

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Murad Kicks Off Anti-Polio Drive On World Polio Day



Selena Gomez Breaks Silence On Explosive Benny Blanco, Edgar Ramirez Feud

Heartland

SACM Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar Distributes Sewing Machines To Empower Women



Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 1751.45 points to close at 88,945.98



NATIONAL

President Reaffirms Pakistan's Unwavering Commitment To UN's Charter



SPORTS

Sajid Khan Praises Selection Committee For 'Supportive' Pitches In Pakistan's Favor



Imran Slams 26th Amendment As A 'Constitutional Assault'

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyers held on the Islamabad High Court (IHC) orders, party founder Imran Khan termed the newly enacted 26th Constitutional Amendment, which empowers parliamentarians to pick chief justice, an "attack on Constitution of Pakistan."



Speaking to journalists after the meeting, PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said that the incarcerated former prime minister has expressed displeasure over the 26th Constitutional Amendment. "The PTI founder said the nation has been tyrannised by this act," the lawyer said, adding that Khan refused to comment on appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

founder is not afraid of any adversity," he added. He noted that they were making efforts to reduce hardships being faced by the PTI founder. Chaudhry claimed that the PTI founder is kept in a six by eight cell, adding that he has been subjected to psychological torture. "An application will be filed in IHC against the circumstances the former premier is being kept."

Bilawal Declares That 26th Amendment Would Have Been Unthinkable Under Any Other Chief Justice

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhattu-Zardari has said that enacting the 26th Constitutional Amendment was not possible under any other chief justice, as he praised outgoing CJP Qazi Faez Isa.



The Shehbaz Sharif-led government, with the assistance of allies including the PPP, passed the contentious legislation in both lower and upper houses of parliament, which changed the procedure for the Chief Justice of Pakistan's (CJP) appointment, fixed the post's tenure, and formed constitutional benches.

minister during the previous government under PM Shehbaz, said that the allies had a window while CJP Isa was in power and they availed it. "We did have a window because we have seen how other judges have moulded the Constitution whether it's [Article] 63-A or the reserved seats case, to serve their personal interests. "On the other hand, we had a chief justice who could withstand pressure from other judges also that may have tried to investigate him that this is not a question about you, but about the power [of the judiciary]."

In his interview with BBC Urdu, Bilawal defended the timing of the legislation, which the opposition says did not only come at a "questionable time" but was also "person-specific". When asked about the timing, he said: "In the judicial history of Pakistan, there's one man [...] that has shown us that he's willing to obey parliament even at the cost of his personal power."

Bilawal said that the allies had a window "of a man who would not undermine what we were doing". The interviewer also asked the ex-PM whether he believes the government would not have been able to pass the amendments had Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is the senior-most judge, become the CJP. In response, he said that the judgment of the reserved seats was "orchestrated" to undermine the strength of parliament and that the Article 63-A decision was not based on the Constitution.

Nine Terrorists, Including Mastermind, Eliminated In Bajaur Operation

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on the night between October 23 and 24 eliminated nine terrorists — or "khawarij" — including two suicide bombers and a ring leader in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district.



During the operation, high-value target (HVT) and terrorist ring leader Said Muhammad alias "Qureshi Ustad" was also killed following an intense exchange of fire with the troops, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday. With the sanitisation operation underway to eliminate any further militants in the area, the security forces also recovered large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and explosives from the terrorists.

Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the total fatalities from three quarters of this year have surpassed the total fatalities recorded for the entire of 2023 with 1,534 deaths compared to last year's 1,523. A total of 722 people were killed, including civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, while 615 others were wounded in as many as 328 incidents recorded during the third quarter. Balochistan and KP have been at the forefront of the country's war against terror and have faced the brunt of terror attacks.—RT/Agency

Bushra Bibi Walks Free On Bail After Months Of Incarceration

RAWALPINDI: Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, is finally out of prison on bail after remaining behind bars for around nine months. The release from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail came a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted her bail against surety bonds worth Rs1 million in the new Toshakhana case.



The former first lady was arrested after a court on January 31 convicted and sentenced the couple to 14 years in prison after finding them guilty of retaining and selling state gifts in violation of government rules (Toshakhana case) while Khan was in power.

Her release was expedited compared to the usual legal process, as typically, when a rokbar (release order) is issued, the imprisoned person is released within two hours. However, Bushra Bibi was released in just 20 minutes. While media personnel and PTI workers waited outside the prison to engage with Khan's wife, the former first lady quickly departed without speaking to anyone. However, the workers showered her car with flowers as it sped away.

Adviser to Chief Minister Paktunkhwa Khyber Muhammad Ali Saif said that Bushra Bibi reached Peshawar safely after her release and will stay there for some time. The IHC granted her bail on Wednesday, but due to the absence of a judge to sign the release order, she remained behind bars. Today, Judge Shahrul Arjumand signed her rokbar. The former first lady was arrested in the said case along with her husband, who remains behind bars in the same facility, soon after their acquittal in the iddat case — also known as the un-Islamic nikah case.

Toshakhana case wherein the couple was sentenced to 14 years in prison and was handed down a fine of Rs1.57 billion — Rs787 million each — in January. The ex-first lady was then placed under house arrest at her Bani Gala residence. However, she was later transferred to the Adiala jail in May at the IHC's orders which came in response to her petition that challenged the Islamabad Commissioner's decision that declared Bani Gala a sub-jail. It is to be noted that the couple's sentence in that case was suspended by the IHC in April but both remained behind bars due to being embroiled in various cases.—RT/Agency

Ex-Attorney General Exposes Critical Flaw In 26th Amendment



ISLAMABAD: The constitutional package passed by parliament in the form of the 26th Amendment has some drafting issues and a "serious anomaly" has been pointed out by a legal expert which, if not addressed through a 27th Amendment, may become a hurdle in the formation of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court. A former attorney general, who left his office not long ago and who does not wish to be named, told media that because of the serious anomaly, the new Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) cannot be created and no constitutional benches can be appointed unless this provision is amended via another constitutional amendment.

"In my view, until then the old benches will continue and there will be no constitutional benches," he said. The former AG also pointed out confusion and some drafting mistakes in the latest constitutional amendment's language but his view about the constitutional benches is really alarming. Given this, media repeatedly tried to contact both Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Attorney General Mansoor Awan but neither of them responded. The view of the former attorney general was also shared with them via WhatsApp, but they did not reply nor offer any comment.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Seeks Urgent \$1 Billion Relief From IMF, Confirms Finance Minister

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is targeting around \$1bn in a formal request for funding from the IMF facility that helps low and middle-income countries manage external shocks, its finance minister told Reuters. "We have formally requested to be considered for this facility," Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said in an interview on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank autumn meetings in Washington.



The International Monetary Fund had already agreed a \$7bn bailout for Pakistan, but has further funding available via its Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST). The RST, created in 2022, provides long-term concessional cash for climate-related spending, such as adaptation and transitioning to cleaner energy. The South Asian nation is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change according to the Global Climate Risk Index. Floods in 2022, which scientists said was aggravated by global warming, affected at least 33mn people and killed more than 1,700. The country's economic struggles and high debt burden impinged its ability to respond to the disaster. Pakistan is also in talks with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for a credit enhancement for a planned Panda bond, with an initial issue of \$200-250mn, Aurangzeb said.

A Panda bond issuance would be Pakistan's first foray into China's capital markets. Aurangzeb said they were talking to "a few other institutions" in addition to the AIIB for a credit enhancement. Credit enhancements provide some level of guarantee for bonds, which can boost their rating, attract more investors and thus cut the government's borrowing costs. Issuing in the world's "second largest and the second deepest" capital market, Aurangzeb said, was the key aim, rather than a particular issuance size. "From our perspective it is diversification of the funding base," Aurangzeb. "Even if the inaugural issue is not significant in size, for us it is important that we print that and of course then we can keep it on tap."

Aurangzeb said Pakistan has engaged with Middle Eastern banks regarding commercial loans, and one had submitted "a relatively significant proposal". Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves should reach \$13 billion by the end of March, Aurangzeb said, which would help with commercial lending, and potentially its credit rating. The foreign exchange reserves reached \$11.04 billion in the week ending Oct. 18, the central bank said. Moody's upgraded Pakistan's ratings to "Caa2" in August, citing improving macro-economic conditions, and Fitch boosted its rating to CCC+ in July following the IMF staff level agreement. But both ratings are sub investment grade.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Saudi Arabia Set To Bolster SME Ties And Business Exchanges



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Saudi Arabia's governor for small and medium enterprises (SME) general have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the SME sector, Pakistan's ministry said on Thursday. Hussain is in Saudi Arabia to attend the United Nations Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF), being held from 23-24 October in Riyadh. The forum brings together international delegates to discuss industrial growth and sustainable practices. During his visit, the Pakistani minister met with the Saudi SME governor to explore areas of mutual interest. "Cooperation among small and medium enterprises will be increased," the ministry's statement said. Both sides also agreed to facilitate more visits by business professionals between the two countries. Pakistan has been seeking to strengthen trade and investment ties with Saudi Arabia. Earlier this year, the Kingdom reaffirmed its commitment to expedite a \$5 billion investment package for Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Dar Champions Youth Empowerment At Commonwealth Summit

APIA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday calling the youth leadership vital for a resilient and inclusive Commonwealth emphasised Pakistan's strong commitment to providing platforms that empower youth to take on leadership roles. The deputy premier, in his remarks at the Commonwealth Intergenerational Dialogue held in Samoa, highlighted initiatives like the Prime Minister's Youth Programme in Pakistan, which has supported millions of young people in education, employment, and engagement. He outlined Pakistan's efforts in youth empowerment, including the revision of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Memorandum of Understanding (CYP-MOU) and the launch of the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA).



Stating that young people were not only the leaders of tomorrow but were actively contributing to pol-

Shehbaz Sharif and formally invited him to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October. PM Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. He said that the CHOGM in Samoa would provide a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancing intra-Commonwealth cooperation on a number of important issues, such as fostering sustainable development, strengthening democratic institutions and empowering youth.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Assistant Commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi along with DHO Dr. Shaukat Ali Abro, DEO Primary Education Anis Rehman Jalbani, ADO Primary Education Irshad Magsoo and others are distributing certificates to lady health workers during a ceremony on the occasion of World Polio Day, which was organized by the district administration at the Begum Nusrat Bhutto auditorium Hall at Jinnah Bagh. -Photo By Nadeem Soomro

Journalists Protest Against Harassment Of Their Colleague In Setharja



By Azhar Ali Kubar

Journalists protest against harassment of their colleague in Setharja. This harassment is not just an isolated incident but a broader issue affecting press freedom and the safety of journalists in the region. During the demonstration, the journalists made it clear that Hussain Bux Kubar is not alone in this struggle. They expressed their solidarity, urging law enforcement to reassess their actions and halt the ongoing harassment. The protesters called upon the Inspector General of Sindh to take immediate notice of the situation, demanding accountability and action against the officers involved in these alleged abuses of power. The gathering highlighted the vital role of a free press in society and the importance of protecting journalists from undue harassment and intimidation. As tensions rise, the call for justice and reform in the treatment of journalists remains paramount, with the hope that the authorities will respond to the demands of the community and uphold the rights of those who seek to inform the public.



LARKANA: A health worker is administering drops to a child during the ongoing anti-polio campaign on the occasion of World Polio Day. -Photo by Nadeem Soomro.

SACM Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar Distributes Sewing Machines To Empower Women

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A meaningful ceremony took place at the District Council Hall of Tando Muhammad Khan, where Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, the Chairman of the District Council and Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh, led an initiative to distribute sewing machines to underprivileged and skilled women. This event aimed to empower women by providing them with the tools necessary to enhance their skills and generate income. During the ceremony, free sewing machines were handed out to a number of deserving women, underscoring the ongoing efforts of the Pakistan People's Party to uplift the lives of the poor and disadvantaged. In his address, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar reaffirmed the party's commitment to supporting marginalized communities, stating, "We will continue to stand by the poor and ensure they have access to opportunities for self-sufficiency."



