was laid to rest after funeral prayers, attended by a large gathering of relatives and friends who paid their respects. The incident has raised concerns about road safety in the area, prompting calls for increased awareness and preventive measures to avert such tragedies in the future.

Motorcyclist killed in a fatal road accident

TALHAR: A tragic accident claimed the life of 50-year-old Wali Muhammad Lund, who suffered severe injuries after colliding with an unidentified passenger van near Tando Bago Road. Despite being rushed to Civil Hospital Hyderabad, he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

His body was transferred to Talhar Taluka Hospital for legal formalities before being returned to his family for burial in Ali Khan Lund village. The local police are still in pursuit of the van driver involved in the accident, which remains at large.—RT



Wali Muhammad Lund, who suffered severe injuries after colliding with an unidentified passenger van near Tando Bago Road. Despite being rushed to Civil Hospital Hyderabad, he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Tensions rise amidst ongoing clashes between two groups



By Mohtab Shar

JHOL: Tensions have escalated in Jhol as clashes between two groups from village Qaim Khan Jalalani have continued for three days over a minor dispute involving children. The altercations have resulted in physical injuries to two individuals, Rabnawaz and Riaz Jalalani.

Despite the ongoing violence, police have yet to apprehend any suspects, creating an atmosphere of fear in the city. Armed groups have been seen roaming the streets, further heightening concerns among residents. Authorities are under increasing pressure to restore order and address the escalating conflict.

Police arrest a murderer for killing youth during Saman Sarkar Festival

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a shocking incident that marred the Saman Sarkar festival, police have arrested a suspect accused of murdering 22-year-old Shakil Ahmad Jamali. The festival, typically a time of celebration and community gathering, turned tragic when Jamali was fatally attacked by a local potter's shopkeeper.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Badin, Sheeraz Nazir, the attack occurred amidst the festivities, causing panic among attendees. Eyewitnesses reported that the altercation escalated quickly, leading to Jamali being struck repeatedly until he succumbed to his injuries. Local authorities were alerted, and police arrived promptly at the scene, where they recovered the body and transported it to Civil Hospital Tando Bago for a post-mortem examination. The alleged perpetrator, identified as Dilip Gwarrio, managed to escape into the crowd during the chaos surrounding the annual Urs celebrations. Following the incident, a murder case was filed against Gwarrio at the Pangrio police station, based on a complaint lodged by Muhammad Hussain Jamali, the victim's brother. After a thorough investigation, law enforcement officials were able to apprehend Gwarrio, who is now in custody as inquiries continue into the circumstances surrounding the attack. This incident has raised serious concerns about safety at public events, and authorities are urging community members to remain vigilant.

PPP commemorates Begum Nusrat Bhutto's 13th death anniversary

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) held a solemn ceremony to commemorate the 13th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, affectionately known as the Mother of Democracy. The event, attended by numerous party leaders and activists, featured Quran recitation and a charity distribution in her honor.

Key attendees included Senior Vice President Nisar Muhammad Murad Bhutto and Information Secretary Imran Hassan Jatoti. Murad Bhutto



stressed the importance of justice that Begum Nusrat Bhutto championed, calling for a renewed commitment to her legacy.

Increase in number of stray dogs and ineffective vaccinations result in two deaths in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The rising population of stray dogs, combined with ineffective anti-rabies vaccinations at the Civil Hospital, has tragically resulted in the deaths of two residents, Rashid Kashmiri, 55, and Waqar Qaimkhani, 28, succumbing to their injuries after being bitten by dogs two months prior, despite receiving vaccinations.

Family members reported that symptoms began to manifest a few days before their hospital admissions in Hyderabad and Karachi, leading to their untimely deaths. This has sparked widespread panic



among the residents of Tando Allahyar, who feel abandoned by local authorities in addressing the stray dog issue. Community members are demanding urgent action from the district administration, including a dog culling campaign and a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths. Citizens are calling for strict legal action against those responsible for the perceived negligence, as they seek to prevent further tragedies.

Local contractor criticizes tender irregularities

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: In a bold move, prominent contractor Zaheer Jumani has publicly criticized the Secretary of Education for allegedly favoring large contractors in the awarding of tenders aimed at repairing government schools that were damaged by recent floods. Jumani raised concerns over the recent tender requirements that have been adjusted to accept only C3 category contractors, whereas traditionally, C5 contractors are necessary for such projects.



