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Heartland

Nawab Noshad Ali Laghari Felicitates PPP Leadership On Party's Historic Victory In NWM



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Liam Neeson And Busty Pamela Anderson's 'Dynamic' Bond Finally Revealed

PTI MPAs Among Escaped Inmates Recaptured After Brazen Gun Attack On Prison Vans In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Armed assailants have attacked three prison vans carrying several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers, government workers and cops detained in the D-Chowk protest case, a spokesperson for federal capital police said on Friday.

The unidentified attackers carried out a gun attack on three prison vans transporting 82 accused, including PTI members of provincial assembly (MPAs), government officials, and policemen, to Attock jail after a court hearing, the spokesperson added.

One of the prison vans was transporting PTI MPAs Anwar Zaib, Liaquat, and Yasir Qureshi.

According to the Islamabad police, the PTI lawmakers among other inmates managed to flee from the prison vans following the armed assault, however, they were rearrested by the cops.

The armed attack occurred at Sangani Toll Plaza, the police said, adding that it was like an ambush as the armed men had already taken



position before the arrival of the vans at the toll plaza. He said that all inmates, who fled after the attack, have been rearrested as police foiled the bid to escape. Rizvi confirmed that the fleeing inmates also include two MPAs who have also been taken into custody again.

An Islamabad police spokesperson said that senior officers along with heavy contingents rushed to the scene and search operations were launched in different areas to find the culprits.

The Islamabad police chief said that four out of 18-20 attackers, including an MP's son, a policeman, and two other individuals, were also apprehended by security officials. —RT/Agency

Justice Shah Slams CJP Isa, Accuses Him Of Ignoring Dangerous External Pressures On Judiciary

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has fired broadside against outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa for remaining "complacent and indifferent to external pressure on the judiciary" during his tenure as the senior puisne judge skipped a full court reference to bid farewell to the latter.

CJP Isa took oath as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Sept 17, 2023 at a ceremony, where his wife Sarina Isa was standing beside him.

Justice Yahya Afridi, who was appointed by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC), is set to take oath as the next chief justice tomorrow (Saturday).

In a letter to Supreme Court Registrar, Justice Shah — who would have become the CJP had the 26th Amendment not been passed — noted that it is universal custom to hold a farewell event to acknowledge the departing chief justice's contributions.

However, he said, traditions, like institutions, "rely on the merits of those who embody them."

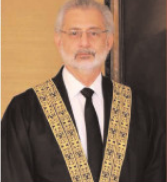


He explained that he decided against attending former CJP Saqib Nisar's reference because "he had exceeded the limits of his constitutional role".

He reiterated that he would also not be attending CJP Isa's reference "though for different but more worrying reasons".

Justice Shah pointed out that the chief justice's role is to protect the rights of the people, uphold judicial independence, and ensure justice for all.

"CJP Isa, like an ostrich, with his head in the sand, remained complacent and indifferent to external influences and pressures on the judiciary," he wrote, adding, "Instead of standing as a bul-



wark against interference, he opened the gates wide, betraying the judiciary's sacred role as a check and balance on power."

The senior judge further said that the outgoing CJP showed "neither the courage nor the moral fortitude to defend the judiciary rather ceded ground to those who sought to weaken the courts for their own gain thereby compromising the very foundation of the rule of law."

He also said that CJP Isa's actions have displayed a blatant disregard for the collegiality and respect essential to maintaining judicial harmony.

"Through a pattern of self-righteousness he consistently failed to engage in dia-

logue and refused to lead with the consensus-building that is the hallmark of judicial leadership."

Apparently referring to the July 12 reserved seats verdict, Justice Shah said the incumbent chief justice has little regard for the judgments of Supreme Court and has "contemptuously and unashamedly suggested that they may not be implemented by the Executive."

Earlier on Oct 22, CJP Isa — in a detailed minority judgment — stated that the implementation of the top court's July 12 verdict was not binding as the review petitions in the case were still pending and not fixed for hearing.

"He [Justice Isa] has fostered bitter divisions and fractured relationships of colleagues within the court leaving scars on the judiciary that will last long. His tenure will be defined by pettiness, vindictiveness, and a lowly approach to administrative matters, having no grace or humility," Justice Shah added. He concluded by saying that to attend a reference and celebrate such a tenure

would send a message that a chief justice can "betray his institution, erode its strength, act petty, and low, and still be celebrated as an honorable servant of justice."