In addition to the sewing machine distribution, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar inaugurated a new CC Block scheme in the village of Haji Urs Sathio, further contributing to local development. The project aims to improve infrastructure and provide essential services to the residents of the area. Following the inauguration, Qamar attended a reception held in his honor by former Zakat District Chairman Haji Abbas Sathio. This gathering provided an opportunity for community members to express their gratitude for the ongoing support and initiatives that aim to improve their living conditions. The event highlighted the importance of empowering women and fostering local development, reflecting a broader vision for social upliftment in the region. As the community looks forward to further initiatives, the distribution of sewing machines serves as a significant step toward enhancing economic opportunities for women in Tando Muhammad Khan.

DC Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan Inaugurates Free Medical Camp In Mirpurkhas

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: In a significant step toward enhancing healthcare accessibility for the underprivileged, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan inaugurated a free medical camp for women at the Dr. Drigo Mother and Child Health Center in Hamidpura Colony. During the inauguration, Dr. Khan emphasized the district administration's unwavering commitment to supporting health institutions and improving services for the local community. The event featured speeches from notable figures, including UC Chairman Shafique Ahmed Khan and medical professionals from Bhitai College and Hospital. They collectively underscored the importance of humanitarian service and the need for quality healthcare in Mirpurkhas. Chairman Shafique Ahmed Khan took the opportunity to advocate for the enhancement of the health center's capabilities, envisioning its potential transformation into a larger hospital in the future.



In a collaborative effort to strengthen healthcare delivery, Dr. Mushtaq Khan and Dr. Iqbal Memon announced that doctors and health services from Bhitai Hospital would be made available at the health center. This initiative aims to broaden access to essential medical care for women and children in the area. The inauguration drew the attention of various association officials, including Abdul Hamid Shaikh and Dr. Zavar Laghari, as well as numerous community members who expressed their gratitude for the initiative. Following the medical camp inauguration, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan also visited the Sir Syed Government Primary and High School, further demonstrating his commitment to supporting educational and health initiatives in the district. The establishment of the free medical camp represents a crucial step towards addressing the healthcare needs of the community, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts between government officials, healthcare providers, and local leaders in fostering a healthier future for all residents of Mirpurkhas.

Police Crackdown On Drug Dealers In Daulatpur



By Aijaz Johhio

DAULATPUR: In a decisive initiative to combat drug trafficking, the Daulatpur Police in the Shaheed Benazirabad district launched a significant crackdown on drug dealers, leading to the arrest of 12 suspects. Acting on the orders of SSP Tanveer Hussain Tunio, various police teams carried out coordinated operations throughout the area to address escalating drug-related issues. Among those arrested were Shah Zaman Lund, Sanaulah Brohi, Akhtar Ali Shaikh, Saim Bux Machchi, Abdul Khaliq Brohi, Khan Muhammad Jatoi, Ali Asghar Mallah, Ghulam Shabbir Unar, Hamir Machchi, Ghulam Din Rind, Azam Ali Almani, and Shahbaz Machchi. The operations resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of illegal substances, including 21 kilograms and 340 grams of hashish, along with numerous bottles of whiskey. Authorities also confiscated a stolen pistol and ammunition, highlighting the serious nature of the criminal activities in the region. SSP Tunio and his team received commendations for their effective execution of this operation, which has been recognized as a crucial step in the fight against drug trafficking in Daulatpur. Following the success of this initiative, police officials have pledged to escalate their efforts against drug-related activities, with the goal of fostering a safer community. Local residents and the administration are optimistic that these proactive measures will lead to a sustained crackdown on drug dealers, ultimately contributing to the well-being and security of the area.

Zahida Dahri Discusses Political Journey And Community Challenges

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Zahida Dahri, Vice President of Sindhyani Tehreek, recently shared her inspiring political journey and the pressing concerns facing the Sindhi community at a public event. Her story is one of resilience and dedication, shaped significantly by her early experiences. After the loss of her father at just seven years old, her maternal uncle, Muhammad Hashim Dahri, stepped in to support her family during a challenging time. Throughout her journey, Zahida has consistently emphasized the critical role of education in empowering individuals and communities. She fondly recalled her mother's tireless efforts to provide for her and her siblings, reinforcing the idea that education is a fundamental right that can pave the way for a brighter future. Zahida's political activism intensified following the death of her husband, Zafar Ayaz Dahri, in 2014. Despite facing threats from local feudal lords, she remained steadfast in her commitment to advocating for justice and equality. She strongly criticized the Sindh Police for their brutality during peaceful protests, asserting that the fight against extremism and for justice is not only necessary but essential for the well-being of society. As an active participant in various movements, including the Education March and the Whistle Movement, Zahida has been a vocal advocate for women's rights. She passionately addressed the need to transform societal perceptions that regard women as secondary, calling for a cultural renaissance that empowers women and ensures their rightful place in society. Zahida concluded her address with a powerful message, urging the community to unite in the fight against extremism and to work towards a peaceful future for all. Her dedication to these causes reflects a broader vision for a society where justice, equality, and respect are upheld, inspiring many to join her in the pursuit of these vital goals.



Food Department's Negligence Leads To Spoilage Of Thousands Of Wheat Bags In Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A shocking case of negligence by the local Food Department has resulted in the spoilage of thousands of wheat bags, raising serious concerns among residents and officials alike. The mishap occurred at a food center situated in a rice mill on Colleague Road, where thousands of purchased grain sacks were left exposed to the elements, leading to significant damage from recent rainfall. Eyewitness reports indicate that the bags of wheat, which were meant to be stored securely, were carelessly abandoned without proper protection. The lack of oversight and maintenance has resulted in the deterioration of these essential supplies, which are crucial for local food security. In an alarming development, it has come to light that the Food Department officials are now attempting to transfer the spoiled wheat bags to the Pipri warehouses in Karachi. Within just two days, 25,000 out of the 50,000 wheat sacks have already been moved, many of which were found to be damaged and unsuitable for use. This swift action has raised questions about the accountability of the officials involved and the fate of the remaining wheat bags. Azmat Khan, a driver at the food center, confirmed the situation, stating, "We have been instructed to transfer 50,000 wheat sacks to Karachi, and in just two days, we've sent half of them." His comments underscore the urgency of the situation, as the ongoing transfers seem to prioritize moving the damaged goods rather than addressing the underlying negligence that led to the spoilage. Attempts to reach the food inspector for comments on this troubling matter have proven unsuccessful, leaving the community in the dark regarding the official response to this significant lapse in duty. The residents of Thul are now calling for immediate action to rectify the situation and hold accountable those responsible for the mishap, as this has jeopardized their food supply. As the situation unfolds, the need for transparency and accountability in the Food Department is more critical than ever.



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President Of Awami Press Club Complains Against Information Department In Sukkur

KUMB: Naz Solangi, the President of the Awami Press Club, has called on the Secretary of Information in Sindh to take immediate action against the Deputy Director of Information in Khairpur, citing his inadequate performance in fulfilling his duties. Solangi expressed that the Awami Press Club has not received proper support from the registered journalist community for over a decade. Despite being officially registered, the Sukkur Regional Information Department has consistently failed to provide necessary information, which he described as a mockery of the law. He highlighted that when historical sites are visited by foreign delegations, the local press is often left uninformed, and there have been no press visits conducted as required by protocol. Solangi urged the Sindh Information Department to promptly provide a list of registered press clubs to the Sukkur Information Department to rectify this ongoing neglect. -RT

Decapitated woman's body found in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali Tahim

TANDO ADAM: The police recovered the decapitated body of an unidentified woman near the Tando Adam branch on Shahdadpur Road. The authorities were informed, and the police arrived at the scene to transport the body to the Taluka Hospital for identification via an Edhi ambulance. The body was placed in the mortuary for identification purposes. According to police, the woman's head was severed, and she appeared to be around 25 years old. Efforts to identify her using biometric methods were unsuccessful due to the condition of the body. Consequently, the body was labeled as unknown and handed over to the Edhi Center.

Protests Held Against Power Outages In Kotri

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Residents of Kotri have been enduring unannounced and prolonged power outages for over a month, prompting elected councilors from the municipal committee to organize a large protest march. The demonstration culminated at the local press club, where participants chanted slogans against the ongoing power crisis. Led by councilors Jala Rind, Rao Shahid, Babar Iqbal, Apa Yasmeen, and Salma Otho, the protesters demanded the removal of the current Executive Engineer (XEN) of Jamshoro and immediate action to address the unscheduled load-shedding. They reported that since the arrival of the current XEN, the electricity supply has drastically decreased, with officials attributing the outages to ongoing grid maintenance. Protesters highlighted the severe impact of these power cuts on various neighborhoods, including Salahuddin Dargah, Nango Lain, Yousif Baloch Goth, Rasam Mori, Shah Latif Colony, Kotri City, Subhan Allah Colony, Station Colony, and Khanpur, where electricity has been cut from 8 AM to 5 PM daily. Speakers emphasized their refusal to meet with the XEN and SDOs, insisting on an end to the artificial load-shedding and the removal of the current XEN. They warned that failure to address their demands would result in a shutter-down strike across the city.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL



Central Punjab

DC Muhammad Naem Sindhu Leads Polio Eradication Efforts In Key Committee Meeting



By Abid Mahmood Ch

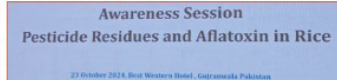
TOBA TEK SINGH: A meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the five-day polio eradication campaign starting on October 28, 2024. Additional Deputy Commissioner Zeeshan Labha Mash, CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mahmood Kambhoj, WHO representative Dr. Wasiq, and other officials were also present at the meeting.

CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mahmood Kambhoj, while briefing about the polio eradication campaign, informed that preparations for the campaign, running from October 28 to November 1, 2024, have been completed, and the relevant staff has been trained. During the five-day campaign, 333,838 children under the age of five will be given polio vaccines and Vitamin A drops. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu emphasized that any shortcomings identified during the previous polio campaign should be addressed, and fake entries should be strictly avoided during the campaign. He said that the day is not far when Pakistan will become a polio-free country. During this time, we must perform our professional duties responsibly, ensuring that every child receives the polio vaccine drops. He also appealed to parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated against polio to protect them from lifelong disability and to fully cooperate with the polio eradication teams.

Paddy Crop Awareness Seminar In Gujranwala Provides New Farming Insights

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: A seminar organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations took place in a private hotel in Gujranwala. The event focused on raising awareness about paddy crops, including disease diagnosis and control. Agricultural experts, officials from the Food and Agriculture Department, and farmers from across Punjab attended the seminar. Rizwan Azam Guraiya emphasized the importance of understanding disease management in paddy harvesting. The FAO, as a specialized UN agency, is committed to leading global efforts to end hunger and ensure food security for all. The goal is to guarantee that every individual has access to quality food, enabling them to lead active and healthy lives.



Uniforms Handed Out To Students At Govt Primary School No-3, Gobind Pura

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In Government Primary School No-3 Gobind Pura, a prestigious ceremony was held for the distribution of school uniforms to students by Sarial Zaid Iqbal Rehmani, Joint Secretary of the Public Welfare Association. Present at the occasion were Arif Janbaz Qazi, President of the Public Welfare Association, Chaudhry Imran Nadeem Sidhu, President of the Press Club and Chief Organizer of the Public Welfare Association, along with Master Abdul Rauf Naqshbandi and Master Muhammad Naem. Noted social and business personality Haji Fayaz Ahmed Faizi from Iqbal Book Depot also provided stationery for the children. The school was visited, and appreciation was expressed for its cleanliness, discipline, and the students' keen interest in education. On this occasion, Arif Janbaz Qazi emphasized that education is essential for everyone and is one of the basic necessities of life. Education is the guarantee of progress for any nation or society, and it is also a factor in the rise and fall of nations. The meaning of education is not just obtaining a degree from schools, colleges, or universities, but it also includes learning manners and culture so that individuals can uphold societal traditions and values. Education is the ornament that refines a person's character.