During a press conference, Jumani emphasized that this shift in criteria not only undermines the quality of work expected but also violates a Sindh High Court ruling that mandates the separation of tenders for civil and electrical work. "By ignoring these regulations, the Secretary is not only compromising the integrity of the tender process but also sidelining local contractors who could effectively carry out the repairs," he stated. Jumani called for the rejection of the current tenders and urged the Sindh High Court, Chief Minister, and Chief Secretary to intervene to ensure a fair and transparent process for local contractors. He warned that if the situation remains unaddressed, he will be forced to consider legal action to protect the interests of local businesses.

Sheedi Active Jamaat protests against NRSP for not constructing homes of Sheedi community

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Members of the Sheedi Active Jamaat held a protest in Raju Nizamani village, demanding accountability from the local NGO, NRSP, for failing to fulfill housing promises made to the Sheedi community. The demonstration saw prominent figures, including Allah Dino Sheedi and Naveed Sheedi, voicing their frustrations with powerful slogans.

Protesters emphasized that, despite a comprehensive survey conducted over a year ago, they have yet to receive the promised homes. While NRSP has successfully constructed houses in surrounding areas, the Sheedi community continues to face



inadequate housing. Community leaders urgently called for action from the Sindh government and local representatives, highlighting the critical need for support to protect their families from the impending winter. The Sheedi Active Jamaat warned that if their demands are not addressed, they would escalate their protests, potentially staging a sit-in outside the Deputy Commissioner's office to press for their rights.

Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon reviews arrangements for anti-Polio campaign

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon convened a video link meeting to review preparations for the upcoming polio eradication campaign, scheduled for October 28 to November 3. The meeting focused on strategies for the seven-day initiative aimed at eliminating polio across the region.

Memon discussed the successes of the previous campaign and the necessary arrangements for the upcoming



effort, with Deputy Commissioner Dadu Mukhtar Ali Abro participating via video link. The commissioner was updated on targets achieved by polio teams during the last campaign, and emphasized that teams will be deployed in both urban and rural areas to vaccinate children and meet the set goals. Present at the meeting were key officials, including WHO Disease Surveillance Officer Dr. Javed Ahmed and other relevant stakeholders.

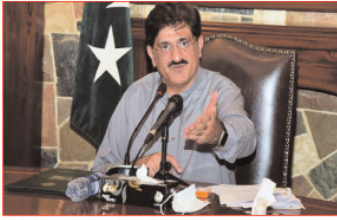
METRO KARACHI



Murad Showcases Vital Role Of Textile And Leather Industries In Economic Growth At TEXPO 2024

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, at the inaugural ceremony of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition (TEXPO 2024), emphasized the vital role of Pakistan's textile and leather sectors in driving exports, industrial labor, and poverty alleviation.

He reported that textile exports for 2023-2024 reached \$16.6 billion, while the leather sector contributed \$805 million to the economy. The event, organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, attracted a diverse audience, including Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, federal and provincial ministers, diplomats, and over 500 international delegates from more than 60 countries.



Shah welcomed the global brands attending the exhibition, including IKEA, H&M Group, and Boohoo Group, stating that their presence enhances Pakistan's reputation in the international market. He highlighted the event's theme, "Weaving the Way to Sustainability," which underscores the need for sustainable practices in addressing climate change, acknowledging Pakistan's vulnerability to global warming.

The Chief Minister praised the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce, TDAP, and all stakeholders in organizing TEXPO, expressing confidence that the exhibition would serve as a catalyst for trade, investment, and economic growth while celebrating Pakistan's cultural heritage.

Son of MQM-P MNA Rana Ansar Dies In Karachi Car Crash



KARACHI: Shahzaib Naqvi, the youngest son of Murtahida Qumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) MNA Rana Ansar, tragically lost his life in a car accident on Wednesday in Karachi.

According to rescue officials, the accident occurred in the early hours near the Clifton underpass, where the vehicle overturned and struck the sidewalk. Shahzaib succumbed to head injuries, while his friend Muhammad Ilyas sustained injuries in the crash.

Police reported that Shahzaib was a resident of Askari 4, located on Rashid Minhas Road. He was the youngest son of MQM-P MNA Rana Ansar and the late senior journalist Syed Ansar Ali Naqvi.