When the top judge retires today, Justice Afridi will succeed him and take the oath of the office of CJP in a ceremony slated to be held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Asif Ali Zardari will administer the oath to the CJP-designate.

Justice Afridi has been appointed the 30th chief justice of the country, who will serve for a fixed three-year term starting tomorrow (October 26), according to a statement from the Aiwan-e-Sadr released on Wednesday.

He is the first CJP to be appointed under Articles 175A(3), 177, and 179 of the Constitution following the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The ruling coalition last week successfully pushed through the highly contentious judicial reforms through parliament via a two-thirds majority with 225 and 65 votes in the lower and upper house, respectively. —RT/Agency

Fazl Shuts Down Rumors Of Joining Government In Fiery Rebuttal

CHINNOT: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says pitting one province against another reflects a non-political mindset.

Talking to media in Chinnot on Friday, he said that 56 clauses in the amendment were reduced to 22, with five added back, highlighting the accomplishments of this change.

"I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal, strong resistance will be made against the 27th constitutional amendment," he added.

Fazl noted that the 27th constitutional amendment is not simple. He refrained from commenting on Sheikh Rashid's remarks, stating that he fundamentally does not believe in retaliatory politics, filing cases against politicians, or banning political protests.



The JUI-F chief also remarked that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has had a productive tenure and congratulated the incoming Chief Justice, wishing him success in delivering justice to the nation.

Commenting on broader political dynamics, he clarified that JUI-F opposes revenge-driven politics and cases targeting politicians. "We believe in political freedom and do not support restrictions on protests," he said.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman highlighted the importance of increasing resources to address public issues. Regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting, he had requested both opposing sides to cooperate.

The governments should avoid protests and disruption, he said, urging a return to democratic process through re-elections if necessary. —RT/Agency

Army Cadet Tragically Killed In Vicious Terrorist Attack On Lakki Marwat Mosque



RAWALPINDI: A cadet of Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul, was martyred after terrorists attacked a mosque in Lakki Marwat during Maghrib prayers on Friday.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said the cadet Anifullah, who was under training at PMA Kakul, was on leave at his hometown, adding that he was present in the mosque for prayers when the attack was launched.

As soon as terrorists started firing, immediately responded and fought them bravely. However, during the incident, the 19-year-old cadet embraced martyrdom sacrificing his life, while saving many innocent lives of worshippers.

Such heinous and cowardly act of attacking worshippers in the mosque while praying reflects the true ideology of these militants.

"Valiant act of a young Gentleman Cadet is a testament of spirit of sacrifice and dedication of Security Forces' personnel to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices further strengthen our resolve," read the ISPR statement. —RT/Agency

Shocking Turn Of Events: Imran's Sisters, Aleema And Uzma, Granted Bail Following Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad has granted bail to Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, the sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in the D-Chowk protest case.

Judge Abul Hasanat Zuleqarnain issued the order on Friday with regard to the case registered at the Kohsar police station in the federal capital.

The two sisters were arrested on October 4, 2024.

The former ruling party's lawyers have left the Judicial Complex to go to jail with the mandamus i.e. the court's order directing the release of the Khan's sisters.

After getting bail from the ATC, the PTI founder's sisters were released from jail.

PTI workers and supporters welcomed Aleema and Uzma outside the district jail in Jhelum. Aleema's son Sheraz and sister Noureen Niazi were also present on the occasion.

The court issued the orders following the approval of the former prime minister's two sisters' bail, granted against surety bonds worth Rs20,000 each.

Several PTI leaders as well as Imran's sisters were detained during the protest demonstration in Islamabad. The case against Imran's sis-



ters was registered at the Kohsar Police Station on serious charges, including 16 provisions related to terrorism.

The former ruling party launched its anti-government campaign for the "independence" of the judiciary and the release of the former prime minister from jail.

Meanwhile, the ATC's order came two days after the hearing of the plea was adjourned due to the non-submission of records in the case.

When the prosecution failed to present the case record, the court again called for the submission of the required documents.

Advocate Niazullah Niazi said that the record had yet to be presented at the previous hearing either, which had delayed the bail process.