President Reaffirms Pakistan's Unwavering Commitment To UN's Charter



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated Pakistan's full support for the UN Charter and its multilateral system and said Pakistan stood ready to collaborate with all the UN member states to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all.

In his message on the occasion of the United Nations (UN) Day being observed on October 24 (today), the president said Pakistan joined the international community in commemorating the 79th UN Day.

"The UN Charter embodies our collective determination to uphold international law and peaceful co-existence. It also provides for the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace," President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

Guided by the vision of founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said, Pakistan has consistently championed the principles of the UN Charter.

"We have maintained a firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for the promotion of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights for all. We have also made invaluable contributions to international peace and security, including by serving as a leading military and police contributor to UN peacekeeping operations," he added.

Despite its remarkable achievements over the past 79 years, President Zardari said, the UN Charter's vision of universal peace, development and human rights for all was currently under threat by the blatant violations of its principles and purposes - nowhere more egregiously than in Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

The UN remained an indispensable partner in addressing the pressing challenges being faced by the world today, and for shaping a more equitable future for all, he observed.

"We must revitalize the values enshrined in the UN Charter, by prioritizing peace and actively resolving conflicts, as well as by fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of billions around the world," the president opined.—RT/Agency

ARI And TDP Call For Urgent Strengthening Of National Quit-Line And Anti-Smoking Services

ISLAMABAD: The Alternative Research Initiative (ARI), in collaboration with the Transparent Development Program (TDP), is urging immediate measures to enhance the national smoking quit-line and smoking cessation services. They emphasize the importance of ensuring these services are supported by adequate human and financial resources to help adult smokers quit. The statement highlights that effective cessation programs are vital for achieving a smoke-free Pakistan. This dream cannot be realized if effective cessation services are not widely accessible across the country, said Arshad Ali Syed, Project Director of ARI. In addition to making the quit-line functional, there is a pressing need to support it with adequate resources. The statement points out that local stop smoking services in the UK, including England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, provide advisers to assist individuals in their quit journey. These services involve evaluating smoking habits, assessing the urge to quit, and conducting breath tests to measure carbon monoxide levels, an indicator of smoking exposure. NHS-endorsed treatments, including nicotine replacement products, are also provided, and advisors offer guidance on using e-cigarettes as a cessation tool. Advisors play a crucial role in helping individuals identify challenging situations that may lead to relapse into smoking. The statement urges Pakistan to research and implement smoking cessation services from developed nations, stressing that without assisting adult smokers in quitting, the goal of a smoke-free Pakistan will remain unattainable. According to the WHO, approximately 80% of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users reside in low- and middle-income countries. Currently, Pakistan has over 31 million tobacco users, with more than half identified as smokers.—RT

Qatar Charity Delivers Essential Food Packages To Needy Families In Rajanpur



RAJANPUR: Qatar Charity, through its "Resilience Building Asset Creation & Livelihoods" (ACL) project funded by the World Food Program, distributed dry food packages to selected communities in Rajanpur district. This initiative targets adolescent girls and pregnant or lactating women, providing essential nutritional support during critical developmental stages. The food distribution also offers relief to women-headed households, helping them reduce monthly food expenses and allocate funds to other essential needs. Beneficiaries were selected based on thorough assessments to ensure aid reached the most vulnerable families. A total of 850 households received support at the Government College of Technical Rajanpur. Ms. Nadia Nawaz from the Social Welfare Department attended the event, highlighting the importance of collaboration between government and charitable organizations in assisting vulnerable communities. The distribution was organized effectively, ensuring that the dry food kits reached those in need.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Karachi Biennale Trust Unveils KB24 With Provocative Theme Of Rizq/Risk

KARACHI: The fourth Karachi Biennale, themed "Rizq/Risk," will open on October 27 and run for two weeks, featuring art across the city. Announced at a press conference, this edition aims to connect visitors with contemporary food issues through interactive projects by over 40 artists from 10 countries, including installations, performances, videos, and paintings at five venues.



The theme addresses recent floods and heatwaves in Pakistan that have affected food security, encouraging reflection on colonial and neoliberal food production policies that prioritize profit over hunger and ecological concerns. The works will highlight indigenous wisdom and the vital role of women as custodians of traditional knowledge and food cultures.

Germany KB24 will also present three art prizes: the KB24 Juried Prize, the KB24 EBM Emerging Artist Prize, and the Performance Art Prize, recognizing talent and excellence. Public programming will include artist talks, a temporary reading room at Bagh Ibtne Qasim. A special exhibition, "Palestinian Artists Live in our Hearts," featuring fabric works by art students from across Pakistan, will pay tribute to the courage of artists from Gaza.—RT

US Deploys Mobile Vans With X-Ray Machines To Boost TB Detection In Sindh

KARACHI: On Thursday, US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, donated five mobile tuberculosis (TB) vans and three digital X-ray machines to the Sindh Health Department to improve TB detection and treatment in remote areas of the province.



Health Minister Dr. Azza Fazal Pechuho expressed her gratitude for the US government's ongoing support, stating, "This initiative highlights the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States and aims to strengthen Sindh's health system." Ambassador Blome praised the Sindh Health Department's commitment to combating TB and highlighted the significance of these mobile units in expanding access to quality healthcare. "These vans will allow the provincial health department to better serve vulnerable communities by providing essential care," he said. Since the 2022 floods, the US has contributed over \$74 million in health aid, including TB diagnostic vans and mobile X-ray units, enhancing healthcare services for at-risk populations. This initiative is anticipated to increase access to TB diagnostic services, strengthen community engagement, improve service delivery, and reduce TB cases in targeted districts, supporting Pakistan's public health objectives and the global goal to end TB by 2030.—RT

status as a cultural landmark for future generations. Blome also noted that the Frere Hall project marks the completion of four major cultural preservation efforts in Sindh, with plans for future initiatives, including the restoration of the Mehrghar Museum in Balochistan.

US Envoy Celebrates Revival Of Karachi's Iconic Frere Hall



KARACHI: US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, commended the completion of the historic Frere Hall restoration project during a ceremony on Thursday. Funded by the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), the initiative symbolizes the collaborative spirit between the US and Pakistan.

He encouraged local stakeholders to propose new projects to strengthen US-Pakistan cultural preservation partnerships and expressed gratitude to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and local craftsmen for their contributions to the restoration.—RT

Aleem And Jam Unveil New Bridge Over Hub River, Easing Traffic Woes

HUB: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed bridge over the Hub River.



The newly constructed bridge over the Hub River on National Highway N-25, connecting the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh.

The project has been completed in two years at a cost of Rs 1.18 billion, aims to enhance connectivity and facilitate trade between the regions, said a press release issued here.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized the importance of business activities for regional development. "We have to ensure maximum development of Balochistan, even by collecting revenue from other provinces," he stated.

He further revealed aspirations for developing a six-lane Karachi-Hyderabad motorway through a Public-Private Partnership model, alongside plans for a Northern Bypass as a major highway project.

Aleem Khan commended the National Logistics Cell (NLC) and the National Highway Authority (NHA) for their exemplary performance in the bridge's construction and expressed optimism that this development would significantly contribute to the economic growth of the Hub area and the province.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan echoed these sentiments, stating that the current government prioritized resolving issues of Balochistan.—RT/Agency

Motorecycle Brazenly Stolen From Police Station Parking Lot In Karachi

KARACHI: In an unusual turn of events, a motorcycle was stolen from the parking lot of Karachi's Korangi police station, local media reported on Thursday.

Investigation with a relative. However, upon returning to the parking area, he discovered that his motorcycle was missing. Korangi police have registered a complaint and promised to track down the thief using CCTV footage. However, sources revealed that the station's CCTV cameras have been non-functional for several months. This incident comes amid a surge in motorcycle thefts in Karachi, with over 40,000 bikes either stolen or snatched in the first nine months of this year alone.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Introduces Major Taxpayer Amendments

KARACHI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced significant amendments to the Income Tax Rules 2002, ensuring the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) is now updated daily, media reported Thursday.

As per an SRQ issued on October 18, 2024, under Section 237 of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, taxpayers who file their returns for the 2024 tax year within the prescribed deadline will be immediately included in the ATL. However, those who miss the deadline will need to pay a surcharge to be added to the list.

These reforms highlight the FBR's commitment to enhancing transparency and operational efficiency, streamlining processes for taxpayers and stakeholders to create a more effective tax system.—RT/Agency

ADB's Country Director Engages In Strategic Talks With Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD: Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

between Pakistan and ADB, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, and IT and Telecom sector were discussed in detail.

According to news release during the meeting issues relating to further strengthening collaboration between Pakistan and ADB, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, and IT and Telecom sector were discussed in detail.

The government is fully supporting the private sector, adding that Ministry of IT is taking alongside the IT industry for increasing IT exports. Pakistan's IT exports are increasing, she maintained.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Muhammad Saleem Khan Director General (PR) of the Sindh Information Department, is presenting an Annual Grant Cheque To Mr. Gulam Murtaza Kalthoro, President of the Larkana Press Club.—RT

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, October 25, 2024

Are we a nation of carnivores or bibliophiles?

The recent book fair in Lahore, intended as a celebration of literature, turned into a culinary spectacle, raising serious concerns about our nation's misplaced priorities. Reports revealed that only 35 books were sold throughout the event, while food stalls thrived, selling over 1,200 shawarmas and 800 plates of biryani. This overwhelming focus on food rather than books highlights a troubling trend in Pakistan, where we seem more inclined to satisfy our stomachs than nourish our minds.

Lahore, known as the cultural heart of Pakistan, has produced some of the greatest

literary figures, from Saadat Hasan Manto to Faiz Ahmed Faiz. This city has been a beacon of intellectual thought and creativ-



ity, yet the dismal book sales at the fair signal a drift away from this rich legacy. When an event designed to promote reading and intellectual engagement turns into a food fest, it reflects a deeper cultural issue that needs urgent attention.

We must ask ourselves: why is there such a lack of enthusiasm for books and learn-

ing? Have we forgotten the importance of knowledge in shaping our future? The disparity between food and book sales is not just embarrassing; it is a wake-up call. If we continue to neglect intellectual pursuits, we risk losing our cultural and academic heritage.

It is time for Pakistan to prioritize education, reading, and intellectual growth. We must foster a culture where the love of books is cherished and celebrated, not overshadowed by fleeting culinary delights. Only then can we hope to build a prosperous future, driven by knowledge and informed thinking.

THE HEARTLAND



Concerns Raised Over Journalists' Safety In Umerkot



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The safety of journalists in Umerkot has become a pressing issue, with senior journalist Zahid Hussain Khatak highlighting the dangerous conditions faced by reporters in the area. His remarks came during a meeting organized by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA) at the Umerkot Press Club, where a range of issues affecting the local media landscape were discussed.

Journalist Naheed Hussain Khatak underscored the critical need to prioritize the security of journalists, emphasizing that without proper protection, those in the field are at significant risk. Muhammad Iqbal Bhatti pointed out a worrying trend in the media industry, where owners have transformed institutions into profit-driven businesses, often sidelining experience and education. This shift has led to a situation where anyone with a

smartphone can be labeled a journalist, diluting the standards of reporting.

Utam Sangrasi highlighted the importance of training journalists on sensitive issues, advocating for education that empowers them to report responsibly while minimizing risks to their safety. He noted that, without adequate training, journalists may inadvertently put themselves in harm's way while covering crucial stories.

Ali Murad Dal raised alarms about the lack of salaries for journalists in Umerkot, stating that poor economic conditions hinder their ability to serve society effectively. He lamented the absence of unity among journalists, arguing that this fragmentation weakens their collective voice and undermines their efforts to advocate for their rights and safety.