After completing the necessary legal procedure, authorities handed over Shahzaib's body to his family. His funeral prayer will be held tonight after Isha prayers at the Askari 4 mosque, according to the family.—RT/Agency

Sindh Govt Targets Ghost Teachers: Over 1,300 Salaries Suspended Amid Absenteeism Crackdown

KARACHI: The Sindh government has ordered the suspension of salaries for 1,369 teachers and employees who have been permanently absent from their duties across the province.

A thorough investigation into absenteeism has been launched by a scrutiny committee formed by the Sindh Education Secretary. The committee's report revealed that a significant number of teachers and employees had been absent for extended periods, with many residing abroad.

In response, the Education Secretary directed the immediate halting of salaries for those found to be permanently absent. The investigation, led by an Additional Secretary along with two Deputy Secretaries and a Section Officer, gathered attendance records from Monitoring Officers and District Education Officers to substantiate the findings.

The Sindh Education Department's Monitoring and Evaluation unit confirmed



the absence of these 1,369 employees, prompting swift action to withhold their salaries.

In a related move, the Sindh government has introduced a new GPA-based grading system for matriculation and intermediate exams. This policy will eliminate the competition for top positions and replace traditional marks with grades, making Sindh the first province in Pakistan to adopt this modern approach.

The Sindh government's efforts to advance education are also reflected in its recent partnership with Tech Valley Google through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at driving technological progress in the education sector. Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed his commitment to transforming education through innovative technology. "This marks an important day in our journey towards educational transformation in Sindh," Shah said at the signing ceremony held at the Chief Minister's House.—RT/Agency

Karachi Horror: 7-Year-Old Boy Stabbed To Death, Mother And Sister Fighting For Their Lives

KARACHI: A tragic stabbing in Karachi's Orangi Town has claimed the life of a seven-year-old boy, while his mother and younger sister remain hospitalized with severe injuries, police reported on Wednesday.

"Two children and a woman were discovered with stab wounds inside a house near Liaqat West School in Orangi Town," said a statement from the local police. The victims were immediately rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where the boy,

identified as Subhan, 7, succumbed to his injuries.

Dr. Summayya Syed, Police Surgeon, confirmed that Subhan sustained fatal head trauma, resulting in bleeding from his nose and ears. His sister, Aleeza, 5, suffered serious head and facial injuries, while their mother, Kinsha, 30, has multiple deep wounds to her face and skull. Both remain in critical condition.

Police have launched an investigation, with initial findings pointing to personal enmity as the motive behind the attack. Authorities suspect a close family member's involvement, and District West Police have confirmed that the suspect himself contacted the police regarding the incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) West Tariq Elahi Mastoi has formed a special team to pursue and apprehend the suspect. Further investigations are underway.—RT/Agency

PPP Set To Push For Constitutional Bench Resolutions In Sindh And Balochistan Assemblies

KARACHI: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has announced plans to table and pass resolutions in the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies for the establishment of constitutional benches in both provinces.

Under clause-7 of Article 202-A, introduced through the 26th Constitutional Amendment, the formation of constitutional benches in a province requires a resolution passed by a simple majority in its assembly.

With a majority in both provincial assemblies, the PPP is expected to move

swiftly, instructing its legislators to ensure full attendance and vote in favor of the resolutions. Sources indicate that the Sindh Assembly may be convened today to pass the necessary resolution.

Meanwhile, the creation of constitutional benches in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been delayed due to the provincial government's stance on the matter. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is also expected to push for a similar resolution in the Punjab Assembly soon.—RT/Agency

Chairman Malir Town Jan Muhammad Baloch Calls For Enhanced Educational Opportunities

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Chairman Malir Town, Jan Muhammad Baloch, emphasized the need to provide better educational opportunities for the younger generation to ensure Pakistan's stability, development and prosperity. He stated that access to education is a fundamental right for every child, particularly for those from low-income and middle-class families.

Baloch called for the establishment of educational standards in government schools that match the quality and facilities of private institutions. He assured that all government schools in Malir Town



will offer improved educational opportunities for students. He made these remarks while reviewing facilities at the Government Boys and Girls Bakhtawar Secondary School in UC Khalidabad, alongside Council Member Najma Asif. Present at the occasion were Superintendent Engineer Rehmatullah Memon, XEN Faisal Muhammad Baloch, and other officials.

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Urges Renewed Efforts To Eliminate Polio

KARACHI: First Lady and MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has urged the nation to renew its commitment to eradicating polio as the country faces 39 confirmed cases and 402 positive environmental samples in 2024. Aseefa, a staunch advocate for polio eradication and daughter of former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, emphasized the urgency of united action to protect Pakistan's children.



"Polio remains a significant threat, and only through sustained vaccination efforts can we ensure a polio-free future for our children," she said, calling for collective action in response to the resurgence of polio in Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite recent progress, with Sindh reporting no new polio cases from June 2021 to

June 2023, the virus has returned, prompting new vaccination campaigns. Aseefa praised polio and Lady Health Workers for their relentless efforts, noting that while progress has been made, the fight is far from over.

Highlighting the need for broader support, she emphasized that improvements in water, sanitation, and healthcare infrastructure are vital to combating the disease. Paying tribute to her mother, Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto, who championed polio eradication as Prime Minister, Aseefa reaffirmed the importance of vaccination in protecting future generations. She urged the public to support ongoing vaccination campaigns, emphasizing that the polio vaccine is safe, effective, and essential in eliminating the disease for good. "Together, we can achieve a polio-free Pakistan," Aseefa concluded.—RT

Sindh Govt Tightens Grip: Private Use Of Official Number Plates To Face Legal Action



KARACHI: The Government of Sindh has announced a strict crackdown on the unauthorized use of official number plates on private vehicles. Senior Minister for Information, Excise, Taxation, and Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has directed the Excise Department to take decisive action against violators.

During a high-level meeting chaired by Minister Memon, key officials, including Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput and DG Excise Aurangzeb Panhwar, reviewed departmental performance. The Excise Department reported collecting 34% of its annual tax target within just over three months. Following this, Minister Memon instructed the department to increase tax targets and speed up tax collection efforts.

In a move to enhance public convenience, the Sindh government will roll out online vehicle registration and transfer services starting January 1. This new system will allow citizens to register and transfer vehicles, as well as pay motor vehicle taxes online, promoting transparency and efficiency by eliminating cash transactions.

Minister Memon reiterated the government's commitment to improving public services, highlighting the need for thorough checks on vehicles with official number plates. He also emphasized expanding the communication campaign for the online auction of premium and personalized number plates, with the pro-

Street Crime Sweep: Shah Latif Police Nab Three Suspects In Major Operation

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Acting on the directives of SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, Shah Latif Police, under the leadership of SHO Mumtaz Marwat, conducted a series of successful operations, resulting in the arrest of three gang members involved in motorcycle thefts and street crimes.



The suspects have been identified as Nazim Hussain, Jaleel, and Manzoor. According to SHO Mumtaz Marwat, the arrested individuals are linked to various street crime incidents across the National Highway, Super Highway, and other

areas of Karachi. During the operation, police recovered two 30 caliber pistols along with rounds, a 125cc motorcycle, mobile phones, and cash from the suspects. The 125cc motorcycle was reportedly stolen at gunpoint. The police are currently verifying the motorcycle's records with AVLIC authorities. Further checks are also being conducted on the criminal records of the arrested suspects. A case has been registered against them, and an investigation is underway.

Strong Governance Is The Foundation Of Sustainable Progress: Murad

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized that good governance is not just a regulatory obligation but a foundational pillar for the long-term success of any organization. Speaking at the 39th Corporate Excellence Awards, hosted by the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP), Shah highlighted the importance of ethical decision-making and transparency in building trust, enhancing reputations, and contributing to a thriving economy.



He commended MAP for its leadership in promoting good governance and corporate transparency over the past four decades, noting that these efforts have significantly shaped Pakistan's corporate landscape. The event brought together business leaders and celebrated companies for

their outstanding achievements in governance and corporate responsibility. Shah underscored the need for businesses to adopt global best practices, particularly in sustainability and digital transformation, while fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion. He also urged greater collaboration between the public and private sectors to tackle challenges such as economic volatility and climate change, calling for robust governance frameworks to ensure stability and sustainable growth. Congratulating the award recipients, the Chief Minister encouraged them to continue setting high standards in governance, innovation, and corporate social responsibility, contributing positively to Pakistan's future. The Corporate Excellence Awards are regarded as a premier platform recognizing corporate leadership in the country.—RT

Bangladesh is a potential market for dates exports. In 2023 its imports of dates was \$7508 thousand, Pakistan's share in its imports of dates is nominal. In order to seek further benefits, TDAP is planning to send trade delegation of exporters/growers to Bangladesh.