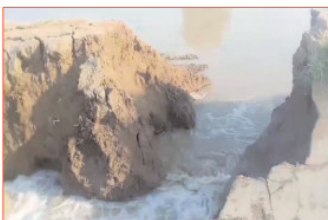
The meeting also addressed broader issues of injustice faced by journalists in the region. Jaipal Malhi pointed out the existence of

five press clubs in the Samaro area of Umerkot, none of which are officially registered. He criticized the declining standards of web channels, suggesting that this further complicates the media landscape.

Senior journalist and leader of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Nasir Zaidi, discussed the government's measures for journalist protection, emphasizing the need for systemic change to safeguard those in the profession. TDEA representative Abdul Ahad informed attendees about the Safe Media Program, which aims to enhance journalists' professional skills, empower them, and strengthen their collective advocacy.

As concerns about journalist safety continue to grow, this meeting served as a crucial platform for addressing the challenges faced by media professionals in Umerkot, advocating for necessary reforms and support to ensure a safer environment for reporting.

Sui Kandhar Branch Suffers A 10-Foot Wide Breach



By Mumtaz Ali Tahim

TANDO ADAM: A significant 10-foot breach has occurred in the Sui Kandhar Branch near village Sultan Chang, resulting in the inundation of hundreds of acres of crops. Despite timely notifications, the irrigation staff failed to respond promptly to the crisis. In a bid to mitigate the damage, Ibrahim, a leader of the Jeay Sindh Tehreek from Sanghar district, quickly mobilized local residents to the site. As water from the breach threatened to reach Qasim Jan Baloch village, the community worked tirelessly to construct makeshift barriers to stem the flow.

After several hours of efforts, the irrigation department finally arrived with heavy machinery to address the breach. However, locals expressed their frustration over the situation, highlighting that this marks the third breach in the Sui Kandhar Branch within just two to three months. Residents are particularly critical of the contractor, alleging corruption and the use of substandard materials in construction. They argue that these factors have contributed to the recurring breaches, which jeopardize their agricultural livelihoods and disrupt the community's stability.

Jatoi Community Protests Against Police Excesses In Handiari



By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: Residents of Morio Khan Jatoi village, including notable figures such as Dad Khan Jatoi, Illahi Bux Jatoi, and Abdul Haq Jatoi, staged a protest against what they allege are police excesses in their area. The community claims that local police, allegedly in collusion with the Rajpar community, are attempting to forcibly seize their land and homes in exchange for heavy bribes.

During the protest, community members spoke passionately to the media, detailing their grievances and emphasizing the injustices they face. They asserted that the police's actions have not only threatened their property

rights but have also instilled a sense of fear and insecurity among residents. In their appeal for justice, the protesters called on the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Khairpur, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Sukkur, and the High Court in Sukkur to intervene. They warned that if their concerns are not addressed promptly, they would escalate their protests, potentially leading to larger demonstrations to seek justice and reclaim their rights. The situation highlights the ongoing struggles faced by marginalized communities in securing their land and ensuring fair treatment from law enforcement authorities.

Preparations For Diwali Celebrations In Full Swing In Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Umerkot and throughout the district, vibrant preparations are underway for Diwali, the most significant festival celebrated by the Hindu community. A palpable wave of joy has swept through the area, with homes adorned in festive decorations and stalls set up for fireworks. Children are eagerly participating in the celebrations, joyfully igniting firecrackers in anticipation of the upcoming festivities.

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, commemorates the return of Lord Ramchandra after his victory over the demon king Ravana. This historic event has been celebrated with enthusiasm and fireworks for generations, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. For the Hindu community, Diwali is not just a religious observance; it is a cherished occasion that brings families and friends together in celebration.

This year, the spirit of unity and tolerance is especially evident, as members of the Muslim community in Umerkot are actively participating in the festivities. Their involvement showcases a remarkable sense of religious harmony, reflecting the strong bonds shared between different communities in the



region. Local landlords from the Krishna Mandir in Kunri, including Seth Seshpal Das, Nandlal Prem, Dr. Prakash Mahsuwari, and Vishan Das Soni, shared their thoughts with reporters, emphasizing the freedom they enjoy in celebrating their religious festivals in Pakistan.

They expressed gratitude for the support they receive from their Muslim neighbors, who join in the celebrations and demonstrate a commitment to interfaith solidarity. This collaboration fosters a sense of community and mutual respect, underscoring the importance of coexistence in

a diverse society. As the countdown to Diwali continues, the atmosphere in Umerkot is filled with excitement and anticipation.

The preparations reflect not only the significance of the festival for the Hindu community but also the broader spirit of unity and understanding among all residents, regardless of their religious backgrounds. With each decoration and firecracker, the message of joy and celebration resonates throughout the district, paving the way for a memorable Diwali.

Arrest Of Shopkeeper Allahyar Lund's Murderers Demanded In Qazi Ahmed

By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

QAZI AHMED: The family of Allahyar Lund, a shopkeeper tragically murdered nine months ago by unidentified gunmen during a robbery, continues to seek justice as the main suspects remain at large. Today marks the fourth day of protests outside the Qazi Ahmed police station, where the victim's family, holding photos of Allahyar Lund, has staged a symbolic hunger strike while chanting slogans demanding accountability and action.

The demonstration is led by Muhammad Achar Lund, Allahyar's father, who is joined by his sons—Muhammad Hanif Lund and Sajid Ali Lund—as well as community members Abdullah Lund and Ghulam Qadir Lund. Together, they have expressed their deep frustration over the lack of progress in the investigation. Allahyar Lund was shot dead in broad daylight



while seated in his shop, a shocking act of violence that has left the family and community in mourning.

Despite a case being filed against the suspects nearly nine months ago, the police have yet to make any arrests, which has only heightened the family's sense of injustice. The protesters have openly criticized SSP Shaheed Benazirab Talwar Hussain Junio for failing to act on directives from Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, which called for the immediate apprehension of the sus-

pects. As the protests continue, the Lund family and their supporters are calling on local authorities to take decisive action. They demand not only the arrest of the culprits but also a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Allahyar Lund's death. The community stands united in their plea for justice, urging law enforcement to fulfill their duty to protect and serve. Without swift action, the family fears that the case may fade into obscurity, leaving them without closure and justice for their beloved Allahyar.

Shaheed Iqbal Larik Panel Wins Scarp Employees Union Referendum



By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: The recent referendum for the Scarp Employees Union concluded with a resounding victory for the Shaheed Iqbal Larik Panel, which garnered 385 votes, significantly outpacing the Shahbaz Panel, which received just 130 votes. This decisive outcome reflects strong support for the Shaheed Iqbal Larik Panel among the union's members.

Following the election, a jubilant rally was held at the grave of Shaheed Iqbal Larik, where supporters gathered to celebrate the election

of Sagar Yousuf Mangi as President and Waqar Larak as General Secretary. The newly elected officials expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the members for their overwhelming support and commitment, assuring them that they would be available around the clock to address the concerns and needs of all irrigation employees.

The victory was met with congratulations from a wide array of social and political activists across Sindh, who celebrated not only the electoral success but also the unity and determination of the union members. Gifts

were exchanged to commemorate the victory, further strengthening the sense of community and solidarity among the employees.

As the new leadership steps into their roles, there is a renewed sense of optimism within the Scarp Employees Union, with promises of increased advocacy for employee rights and improved working conditions on the horizon. The election marks a pivotal moment in the union's history, setting the stage for future initiatives aimed at enhancing the welfare of its members.

THE HEARTLAND



Sajid Khan Praises Selection Committee For 'Supportive' Pitches In Pakistan's Favor



RAWALPINDI: Right-arm spinner Sajid Khan lauded the new selection committee for making a spin-friendly pitch for the third Test between Pakistan and England, underway here at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Sajid once again troubled the English batters with his mastery of spin and claimed a six-wicket haul, helping Pakistan to book England on 267 despite wicketkeeper batter Jamie Smith's 89-run knock.

The right-arm spinner reflected on the eventful day, which saw 13 wickets fall as Pakistan got to 73/3 in response to England's 267.

He claimed that the pitch at the Pindi Cricket Stadium is different to that of Multan, explaining that he used variations and utilized the crease to take six wickets. "This pitch is different

[to that of Multan]. After 25-30 overs, when the ball softens, we used to get something there [on the previous surface] by hitting the patches but we do not get it on this pitch," said Sajid.

"Some deliveries were bowled well and they played a few bad shots," he added. "So, the wicket is not like that as if one hits a certain patch and would benefit immediately. So, I varied the pace and utilized the crease and it helped me to take wickets." Sajid also shared his experience of bowling long spells alongside Noman Ali, stating the latter is well-experienced and guides him. "Noman Ali is very experienced. I enjoy bowling with him a lot. He always guides me during my spells and it's a wonderful feeling to bowl alongside him," said Sajid.—Agency

Former Pakistani Cricketer Slams ICC For 'Blatantly Biased' Pitch Ratings In Explosive Rant



LAHORE: Former Pakistan cricketer and renowned spinner Saad Ajmal has shed light on the development of spinners and their performance in international cricket.

In an exclusive interview with a local sports platform, Ajmal, famous for his mastery over spin bowling, pointed out that most successful spinners tend to be over the age of 30, as that's when they truly mature and reach their peak.

"Spinners are typically played after 30 when they've lost some of their initial edge. A spinner starts to mature after 25, but it's after 30 that they truly understand their skills and begin performing at their best," Ajmal explained.

He further emphasized that spinners need experience, particularly in first-class cricket, to learn the spin on flat tracks, but that on spin or flat tracks, but not when teams face similar conditions in India, Australia, or England," he concluded.—Agency

five years in first-class cricket, you begin to understand how to deceive batsmen with variations. White-ball cricket can be unpredictable, but red-ball cricket demands skill and cunning to take wickets," he said.

"The off-spinner was vocal in his criticism of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for what he perceives as bias in pitch rating standards.

He argued that Pakistan's pitches are often customized for visiting teams, giving them an advantage, but when Pakistan benefits from favorable conditions, the ICC raises concerns.

"Pakistan's pitches are tailored to visiting teams, giving them an advantage. We win when we choose the pitch; yet, the ICC only raises issues when we play on spin or flat tracks, but not when teams face similar conditions in India, Australia, or England," he concluded.—Agency

Pakistan Army's 18 Division, District Administration Organize Quran Recitation Competition

By Afaq Ahmed Khan-zada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A vibrant Quran recitation competition took place at SST School, Rashidabad, organized jointly by the Pakistan Army's 18 Division and the district administration. The event drew enthusiastic participation from students across various government and private schools, as well as religious institutions. Key attendees included Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho, SSP Abrez Ali Abasi, Captain Insab from the 47 Baloch Regiment, and several district officials.

The competition was structured into distinct categories for male and female students from madaris and schools. In the male madaris category, the winners were as follows: 1st place went to Usman Shah Huri from Madrasa Ataf Hussain, 2nd place to Ghulam Murtaza from Madrasa Markazi Eidgah, and 3rd place to Abdul Muiz from Aqsa Qirat Academy. In the female madaris category, Insha Noor from Quran Academy took 1st place, followed by Noor Al-Huda from Madrasa Taleem-ul-

Quran in 2nd, and Foza, also from Madrasa Taleem-ul-Quran, in 3rd.

In the male schools/colleges category, Muhammad Shahid from Sadiq Memorial School claimed 1st place, Muhammad Zaman from Government Boys School, Bakira Shari secured 2nd, and Hassan Talha from SST School took 3rd. For the female students, Zainab was awarded 1st place, followed by Sana from Government Girls School in 2nd, and Aisha from The Foundation School in 3rd.

The top participants then competed for overall hon-

Community Members Protest Against Gozo Police In-charge In Khairpur Nathan Shah

By Ayaz Burio

Khairpur Nathan Shah: In a significant display of dissent, community members in Khairpur Nathan Shah gathered to protest against Gozo Police Incharge Faqir Muhammad Birhamani. This unrest follows the registration of a case against Gozo individuals, including local journalist Rasheed Ahmed Chandio, sparking widespread concern among residents.

Prominent figures in the community, including Bakhshal Khan Korejo, Muhammad Korejo, Rasheed Chandio, and Mubeen Chandio, have come forward to voice their allegations against Birhamani, accusing him of misusing his authority to target respected leaders within the community. The protesters claim that Birhamani's actions reflect a troubling pattern of misconduct, including alleged involvement in criminal activities and inappropriate behavior towards women, children, and elderly residents, reportedly while under the influence of alcohol. During the protest,

demonstrators called for the immediate removal of Faqir Muhammad Birhamani from his position, emphasizing the need for accountability and transparency within the police force. They directed their demands towards higher authorities, urging the Inspector General of Sindh, the DIG of Hyderabad, and the SSP of Dadu to intervene, investigate the allegations, and take appropriate action against the accused officer. The mood among the protesters was one of determination, as they vowed to continue their fight for justice.

They issued a warning that if their demands are not addressed, they would seek redress through the courts, emphasizing their commitment to holding those in power accountable for their actions. This protest highlights the growing tension between local law enforcement and community members, reflecting broader concerns about police conduct and the protection of citizens' rights. As the situation develops, the community remains vigilant, advocating for a safer and more just environment for all.

Gastroenteritis Outbreak Claims Lives In Badah

By Ibrahim Farooqi

BADAH: A severe outbreak of gastroenteritis has recently emerged in Badah and its surrounding areas, tragically claiming the lives of five individuals, including two young brothers, within just a week. This alarming situation has sparked widespread concern among residents, particularly as the health department has yet to respond to the escalating crisis.

Among the victims is Ajeeban, a beloved mother of four, whose passing in the Dargah locality has left her family utterly devastated and mourning the loss of their primary caregiver. The emotional toll on her children, who now face an uncertain future without their mother, has added to the community's sorrow. Furthermore, the outbreak has affected other families in the region, with three innocent children from the nearby village of Babori also losing their lives recently due to the illness. Just five days ago, 11-year-old Ali Raza from Zakaria Colony succumbed to gastroenteritis, amplifying the sense of urgency within the community.

As reports of new cases continue to emerge, residents are overwhelmed by grief and fear. They are urgently calling for immediate action to address the outbreak and prevent further tragedies. Community leaders and health advocates are demanding better health services, increased access to clean drinking water, and the implementation of public awareness campaigns to educate the population about the risks and prevention of gastroenteritis.

The lack of response from local health authorities has fueled frustration and anger among the residents, who feel abandoned in their time of need. Many are now taking it upon themselves to spread awareness and encourage hygiene practices, such as handwashing and proper sanitation, to mitigate the impact of the outbreak. The community is uniting in their efforts, hoping that collective action will prompt the necessary response from health officials and ultimately save lives. With the stakes so high, the urgency for intervention has never been clearer.

Rawalpindi Test Shocker: Shan And Saud Rescue Pakistan After England Crumbles At 267

RAWALPINDI: After bowling out England for 267 in their first innings, Pakistan faced trouble due to slumping top order batting line-ups as they lost three wickets on the first day of the deciding third Test being played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. England's Shaoh Bashir sent off Abdullah Shafique (14) in 9th over, whereas, Jack Leach ended Saim Ayub's innings at 19 in 12th over. Gus Atkinson gave a big blow to the hosts by claiming Kamran Ghulam's



wicket for 3. However, skipper Shan Masood (16) along with Saud Shakeel (16) made Pakistan's slumping lineup steady at the conclusion of day 1 of the series decider at

turning ball. Pakistan's spin duo of Sajid Khan and Noman Ali ran through the England lineup as they claimed six and three wickets, respectively, followed by Zahid Mahmood took one wicket. After departure of skipper Ben Stokes (12), Jamie Smith revived his side by scoring crucial 89 runs off 119 balls along with Atkinson's 39 off 71. Zahid retook Smith in 62nd over, whereas, Atkinson was caught and bowled by Noman.—Agency

Bugti Community Protests For Justice In Sanghar



By Farooq Bugti

SANGHAR: In the wake of the tragic murders of Pappu Umrani and Aijaz Umrani, linked to a longstanding feud between the Umrani and Bugti communities, protests have erupted in Sanghar, drawing significant attention to the grievances of the Bugti community. The demonstrations saw prominent figures like Muhammad Rafiq Bugti, Sharif Bugti, Moola Bux, and Imdad Ali Muharram Bugti at the forefront, expressing their anger and frustration over recent police actions.

Protesters alleged that the police, equipped with heavy forces and cranes, conducted destructive operations that resulted in the demolition of their homes. They claimed that during these operations, valuables and cash amounting to approximately 60 lacs were confiscated. The community members further accused the police of unjustly arresting two of their own without cause, demanding a bribe of five lacs for their release. They warned that further punitive actions would ensue if their demands were not met. In a passionate appeal, the protesters called upon the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Inspector General of Sindh, the SSP of Sanghar, and local Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) to take immediate notice of their plight. They demanded the release of innocent detainees and sought compensation for their significant losses. The Bugti community made it clear that if their grievances were not addressed, they would escalate their protests, signaling a determination to seek justice and accountability for their hardships.

SU Sets Up Psychological Wellness & Counseling Cell



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The University of Sindh has officially inaugurated its first Psychological Wellness & Counseling Cell (PWCC) at the Department of Psychology, a significant initiative aimed at addressing the growing mental health issues among students. The launch, which coincided with World Mental Health Day, featured a poster exhibition that showcased the creativity of students, highlighting various mental health themes.

During the inauguration, Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kathoro emphasized the critical role of nurturing positive relationships and serving humanity as foundational elements for maintaining good mental health. He also addressed the global challenge of schizophrenia, drawing attention to the need for increased awareness and support.

Dr. Munaza Malik, Chairperson of the Psychological Department, spoke about the importance of core human values in leading a fulfilling life. She expressed hope that the PWCC would provide students with the necessary tools and resources to navigate their mental health challenges effectively. This initiative marks a pivotal step in enhancing mental health support within the region, reflecting the university's commitment to fostering a healthier, more supportive academic environment. The PWCC aims to offer counseling services, workshops, and resources to help students manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns, contributing to their overall well-being and academic success.

Kids' Corner



Name: Shamsid D/O Muhammad Aamir
Location: Larkana
About me: I adore my parents!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Selena Gomez Breaks Silence On Explosive Benny Blanco, Edgar Ramirez Feud



Selena Gomez has shut down cheating rumours with boyfriend Benny Blanco.

Previously, Gomez has sparked cheating rumours after dancing very closely with her Emilia Perez co-star Edgar Ramirez.

The video of Gomez and Ramirez from Sabrina Carpenter's Short n' Sweet tour concert went viral, igniting cheating rumours among fans.

However, taking to her Instagram Stories, Gomez put an end to cheating speculations.

She posted a hilarious video clip of Blanco and Ramirez recreating the viral moment.

In the video, Blanco took Gomez's place and danced closely with the actor on Carpenter's hit track Bed Chem, from the latest album Short n' Sweet.

Gomez and Blanco started dating midway through 2023 and then the Only Murders in the Building actress confirmed their relationship in December that year.

Emilia Perez also starring Adriana Paz, Mark Ishler, Zoe Saldana and Karla Sofia Gascon will receive limited theatrical release Canada and in the U.S. on November 1 and it will then premiere on Netflix from November 13, 2024.

Jennifer's Heartbreak: Feels Betrayed As Brad And Courteney's Bond Deepens



Brad Pitt and Courteney Cox are hanging out together once again.

However, this rekindled bond has reportedly left Jennifer Aniston seething, as per the new findings of In Touch.

As per an insider, the Meet Mr. Joe Black alum became a close friend of the Friends star, Courteney, while he was married to Jennifer Aniston.

Nonetheless, their bond got marred when Brad parted ways with Jennifer in 2005, and Courteney sided with Jennifer when Brad became enamoured with Angelina, resulting in their romance of more than a decade.

The Mr. and Mrs. Smith couple eventually tied the knot on 23rd August 2014 only to part ways two years later in 2016.

"Courteney is respectful, she wouldn't have started the friendship up again without Jen's blessing," a tipster tattled.

"Once Brad and Jen reconnected after his divorce from Angelina, she gave all her close friends the greenlight to let him back into their lives," the spy also said of the heart-throb.

"But that doesn't mean this hasn't left Jen feeling very hurt and betrayed," the source remarked in conclusion.

THE HEARTLAND



Shahdampur Man Demands Justice Following Harrowing Theft Incident

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDAMPUR: In a troubling incident that has raised serious concerns about safety and justice in the community, a respected local figure, Noor Khan Brohi, along with Raees Ghulam Muhammad Brohi, has come forward to demand urgent action from law enforcement authorities. Approximately six weeks ago, Ghulam Muhammad Brohi and his family faced a terrifying ordeal when five armed men violently attacked them at their property.



According to Ghulam Muhammad Brohi, the attackers—identified as Nazir Muhammad Brohi, Javed Brohi, Abdul Aleem Brohi, Somar Brohi, and Manzoor Brohi—descended upon his land with weapons drawn, creating a scene of chaos and fear. In response to the commotion, Ghulam Muhammad Brohi, his brother Haji Ilyas, and several other relatives bravely intervened to protect their home and loved ones. However, the situation quickly escalated as the armed assailants threatened them with their weapons before fleeing the scene on a motorcycle.

Reports indicate that Nazir Muhammad remains at large, openly issuing threats of violence and death, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.

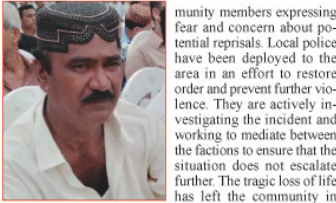
This distressing situation has prompted Ghulam Muhammad Brohi to appeal directly to higher police authorities, urging them to take immediate notice of the ongoing threats and the lack of security for him and his family. He emphasized the pressing need for justice and protective measures to ensure their safety, as the current state of affairs has left them vulnerable and fearful for their lives and property.

As the community watches closely, the demand for accountability and protection grows louder. Ghulam Muhammad Brohi's plea serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by individuals seeking justice in the face of violence and intimidation. He hopes that the authorities will respond swiftly to restore peace and safety to his family and the broader community.

Man Killed, Three Injured In Bhurt Community Clash

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A violent dispute between two factions of the Bhurt community in the village of Kothi Khokhar erupted over water extraction rights, culminating in a tragic shooting incident. The clash resulted in the death of one individual, Muhammad Mithal Bhurt, while three others—Parvez Bhurt, Sajjad Solangi, and Bakhsal Bhurt—sustained injuries.



Witnesses reported that tensions had been escalating for some time, primarily due to disagreements over access to water resources, which are critical for agriculture in the region. The argument quickly turned violent, leading to the use of firearms. The deceased

and the injured were promptly transported to the nearest hospital for medical attention, with the injured individuals later being transferred to Larkana Hospital for more specialized care.

In the aftermath of the shooting, the atmosphere in Kothi Khokhar has become increasingly tense, with community members expressing fear and concern about potential reprisals. Local police have been deployed to the area in an effort to restore order and prevent further violence. They are actively investigating the incident and working to mediate between the factions to ensure that the situation does not escalate further. The tragic loss of life has left the community in shock, with many calling for peace and reconciliation to prevent such violent outbreaks in the future.

Community leaders are urging both sides to engage in dialogue and find a resolution to their disputes over water rights, emphasizing the importance of cooperation for the well-being of all villagers.

Hingorja Journalists Protest Against Police Harassment

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In a powerful show of solidarity, journalists in Hingorja organized a protest outside the press club to voice their concerns over escalating harassment and intimidation faced by their community. The demonstration was led by Ghulam Hussain Chang, Chairman of the Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, alongside prominent figures such as Shaman Rajpar, Fayaz Solangi, Abdul Jabbar Chang, Hakim Sohto, Aziz Memon, Sajjad Arain, and Haq Nawaz Solangi.