TRADE DELEGATION OF DATES TO BANGLADESH

2nd Week of January
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Product Sectors: DATES

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ONLY online applications will be considered, the companies may apply online at www.tdap.gov.pk/mis/

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Last date to apply: 10th November 2024

Sarang Gul, Assistant Director
Ph: 99225824|11-444-111 | Cell: 03322596252
E-mail: sarang.gul@tdap.gov.pk

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE – GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Address: Block-A, 5th Floor, Finance & Trade Centre, Shaheed-e-Faisal, Karachi-75350 URL: www.tdap.gov.pk

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Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

—Oscar Wilde

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 2024

IHC Grants Bushra Bibi Bail In Latest Twist To Toshakhana Case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday accepted the post-arrest bail plea of Bushra Bibi, former first lady and wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in the new Toshakhana case involving alleged illegal sale of state gifts.

The former first lady's bail plea was accepted against Rs1 million surety bonds during the hearing conducted by Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb.

The PTI founder's wife had moved the IHC on October 3 seeking bail in the jewellery set case. The petition, filed by Advocate Yousaf Chaudhry, contended that the petitioner was a housewife and the allegations against her were baseless.

It added that the investigation was not transparent and the case was aimed at keeping the petitioner in jail. It said that the same case was



being run with different angles.

Previously, a trial court had terminated the post-arrest bail of the former first lady on September 30.

The case pertains to a reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against the couple in August.

It involves a jewellery set gifted to Bushra by the Saudi crown prince when Khan was the prime minister of the country from 2018 to 2022. The jewellery set — com-

prising a ring, bracelet, necklace a pair of earrings — was gifted to the former first lady on her visit to Saudi Arabia in May 2021, and the duo kept it illegally, alleges the NAB's reference.

During the hearing today, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) prosecutor Umair Majeed said that the jewellery set in the said case was priced while the suspects were in possession of it. However, he added, the market value of a jewellery item could not be determined until

it was physically available. Complaining that the state was not given an opportunity to estimate the price of jewellery set correctly, the FIA prosecutor said that the said item should be placed in an auction and should be priced accordingly.

The official further stressed that a gift remains the property of the state until legally purchased and maintained that as per the procedure, a gift can be bought four months after its price has been assessed.

"A state gift cannot be kept by a person without being bought first," noted Majeed.

In response to Justice Aurangzeb's question about what would happen if the Bvlgari (Bulgari) set was returned, the FIA prosecutor said, "There is a plea bargain in the NAB law, but there is no such provision in that law."

Speaking during the hearing, the judge remarked that an accurate estimate of the price of a Toshakhana gift can only be assessed via an auction.

However, Justice Aurangzeb questioned why the PTI founder was made a suspect in the case if it was his wife who did not deposit the jewellery set in the Toshakhana. To this, the FIA official contended that Khan was a public official.

"This is a similar case to that of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa," remarked the judge. "This case is slightly different from that," responded prosecutor Majeed.

After hearing the FIA official's arguments, the court then granted bail to the former first lady who's been incarcerated in the said case in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. —RT/Agency

Hamid Khan Blames 'Out-Of-Turn' Chief Justices For Setbacks

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has rejected the nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), vowing to launch a protest movement against the Special Parliamentary Committee's decision.

"As lawyers, we will condemn this nomination and will launch a protest movement," PTI leader Hamid Khan said while speaking to media following the parliamentary panel's meeting, which the former ruling party boycotted.

However, he expressed hope that Justice Afridi would not accept the nomination as chief justice.

Chief justices have been appointed twice out-of-turn and it caused "a great loss to the country", Hamid said. "[This move] has been done to create a divide within the Supreme Court."

Meanwhile, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has rejected the opposition's allegations of creating a "constitutional crisis" by picking a



chief justice after neglecting high courts.

The minister further said that the country needed a statesmanship and a strong leadership to end polarisation in the top court's benches and judicial system besides strengthening the judiciary and bringing harmony to the institution.

The nomination came after two rounds of in-camera meeting of the parliamentary panel with the PTI-backed Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) boycotting the proceedings "in line with the party's political committee's decision". —RT/Agency

the seniority principle. Speaking to the media, Iqbal said that the Imran Khan-founded party was seemingly eyeing to fill its political agenda via a specific nomination for the new CJP.

He defended the Special Parliamentary Committee for nominating Justice Afridi as the new top judge, saying that the decision was taken on merit.