The rally also drew attention to the plight of journalist Zafar Siddiqui from Ranipur and Sajjad Arain from Hingorja, both of whom have recently experienced robbery. Additionally, the protesters raised concerns regarding Aftab Bhanburo and Nazir Solangi, whose stolen property remains unrecovered, lamenting these incidents as grave injustices against the media. In a resolute message, the protesters warned that if the false cases against journalists are not withdrawn, they would escalate their actions to the SSP's office, seeking justice and accountability for the ongoing harassment of media professionals.

The demonstration underscores the urgent need for protection and support for journalists in the region as they strive to fulfill their vital role in society. The rally also drew attention to the plight of journalist Zafar Siddiqui from Ranipur and Sajjad Arain from Hingorja, both of whom have recently experienced robbery. Additionally, the protesters raised concerns regarding Aftab Bhanburo and Nazir Solangi, whose stolen property remains unrecovered, lamenting these incidents as grave injustices against the media. In a resolute message, the protesters warned that if the false cases against journalists are not withdrawn, they would escalate their actions to the SSP's office, seeking justice and accountability for the ongoing harassment of media professionals.

Commissioner Fayaz Ali Abbasi Urges For Collective Action Against Polio

By Absar Ali



SUKKUR: The Rotary Club Sukkur organized a significant polio awareness event and walk in observance of World Polio Eradication Day, with Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi and local Deputy Commissioners in attendance. During the event, Abbasi commended the dedication of frontline workers who play a crucial role in combating the disease. He

highlighted the alarming rise in polio cases across Pakistan, urging parents to ensure their children receive vaccinations.

Abbasi announced an upcoming anti-polio campaign scheduled for October 28 to November 3, emphasizing the critical role of community involvement in achieving vaccination targets and reaching every household. He called for collective action to eradicate polio, stressing that only through collaborative efforts can the nation hope to eliminate this debilitating disease.

The event concluded with a walk aimed at raising awareness about polio, further galvanizing community support for the vaccination initiative. Participants carried banners and placards, reinforcing the message of the importance of immunization in protecting future generations.

Chief Monitoring Officer Visits Various Schools In Dadu

By Javed Laghari



DADU: Chief Monitoring Officer Din Muhammad Abro, accompanied by Monitoring Officer Faisal Khan Mastoi, conducted a comprehensive inspection of several schools in the Dadu Taluka to assess teacher and student attendance. During their visits, they identified significant absenteeism, discovering that 12 teachers and 4 lower staff members were absent from duty across various institutions. The schools inspected included Girls' Middle School and Boys Primary School Bhai Khan Lashari, Girls Middle and Primary School Sial, Boys Primary School Chhutto Mastoi, Boys Primary School Morcho, High School Shah Nawaz Mastoi, and Muhammad Ali Mastoi School. In response to the findings, Chief Monitoring Officer Din Muhammad Abro emphasized the importance of accountability in the education sector, stating that formal actions would be taken against the absent staff by notifying the Education Department. He assured that strict measures would be implemented to improve attendance and overall school performance, reinforcing the commitment to providing quality education to students in the region.

Protests Erupt In Sehwan Against Excessive Load Shedding



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: Residents of Sehwan have taken to the streets in protest against severe and unannounced electricity load shedding, which has escalated to an alarming 14 hours per day. In a show of solidarity, members of the Sindh United Party (SUP) and local citizens initiated a symbolic hunger strike outside the WAPDA office, demanding an immediate end to the load shedding and the removal of the local Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO).

SUP leaders, including Nawaz Ali Rand and Imam Ali Noohani, expressed their frustration over the situation, highlighting that the incompetence of HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company) has drastically affected vital aspects of life in Sehwan, including education, business operations, and access to clean drinking water. They emphasized that prolonged power outages have created a crisis that is unsustainable for the community.

The protesters issued a stern warning: if their demands are not met and the previous load shedding schedule is not restored within three days, they will escalate their actions by staging a shutdown on the Indus Highway, potentially disrupting traffic and raising awareness of their plight. The unrest reflects the growing dissatisfaction among residents, who are increasingly fed up with the ongoing electricity crisis affecting their daily lives.

AC Jhol Leads Anti-Encroachment Campaign



By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: In response to directives from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Sanghar district administration has initiated a comprehensive anti-encroachment operation, spearheaded by Assistant Commissioner Jhol and supported by the Mukhtiar, Town Officer, and DSP Jam Nawaz Ali. The campaign primarily targets illegal structures along the main road extending from Rahmat Cotton Factory to Jhol, where numerous shops had established makeshift stalls, infringing on public space.

During the operation, tensions flared as confrontations broke out between the police and shopkeepers. Eyewitness accounts described heated verbal exchanges, with some instances escalating to physical pushes. Police reportedly resorted to force to manage the situation, although the SHO of Jhol insisted that no shopkeepers were harmed during the operation. He clarified that the police's presence was solely based on a request from the local administration to assist in the removal of encroachments. The administration has issued stern warnings to shopkeepers, stating that any attempts to reconstruct the removed stalls and awnings would lead to legal consequences. Affected vendors, including those selling ice and fruit, voiced their frustration, arguing that they had previously been instructed to keep their stalls within designated pathways along the road leading from Sanghar to Hyderabad.

Just three days prior to the operation, the Assistant Commissioner, Mukhtiar, and Town Officer had visited the area to inform shopkeepers about the need to remove their encroachments voluntarily. They cautioned that failure to comply would result in strict legal action. The Town Officer of Jhol emphasized that the administration does not see shopkeepers as adversaries but rather as partners in complying with the Supreme Court's orders. The operation aims to restore order and ensure that public spaces are accessible and safe for all citizens. As the anti-encroachment campaign unfolds, local residents and business owners are left grappling with the immediate consequences, while the administration strives to balance enforcement with community needs.

DHO Shoukat Abro, AC Lead Awareness Rally For Polio Eradication In Larkana

By Saleem Soomro



LARKANA: In a proactive effort to combat polio, an awareness rally was organized in Larkana under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sharif Nour Channa on the occasion of World Polio Day. The rally, which aimed to educate the community about the importance of polio eradication, traversed several key roads in the city before concluding in front of the press club.

The event saw participation from various officials, including District Health Officer Dr. Shoukat Ali Abro, Assistant Commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi, and other prominent figures from the health department and local administration. As the rally progressed, officials engaged with citizens, distributing informational pamphlets and answering questions about the disease and vaccination process. Speaking to the media, Dr. Abro emphasized the critical need for public awareness regarding polio, describing it as a highly contagious and potentially devastating disease that can lead to lifelong disabilities. He urged parents to take immediate action by vaccinating their children and collaborating with vaccination teams that are working tirelessly to protect future generations from this preventable illness.

Workshop On Anger Management Held At Sakrand Girls College

By Zeeshan Soomro



SAKRAND: A significant workshop titled "How to Control Anger" was organized at Government Girls Degree College Sakrand in collaboration with the District Scouts Organization Shaheed Benazirabad. This event aimed to equip twelfth-grade students with essential skills to manage their emotions effectively. The workshop was led by Principal Madam Khalida Pervaiz Chandio and Director of Physical Education Miss Tauheed Fatima, who highlighted the detrimental effects of anger on mental well-being. They emphasized that even a brief episode of anger could lead to depression and cause harm to others, stressing the importance of emotional regulation in maintaining mental peace.

During the workshop, students actively participated in a Q&A session, where they had the opportunity to discuss their personal experiences and seek advice on handling anger in various situations. The engaging dialogue fostered a supportive environment, allowing students to learn from one another while gaining insights from the experts. The workshop not only aimed to raise awareness about anger management but also sought to promote healthier coping mechanisms among young individuals. By addressing this crucial aspect of mental health, the organizers hope to empower students to cultivate emotional intelligence and resilience, ultimately contributing to a more harmonious school environment.

Young Doctors Protest For Recovery Of Abducted Dr. Khalid Mahmood

By Hafeez Mallah



GAMBAT: Young doctors at GIMS Hospital have organized a press conference to demand the immediate recovery of Dr. Khalid Mahmood, who was kidnapped while traveling from Rahimyar Khan. Led by Dr. Wahab Dogar, Dr. Mujeeb Bhanburo, Dr. Nadeem, and Dr. Shahzad, the group voiced their deep concerns regarding the police's response to the situation. The doctors revealed that the kidnappers have demanded a ransom of one crore rupees for Dr. Mahmood's release. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the handling of the case, particularly criticizing the SSP of Rahimyar Khan, who suggested that Dr. Mahmood was abducted through a "honey trap." This statement drew vehement condemnation from the doctors, who are now calling for the SSP's removal from office. Additionally, the protesting doctors highlighted the ineffectiveness of both Punjab and Sindh police in addressing the rising insecurity that threatens the safety of medical professionals. They warned that the ongoing situation could lead to a boycott of outpatient services in hospitals across both provinces, a move they deem necessary if immediate action is not taken. The doctors are united in their insistence that swift measures must be implemented to ensure Dr. Mahmood's safe return. They have made it clear that if their demands are not met, they will cause all outpatient services, signaling a serious escalation in their protest efforts. The community and fellow medical professionals are rallying around this cause, emphasizing the urgent need for action to protect those who serve in the healthcare system.

Sindh Ombudsman's Regional Director Holds An Open Katchery In Larkana

By Saleem Soomro



LARKANA: The Regional Director of the Sindh Ombudsman's Office, Ali Akbar Jagirani, held an open katchery at the District Accounts Office, providing a platform for government employees to voice their concerns and seek resolution for various issues, particularly those related to pension arrears. During the event, several employees received significant payouts for their overdue pension dues. Dr. Muhammad Hashim Bughio was awarded PKR 376,732, while Abdul Sattar from Chandka Medical College received PKR 377,649. Ailash Dino, a Primary School Teacher (PST), was granted PKR 845,016, and Fida Hussain, a watchman from the education department, received PKR 32,725. Other notable disbursements included PKR 52,564 for Head Constable Ali Bux and PKR 50,039 for Police Constable Noshad Ali Sohu.

The event also saw participation from District Accounts Officer Zafar Abbas Unar and Additional District Accounts Officer Abdul Fat-

Traffic And Price Control Issues Irk Tando Jan Muhammad's Residents

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Residents of Tando Jan Muhammad are expressing their frustration over ongoing traffic disruptions and skyrocketing food prices, which they attribute to the apathy of district and local administration. The main streets have become severely congested due to encroachments by shopkeepers, hotels, and parked vehicles, causing significant difficulties for school children and parents during school hours, as well as for ambulances during emergencies. In addition to traffic woes, the community is grappling with rampant inflation, particularly in the prices of essential food items. Chicken, mutton, and fish have become prohibitively expensive, with many vendors engaging in profiteering. The lack of price control mechanisms has left residents struggling to afford basic necessities. Compounding these issues is the absence of a slaughterhouse in the city, which has led to many meat vendors selling sick and stale meat without any oversight from local administration or veterinary officers. Despite repeated notifications, the Assistant Commissioner has failed to conduct inspections, leaving the community to contend with various administrative challenges. Local residents are now demanding immediate intervention from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas to address these pressing issues.

METRO KARACHI

Murad Kicks Off Anti-Polio Drive On World Polio Day



KARACHI: On World Polio Day, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced the adjournment of the ongoing provincial assembly session to enable members to participate in administering polio drops to children under five in their constituencies. This initiative aims to strengthen the anti-polio campaign originally launched by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

A five-day anti-polio drive will run from October 28 to November 3, with zero tolerance for refusals. The CM emphasized the importance of engaging parliamentarians, civil society, and religious

Sindh CM and Federal Minister Reach Breakthrough On M6 Motorway Plan

KARACHI: In a meeting at CM House, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister of Communication Aleem Khan agreed to construct the M6 Motorway from Karachi to Sukkur via Hyderabad. They discussed potential Public-Private Partnership (PPP) options for the project and the CM's team will explore the feasibility of this proposal.

The meeting, attended by various officials, outlined the plan for a 306-kilometer, six-lane, access-controlled motorway aimed at enhancing transportation efficiency and safety. Previously, a PPP agreement was signed in December 2022, but the project stalled, leading to its cancellation. Minister Khan suggested the revised route to accommodate port traffic, which the CM approved.

Maid Caught Stealing Rs13 Million Worth Of Valuables In DHA Karachi

KARACHI: A domestic worker in Karachi's Defence area fled with valuables, including cash, foreign currency, and gold, amounting to Rs13 million, local media reported on Thursday, citing police sources.

The maid, who had been employed only 20 days earlier, stole Rs2 million in cash, \$10,000, and 32 tolas of gold from her employer's home. Authorities revealed that the worker had used fake identification when she was hired. The police have launched an investigation, obtaining CCTV footage of the maid's escape and assuring the public that efforts are underway to apprehend her and recover the stolen items.

Brazen Daylight Robbery: Woman's Gold Chain Snatched In Karachi

KARACHI: Armed robbers, disguised in office attire, snatched a gold chain from a woman in Karachi's Yaseenabad area in a brazen 20-second robbery, according to CCTV footage obtained by the media.

The incident took place on October 21, with the footage showing the criminals passing through the street on a motorcycle before circling back and targeting the woman. One of the robbers, seated on the back, instructed the woman to remove her chain. When she hesitated, the robber dismounted, subtly keeping a pistol concealed.

SHO Mumtaz Marwat Unmasks Drug Smuggling Racket



KARACHI: Under the directives of Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho and the supervision of DIG East Captain (Retd) Azfar Mahesar, Shah Latif Police, led by Mumtaz Marwat, uncovered an inter-provincial drug trafficking network following a tip-off. SHO Shah Latif, Mumtaz Marwat, reported the arrest of two women along with the most wanted suspects he added brought to Karachi via secret routes. Upon receiving the intelligence, the police acted swiftly to apprehend the suspects and recover the drugs. SHO Mumtaz Marwat revealed that the arrested individuals were involved in supplying and selling drugs in various secret locations in Karachi and interior Sindh. The police are currently checking the criminal records of the suspects. Cases have been registered against them, and further investigations are underway.

Man Who Sold Wife's Jewelry For Daughter's Treatment Brutally Killed By Karachi Street Criminals

KARACHI: In a tragic incident, a man was fatally shot during a mugging in the SITE-Superhighway Industrial Area, as he returned home after selling his wife's jewelry to pay for his daughter's medical treatment, media reported Thursday.

The victim, Farhan, who worked at a pharmaceutical company, had been facing financial hardship due to his daughter's illness, according to his family.

He was shot three times by the assailants who robbed him, and no arrests have been made. His father-in-law revealed that the police had yet to file a case, and the family was only contacted to visit the police station after the incident, which occurred on Tuesday. The murder comes just days after Karachi's Police Chief, Javed Alam Odho, claimed that street crimes had decreased by 50% in the first quarter of 2024. Despite this, deaths linked to street crimes in the city have exceeded 100 this year. In a separate incident, a man named Umar was shot and killed in the Defence area near Mubarak Mosque in what police suspect to be a case of personal enmity. Umar was waiting in his car

TEXPO 2024 Fashion Show Shines Spotlight On Innovation And Sustainable Style



KARACHI: TEXPO 2024 is set to host a two-day fashion show on October 23-24 at Hotel Pearl Continental, showcasing creativity and sustainability in fashion. With over 400 delegates expected, the event will feature innovative designs from 20 national and international designers under the theme "Weaving the Way to Sustainability," promoting eco-conscious practices in the industry. Key designers include Shamaeel Ansari, Gogi by Hassan Riaz, Diner's, Sahar Aatif, IDEAS by Gul Ahmed, Huma Adnan, Sanam Chaudhri, and international talents like Yuna Hattori (Japan) and Michelangelo Winklaar (Netherlands).

The fashion show aims to bolster the textile industry and foster export growth while emphasizing sustainable practices. Badar Expo Solutions manages the event, directed by national award winner Hassan Riaz Gogi, with actress Sunita Marshall as the host. Shamaeel Ansari, renowned for her international exports and collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), she showcases her "Ms. International" collection, focusing on global collaborations.

Muhammad Rizwan Jokhio Honors Legacy Of Begum Nusrat Bhutto

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Youth Organizer Malir, Muhammad Rizwan Jokhio, stated that Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the first female chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party and "Mother of Democracy," is a symbol of unwavering commitment and struggle for the fundamental political rights of the nation, despite her personal tragedies. He expressed these sentiments during a discussion with journalists on the occasion of her 13th death anniversary. Jokhio emphasized that Begum Nusrat Bhutto made significant sacrifices for the restoration of democracy, which will be remembered in history. Her courage, bravery, struggle, and selfless sacrifices will always be honored in Pakistan's democratic history. Today, on her anniversary, we pay our respects to her legacy.

KATI President Urges 4% Interest Rate Cut In Line With Falling Inflation



KARACHI: Junaid Naqi, President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), has urged the State Bank and the government to promptly reduce interest rates by 4%, bringing them down to 13.5%. This demand comes as inflation is projected to decline from 6.9% in September to 6.3% in October, according to government data. Naqi emphasized that the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting should consider the significant drop in inflation and the pressing requests from industrialists and traders for a lower policy rate. He noted that reducing the interest rate is crucial for stimulating economic activities, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and fostering investment and job creation. He further asserted that lowering interest rates will enhance consumer spending power and drive economic recovery. Naqi appealed to the State Bank and the government to act swiftly, highlighting that the benefits of any rate cut may take time to reach the broader economy, making timely interventions essential for promoting growth in export surplus and overall economic activities.—RT

GLOBAL WATCH



CHONGQING: Mr. Aifan Ibrahim Sheikh, President of the FPCCI, took part in a session with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) in Chongqing, China, which focused on the Alliance for the Sea-Land Corridor. He was joined by Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman of the FPCCI's Capital Office; Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman of Coordination at FPCCI; and several prominent Chinese business leaders were also present on the occasion.—RT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HIGHWAY DIVISION KHAIRPUR

NO:TC/G-55/ 697 OF 2024 KHAIRPUR DATED: 23-10-2024

NOTICE INVITED TENDERS

Sealed Bid are invited for all the interested Bidders on SINGLE STAGE-ONE ENVELOPE Standard Bidding documents under SPPRA Rule 2010(Amended in 2013 & 2014) for the Procurements of following Works.

- The intended participant can purchase the separate set of tenders on payment of tender fee 3000/- on any working day during office hours from date of publication to 15-11-2024 at 9:00 A.M.
- The tender will be received back Same Date and opened on 15-11-2024@ 10:00 A.M in presence of tender opening/evaluation committee. If the tendered work remains un-responded or competent Authority out of Head quarter the Bidding Documents will be received back on date 03-12-2024 up to 10-30 P.M which will be opened in the presence of tender procurement committee & the participate at 1.00 P.M on the same date.
- ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR INTENDING PARTICIPANTS ARE AS UNDER:
 - Registration with Income Tax department (NTN Certificates) and copy of N.I.C.
 - Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant field and required category relevant Code C6 and Above.
 - Registration with Sindh Revenue Board. (Active Status)
 - Should have completed at least three contracts of similar nature over the last 3 years.
 - Undertaking on affidavit that firm is not involved in any litigation or abandoned any work in the department.
 - The bidders should submit earnest money as shown against each work in shape of call deposit, prepared from the scheduled bank in favour of the under signed.
 - The competent authority may cancel the Bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a Bid or as per SPPRA Rules.
 - Affidavit with effect that all documents/particulars / information furnished are true and correct.
 - In case of Firm, list of partners / partnership Deed, giving full particulars of Directors / proprietors or others connected along with Power of Attorney. In case of being sole proprietors such undertaking on affidavit be furnished.
 - Conditional / Telegraphic application will not be entertained for purchase of tenders.
 - The tender will be opened in the presence of the Procurement Committee / participating contractors /firms and their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present.
 - In case of any member of procurement committee happens to be out of Head Quarter on the date of opening bids will be submitted and opened on next working day on same schedule.
 - Bid Validity period 90 days.

S#	Name of Schemes	Estimated Cost (Million)	Earnest Money 5%	Tender Fee	Time Allowed for Completion of work
1	Rehabilitation of road from Sathiyoh Wah @ Police Picket to Ramzan Drain Taluka Khairpur mile 0/0-0/6(1.20 km)	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
2	Construction of road at Village, Thropa and Chakrani Taluka Kotdiji mile 0/0-0/3	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
3	Construction of road from Debaria via Village Qaimuddin Kubar, village Ali Nawz Lund, Village Abdul Karim Shamshani, Village Sohaij and Ghulam Muhammad Yeesar Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-1/0	40.00 (M)	2.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
4	Reconditioning of road from Bozdar Wada Thari road to Village Talpur Nanda i/c repair of Bridge over Mirwah Canal near Talpur Nanda Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-1/0	40.00 (M)	2.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
5	Reconditioning of road from Debaria Phatak to Village Soofa Sahita Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-0/3+3/0	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
6	Asphalt road from National Highway? to Baberli City (Remaining Portion) Taluka Khairpur mile 0/0-0/2+1/0(0.433 km)	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
7	Reconditioning of road from NHA to Wsiryo Wahan via Qazi Khoh Village Shaikh and Kouro Maillio Taluka Khairpur mile 0/0-0/7(1.40 km)	20.00(M)	1.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
8	Widening & Asphalt road from Bhurri Puri Bilawal Park to Chandia Mohi Taluka Khairpur	28.500 (M)	1.425 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
9	Reconditioning of road from Khairah Zafferabad road to Village Bhano Khan Jarwar Taluka Kotdiji mile 0/0-0/5	20.00(M)	1.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
10	Reconditioning of road from Tando Masti Phatak road to Village Balla Khan Brohi UC Alta Muhammad Hami Taluka Kotdiji mile 0/0-0/5	20.00 (M)	1.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
11	Construction of road from Khairah Zafferabad road to Village Bhano Khan Jarwar via Village Ustad Ghulam Ali Awan Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-0/6	30.00 (M)	1.50 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
12	Reconditioning of road from Mehran Highway to Village Wahid Bux Kubar Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-0/3+4/50	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
13	Construction of road from link road Bozdar Wada Village Abdul Razak Shar to Village Matt Taluka Mirwah mile 0/0-0/6	15.00 (M)	1.50 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
14	Construction of road in UC Uman Khan Rajpar connecting: a) Jan Muhammad Mobeja village, Hameed Shar, Ghani Khan Shar Muhammad Umar Shar to connection Ali Abad road; c) from Junaid Jaffer Samdani via Meow Khaskali to connect Jalajari road; d) Sadam Shar connecting Uman Khan Rajpar link road Taluka Faiz Gani mile 0/0-0/3	16.00 (M)	0.800 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
15	Reconditioning of road from Pir Hayat Shah to Pir Bux Tunjo Taluka Gambat mile 0/0-1/0	40.00 (M)	2.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
16	Reconditioning of road from Ummar Pahnwar to Taluka Gambat mile 0/0-0/5	40.00 (M)	2.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
17	Reconditioning of road from Ummar Pahnwar to Ali Gohar Pahnwar Taluka Gambat mile 0/0-0/4+3/30	20.00 (M)	1.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
18	Reconditioning of road from Sagyoon City to Wariyam Sial Taluka Gambat (Phase-I) mile 0/0-1/0	40.00 (M)	2.00 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
19	Reconditioning of road from Sagyoon City to Wariyam Sial Taluka Gambat (Phase-II) mile 1/0-1/3	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months
20	Construction of metalled road from Rasoolabad City to Village Noohpota taluka Sobhodero mile 0/0-0/4	15.00 (M)	0.750 (M)	3000/-	24 Months

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HIGHWAYS DIVISION KHAIRPUR
INF-KRY No: 3347/24

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

—Oscar Wilde

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 25 2024

IHC Orders Imran To Be Brought To Court Today, Directs Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday ordered the Adiala jail administration to present the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan before the court today at 3pm.