He was of the view that it was not an unusual practice to skip seniority principle as the country witnessed such examples for the appointment of the chief justices of the

UN Rights Watchdog Sounds Alarm Over Swift Adoption Of 26th Amendment

UNITED NATION: United Nations Human Rights Chief Volker Turk has voiced concern over the newly enacted 26th Constitutional Amendment, saying it was "adopted hastily and without broad consultation and debate".

The ruling coalition, after weeks of political manoeuvrings and deliberations, finally managed to pass the contentious 26th Constitutional Amendment bill, empowering the country's parliament to pick the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) from among the three most senior Supreme Court judges.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Turk said that "hastily adopted" amendments will "seriously undermine the independence of the judiciary".

"Constitutional reforms must be in line with international human rights law," the statement added.

The passage of the contentious package drew strong criticism from the



opposition and lawyers community, with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vowing to launch a protest movement across the country.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has also expressed strong reservations over certain aspects of the amendments.

The amendments brought numerous changes to the country's judicial system, including taking away suo motu powers, formation of constitutional benches, Afridi as the next chief justice and performance evaluations of high court judges.

In light of the fresh

amendments, a Special Parliamentary Committee nominated Justice Yahya Afridi as the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

After nomination, President Asif Ali Zardari appointed Justice Afridi under clause 3 of Article 175A read with Articles 177 and 179 of the Constitution, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice today. It stated that the president was pleased to appoint Justice Afridi as the next chief justice "for a term of three years with effect from" October 26. —RT/Agency

Liquor Case Escalates: Islamabad Police Ordered To Arrest CM Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Wednesday directed the Islamabad police to execute arrest warrant issued for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a 2016 case, wherein he is accused of carrying liquor and unlicensed weapons.

Civil Judge Mubashir Hassan directed the SSP operations of Islamabad police to ensure implementation of the court's order to arrest the PTI firebrand chief minister.

During the course of hearing, a report on CM Gandapur's arrest warrant was submitted to the local court. The police did not execute the arrest warrants for the provincial chief executive, read the report.

Irked by his continuous non-appearance, the court maintained his non-bailable arrest warrants and directed the authority concerned to produce the chief minister before the court after taking him into custody.

Meanwhile, the court adjourned the hearing till October 26.

Earlier this month, Judicial Magistrate Mubashir Hussain Chishty issued non-bailable arrest



warrant for the KP CM in arms and liquor recovery case.

A case was lodged against the PTI leader after the alleged recovery of five Kalashnikov rifles, a pistol, six magazines, a bullet-proof vest, three teargas shells, and bottles of alcohol in October 2016.

Gandapur, who was then serving as a provincial minister in KP, was charged under the illegal arms and anti-drugs laws after illicit arms and a bottle of liquor were allegedly recovered from his car. A local court in Islamabad on March 7 this year overturned the trial court orders declaring KP CM Gandapur a "proclaimed offender" in the said case registered against him in Baharakuhi police station.

Earlier, a trial court had declared Gandapur an ab-

sconder for evading the law in the case.

District and Sessions Court Judge Shahrul Arjumand had nullified the trial court's order over a review petition filed by the suspect. The petitioner's lawyer had informed the court that Gandapur couldn't appear in court because of his official engagements as the new KP chief minister. He had requested the court to exempt Gandapur from the proceedings hearing that day. The lawyer had said that the trial court had declared Gandapur a proclaimed absconder for continuously skipping the proceedings in the case.

He had said that Gandapur hadn't received the court's summons due to non-compliance by the process server, designated for delivering the legal documents. —RT/Agency

Final Countdown: Loss-Making PIA To Be Auctioned Off On October 30



ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government has decided to hold the final auction of the loss-making Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Corporation on October 30.

This was revealed by Parliamentary Secretary for Communication Gul Asghar Khan on Wednesday during the seventh session of the National Assembly in response to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Sharmila Faruqi.

The government had delayed the bidding process due to low bidder interest and unresolved issues, well-placed sources privy to the development said. The process was earlier scheduled for October 1.

The sources added that the delay may have resulted from issues including unresolved court cases, fleet ageing and civil aviation issues.

During the assembly session today, Khan said the privatisation of the state-owned entity was a detailed process conducted under the elaborate structure of privatisation. The process was initiated in February 2024 and would

be finalised on October 30, he apprised the lawmakers.