"Bring the PTI founder, he will have a meeting with his lawyers," said the IHC during the hearing of a contempt of court case against the Adiala jail superintendent for not allowing the lawyers to meet the ex-PM.

The development comes as the jailed politician has been behind bars at the Adiala facility for more than a year due to being embroiled in a plethora of legal cases — of which only one remains, i.e., the New Toshkhana security relating to alleged illegal sale of state gifts.

Khan, along with his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested in the said case soon after their acquittal in the Iddat case — also known as the un-Islamic nikah case.



The incarcerated former premier had appeared before the Supreme Court via a video link in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments case in May.

IHC's orders come against the backdrop of the party's ongoing strenuous efforts to secure its founder's release.

Apart from PTI's demand for Khan's freedom, more than 60 members of the United States House of Representatives have also written a letter to President Joe Biden seeking the ex-PM's release.

In their letter, the Democratic lawmakers urged President Biden to prioritise human rights in US policy towards Pakistan.

"We write today to urge you to use the United States' substantial leverage with Pakistan's government to secure the release of political prisoners including former Prime Minister Khan and curtail widespread human rights abuses," the lawmakers said.

During the hearing today, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan said that the Adiala superintendent will have to

present reasons if he fails to ensure Khan's presence before the court.

"The court does not accept the security threats [...] the lawyers were not allowed to meet, this is contempt of the court," remarked Justice Ishaq while directing the jail official to provide the Interior Ministry's report and explain what precise threats were there.

The judge also said that reasons will have to be given and the court will have to be satisfied as to what exact threats existed if the PTI founder is not presented before the court.

During the course of the proceedings of the case filed by Advocate Faisal Chaudhry, the applicant's lawyer stated that Khan's lawyers have not been able to meet him since October 3.

"If we go to jail, are there any security threats from us?" he questioned.

In response, the state counsel informed the court

that the Punjab government has proposed a ban on meetings inside the jail facility due to concerns related to the law and order situation.

"Is there a ban on lawyers meeting him? If the Punjab government has prohibited the meeting of the lawyers, it would have committed contempt of court; whoever issued this notification has also committed contempt of court," remarked the court.

In response to the additional attorney general's objection to the court's initial instructions directing the Adiala jail superintendent to facilitate a meeting between Khan and his lawyer via a video link, the court then ordered the authorities to present the PTI founder before the court instead.

The court also summoned the joint secretary of the Interior Ministry along with the relevant records and issued a notice to the attorney general's office to assist the court. —RT/Agency

COAS Munir Calls For Unified Forces, Stresses Inter-Service Synergy For Success

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir emphasised the critical role of inter-service collaboration, which he believes is essential for achieving operational success during his visit at a Pakistan Air Force air base to witness the ongoing multinational exercise Indus Shield-2024 on Thursday.



COAS's visit, reinforcing the commitment to enhance cooperation between the army and air force in both training and operational contexts," the ISPR added.

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that General Munir was received by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naved Ashraf also present.

"Exercise Indus Shield-2024 is the biggest multinational exercise of the region that is witnessing participation from 24 esteemed Air Forces converging to foster interoperability and training through state-of-the-art facilities embodying the exercise motto: 'Stronger When Together,'" the ISPR stated.

Additionally, COAS expressed his satisfaction over the combat readiness of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and the progress made

through various modernisation and up-gradation programmes. "Later, he witnessed exercise operations, static display of various niche and disruptive technologies where he was briefed on the modernisation efforts of Pakistan Air Force to stay abreast with contemporary security challenges which was later followed by an enthralling aerial display by PAF fighter jets" the army's media wing added.

General Munir also interacted with the aircrew and appreciated the resolve of PAF personnel to safeguard the aerial frontiers of Pakistan. "The chief of air staff expressed his gratitude for

COAS's visit, reinforcing the commitment to enhance cooperation between the army and air force in both training and operational contexts," the ISPR added.

Moreover, he apprised General Munir on modernisation and indigenisation drive being carried out by PAF through induction of state of the art weapon systems, the ISPR further added. Furthermore, while speaking at the occasion, the air chief highlighted that the ongoing exercise Indus Shield-2024 will go a long way in bolstering interoperability amongst the participating nations and will train their air & ground crews to face contemporary warfare challenges. —RT/Agency

US Lawmakers Urge Biden To Demand Imran's Release From Prison

WASHINGTON: Around 60 Democratic lawmakers from the US House of Representatives have written to President Joe Biden urging him to pressure Pakistan into releasing Imran Khan, the jailed founding chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"We write today to urge you to use the United States' substantial leverage with Pakistan's government to secure the release of political prisoners including former Prime Minister Khan and curtail widespread human rights abuses," the lawmakers wrote in a letter on Wednesday.

US Representative Greg Casar, who led the letter, said it marked the first such collective call from multiple members of the US Congress for the release of Khan, who otherwise has had tenuous relations with Washington as a long standing critic of US foreign policy.

Imran has been in jail since August 2023 and has faced dozens of cases after he was removed from the prime minister's position in April 2022 through a parliamentary vote of no confidence. His party has said that the more than 200 cases are politically motivated.

He has been acquitted or



granted bails in most of the cases filed against him.

The pending cases against him mostly pertain to the May 9 violence. Khan has denied responsibility and has been acquitted or granted bail in many of those cases.

He also faced the 190 million pound Al Qadir v. v. land corruption case. The case alleges that Imran and Bushra obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals for legalising Rs50 billion — at that time \$190 million — that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the PTI government in 2019.

Imran says cases against him, which disqualified him from contesting the February 2024 elections, are politically motivated. A UN human rights working group said in July Imran's detention violated international law.

Barrister Gohar Reveals Bushra Bibi Would Be Free If Release Deal Was Struck



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar stated that if Bushra Bibi's release had been the result of a deal, she wouldn't have remained in jail.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Gohar mentioned that Bushra Bibi's release after nine months was possible because she endured tough conditions in prison while standing firm with Khan's ideology.

He said, "We salute her courage and congratulate all PTI voters and supporters. Khan sahib will also be released soon."

Barrister Gohar stated that keeping his wife in jail was intended to put pressure on Khan. He assured that the founder's release would happen and it would be on merit, adding that claims of a deal are unfounded. "If that were the case, she wouldn't be in jail," he remarked.

He said, "What is it that you haven't arrested? For? Toshi Khana 1, Iddat, Toshi Khana 2?"

He further said "Arrests have happened, and all have seen releases based on merit." The chairman of PTI emphasized that Bushra Bibi has no connection to the Toshkhana case or any other case. "No matter what you do, the public stands with Khan. He has confidence in us, and we are following his orders. He will soon be among the people, everyone is united under the founder's leadership."

He further stated, "I deny any claims of Imran Khan expressing anger during meetings with party leaders. There is no truth to that; it is misinformation. We did not accept the 26th amendment before, and we do not accept it now." —RT/Agency

Gilani: Peace Is Not Just A Dream, But A Necessity For Humanity's Future

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that peace is not just an aspiration but a necessity for the future of humanity, calling on all nations to prioritize conflict prevention.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad in connection with UN Day, marking the 79th anniversary of the United Nations.

Reflecting on Pakistan's 77 years as a dedicated member of the UN, Gilani reaffirmed the country's commitment to the UN Charter's principles, including sovereignty, equality, and respect for human rights.

He said that Pakistan remains devoted to upholding these ideals as a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

The Chairman Senate praised the contributions of UN agencies in Pakistan, highlighting their vital role in sectors such as education, health, and humanitarian relief.

He acknowledged their timely interventions, particularly in collaborative efforts



like flood relief, which have positively impacted Pakistan.

Gilani underscored Pakistan's significant involvement in UN peacekeeping missions, noting that Pakistani troops have served with distinction in numerous conflict zones, further cementing the country's role in promoting global peace.

During his address, the Senate Chairman also called for stronger global solidarity, especially during humanitarian crises, stressing that such

moments demand a united response from the international community.

He commended the UN's efforts in alleviating suffering worldwide but suggested that institutions must continually evolve to meet emerging challenges.

Gilani expressed optimism about the future, hoping that the UN will continue to inspire, unite, and lead the global community toward a future where justice and peace prevail. —RT/Agency

Foreign Office Challenges OHCHR's Claims On Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office of Pakistan rejected a statement made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding the 26th constitutional amendment, labelling it as based on inaccurate information, as reported by Radio Pakistan.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch addressed the media during a weekly briefing in Islamabad, asserting that the High Commissioner had drawn unwarranted conclusions from media reports, social media posts, and politically motivated speculative reporting.

She urged the OHCHR to focus on the actual and severe human rights violations occurring globally, where international human rights standards have been rendered ineffective or where draconian laws have been enacted to oppress occupied peoples.

When asked about the recent blacklisting of approximately two dozen companies by the United States, the spokesperson described the action as biased and politically motivated. She noted that similar listings in the past were based on mere suspi-

WEEKLY BRIEFING FOREIGN AFFAIRS



The spokesperson also confirmed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had written to US President Joe Biden, requesting consideration of Dr Aafia Siddiqui's mercy petition on humanitarian grounds. She stated that Pakistan has been in contact with the US to provide all possible support for Dr Siddiqui's welfare.

Responding to questions regarding the Kashmir issue, Baloch reiterated that Pakistan has never accepted the validity of the Indian constitution in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She affirmed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should decide their future based on UN Security Council resolutions. —RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Hails Overseas Pakistanis As Nation's Greatest Asset



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif directed the newly appointed community and labor welfare attaches at Pakistani missions abroad to always keep the country's interests in mind, media reported.

Speaking to the group of the attaches at the PM House, the prime minister directed them to make vigorous efforts to promote Pakistan's image abroad. He also directed to work diligently to find employment opportunities for skilled workers from Pakistan.

"I am confident that your appointment has taken place through a highly transparent process," PM Shehbaz said.

PM Shehbaz said that the welfare of the overseas Pakistani community should be

JJ Vows To Take Legal Action Against 26th Constitutional Amendment

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman to challenge the 26th constitutional amendment in the court.

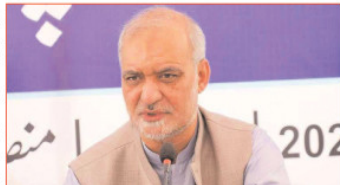
He was talking to media in Lahore on Thursday.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was trapped in the constitutional amendment.

The government passed the amendment through political maneuvering. The judiciary was attacked through the constitutional amendment," he said.

According to JJ, PTI made the passage of amendment doubtful.

"PTI first gave the names for the parliamentary committee and then decided not to participate in the meeting," said Hafiz Naeem.



as respondents.

He requested the formation of a full court bench to hear the case.

Meanwhile, the 26th constitutional amendment was also challenged in the Supreme Court's Lahore Registry. The federal government and the Ministry of Law were parties in the petition. —RT/Agency

BNP Chief Akhtar Mengal Faces Terrorism Charges Amid Rising Tensions

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police has registered a terrorism case against Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the head of the Balochistan National Party (BNP). The case, filed by Senate Joint Secretary Jamil Akhtar Nawaz, allegedly pushed security staff as they attempted to enter the hall with weapons. Earlier during National Assembly session that passed the 26th Constitu-

tion. Akhtar Mengal was escorted out of the Senate gallery. Speaking to the media, Mengal shared that a female security officer removed him from the gallery. He explained that he had come face to face with his party's dissent members, and upon exposing the situation, government ministers started to panic. —RT/Agency

included in the case. According to the case details, Akhtar Mengal, along with five others, tried to forcefully enter the Senate Hall while armed.

Meer Jahanzaib Mengal and Akhtar Nawaz allegedly pushed security staff as they attempted to enter the hall with weapons. Earlier during National Assembly session that passed the 26th Constitu-