The parliamentary secretary said the process involved different institutions including the Privatisation Commission Board chaired by the minister and the secretary Privatisation Commission Usman Bajwa.

The PIA's privatisation decision, he said, was approved by the Cabinet Committee on privatisation. "PIA assets have been parked separately as its operational assets have been separated whereas final auction will be held under PIA Corporation on October 30."

Last month, Bajwa informed the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Privatisation that the final bid documents were shared with six pre-qualified bidders.

The six consortia that were pre-qualified to bid for a 60% stake in PIA, included Fly Jinnah Limited, Air Blue Limited, Anif Habib Corporation Limited, a consortium led by YB Holdings (Private) Limited, a consortium led by Pak Ethanol and Blue World City. —RT/Agency

Pakistan And Saudi Arabia Forge Stronger Ties With Pledge To Boost Key Sector Investments

WASHINGTON: Appreciating the historical and fraternal bonds between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, both sides have expressed resolve to further deepen mutually beneficial economic ties, enhance bilateral trade, and facilitate investment in key sectors.

The commitment was renewed at a meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC.

Al-Jadaan shared his experience of reforms in the energy sector. Both sides agreed to advance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

Aurangzeb is leading a Pakistan delegation to the WB-IMF Annual Meetings, being held in Washington DC from October 21 to 26, state-run APP reported.

Other delegates include Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal; Secretary Economic Affairs Dr Kazim Niaz and State Bank of Pakistan



(SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad.

It is noteworthy to mention here that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had inked signed several memorandums of understandings (MoUs) for \$2 billion bilateral investment agreements during Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih's visit to Islamabad last month.

Khalid-led delegation was comprising by Saudi companies from various sectors including construction, engineering, financial services, IT, hospitality, agriculture, food, energy, and petroleum are part of the visiting delegation.

The agreements included a \$70 million investment in agriculture

sector, establishment of advanced semiconductor chip manufacturing in Saudi Arabia, establishment of a textile industry, a white oil pipeline project, an MoU for exploring investment opportunities, a hybrid power project, development of transformer manufacturing facilities in both the countries, cyber security measures for customers and businesses, and the export of spices and vegetables from Pakistan.

Additionally, the agreements outline the establishment of a manufacturing facility for surgical and dental equipment and collaboration on the federal government's E-Taallem and digitalisation programmes. —RT/Agency

SC Transfers First Case To Constitutional Benches After 26th Amendment Shake-Up



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has sent the application pertaining to restoration of terminated employees case to the constitutional benches after the recently passed 26th constitutional amendment.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the case on Wednesday.

Applicants' lawyer Waseem Sajjad stated that every citizen had a constitutional right to live a peaceful life.

Justice Ayesha also remarked that a constitutional bench would proceed the case.

The apex court mentioned that constitutional benches would hear the constitutional cases after the 26th amendment and applications were being sent to benches.

Seven employees of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources moved the SC against a high court decision. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Sees Light At The End Of The Tunnel With China's Positive Response On Debt Refiling

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is advancing economic ties with China, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, as Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb held high-level discussions on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC.

The meetings focused on debt reprofiling, trade cooperation, and joint ventures to strengthen Pakistan's economic prospects. Aurangzeb revealed a "promising response" from China over Pakistan's request to reprofile its power sector debt, a move aimed at providing the country with breathing room to lower electricity prices. "We have just started that discussion, and the re-



sponse is encouraging," the minister told Bloomberg, while stressing the importance of continuing structural reforms.

He noted that Pakistan seeks to extend the maturity of debt for nine power plants

built by Chinese companies under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China has already rolled over \$16 billion in debt from a total of \$26 billion in the current fiscal year. —RT/Agency

ECP Grants PTI Senator Abro More Time To Respond In Disqualification Row

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday granted PTI Senator Saifullah Abro additional time to submit his response in the disqualification reference, and adjourned the hearing until Nov 11.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the disqualification reference

against Senator Saifullah Abro.

During the hearing, both Abro's lawyer and People's Party Senator Shahadat Awan appeared before the election commission.

Abro's lawyer informed the commission that they had not received a copy of the application and requested additional time to respond. Approving the request, the ECP

directed Saifullah Abro to submit his response and postponed the hearing until November 11. Notably, Majid Mahmud and Senator Shahadat Awan filed a reference against PTI Senator Saifullah Abro, alleging that he submitted false experience documents for a technocrat seat and did not declare all his assets in the nomination papers. —RT/Agency