Barrister Salman Safdar, the PTI's lawyer, expressed his frustration, saying that he



had been hearing since morning that the record was unavailable, and it reflected poorly on the proceedings.

He questioned the prosecutor about the whereabouts of the record and the cause of the delay.

Barrister Safdar, while presenting his arguments on Wednesday, argued that the case for bail was strong on three points — both defendants were women, there was no direct evidence of conspiracy, and the charges were general.

He cautioned that if the record was not produced, he would have to take the bail application to the high court, requesting the ATC to approve the bail applications of Aleema and Uzma.

In response, the prosecutor said that without the case record, he was unable to present his arguments. —RT/Agency

Justice Isa Admits Potential Errors But Claims "Only Divine Truth Prevails"

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday he may have made many wrong decisions but Allah (cooper wala) knows the truth.

Justice Isa was addressing a full court reference held in his honour in Courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court.

Justice Isa shared his experiences and feelings with those who attended the reference. He thanked all his staff, including his gurad Fayyaz and the registrar, for their support during his stay in the office.

He referred to the practice of taking notes on pieces of papers during hearing of cases. He said the notes helped him decide a case according to the facts. "We have to adjudge who is right and who is wrong. The paper may favour a contestant (party) and go against the other," he added.

"It is our duty to give justice," Justice Isa said.

Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi paid Justice Isa tribute and said he learnt a lot from him.

He said he was sad that he (Justice Isa) was leaving but



glad that "you get time to spend with your family."

Justice Afridi said Justice Isa was an excellent human being. He disagreed with Justice Isa on many benches but "we played our role judicially."

Justice Afridi said today's lunch in honour of Justice Isa is not at the government expense.

He said he would miss [his senior colleague] Justice Isa.

Earlier, Attorney General Mansoor Awan said Justice Isa had been a competent lawyer and a judge who gave landmark judgements in the history of the country's judiciary.

Attorney General Awan paid Justice Isa tribute for

PM Applauds Punjab Police For Ruthless Operation That Wiped Out 10 Terrorists In Mianwali



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the Punjab Police for carrying out a successful operation in the Mulla-khel area of Mianwali in which 10 terrorists were killed.

The prime minister lauded the timely and effective anti-terror action by the Punjab Police and its Counter Terrorism

Department, according to a PM Office press release.

"The entire nation feels proud of its brave policemen. We will continue to foil the nefarious designs of the terrorists," the prime minister said and reiterated the government's resolve for continuous action till the complete elimination of terrorism. —RT/Agency

Ji Leader Mushtaq Ahmed Arrested In Fiery Gaza Protest In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Friday arrested former senator of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Mushtaq Ahmed during a march organized by the party to express solidarity with the people of Gaza, media reported.

As per details, Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers of JI was arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque during the Save Gaza March protest.

The Islamabad police said the arrests were made after the protesters tried to march to the US Embassy in the federal capital.

Mushtaq Ahmed and



other arrested JI workers have been shifted to Aalpara police station.

This is not the first time that Mushtaq Ahmed has been arrested during Gaza protest.

Earlier in August, the former senator was arrested during Gaza protest in Islamabad.

The authorities imposed section 144 in Islamabad according to which gatherings without prior permission from the district administration were prohibited. —RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi Reviews Progress Of Ongoing Development Works

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner of the Sukkur Division, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, recently chaired a high-level meeting to assess the progress of two major infrastructure projects: the M-6 Motorway (Sukkur-Hyderabad) and the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge. The meeting aimed to expedite the completion of these critical developments, which are vital for the economic growth and connectivity of Sindh.

enhancing the transportation infrastructure in the province. During the session, Abbasi maintained high-quality standards in the construction of the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge. He stated, "We are committed to completing these projects efficiently, ensuring timely completion while maximizing economic benefits for the people of Sindh."

Moreover, Abbasi emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality standards in the construction of the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge. He warned that no compromises would be tolerated regarding the quality of work, vowing strict action against those responsible for any delays. The bridge is anticipated to alleviate long-standing connectivity issues between Ghotki and Kandhkot, facilitating smoother travel and trade between the two districts.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including Additional Commissioner-I Muhammad Amir Ansari, Additional Commissioner-II Muhammad Hajan Ujjan, Project Director Sukkur Motorway Ikhtlaq Nabi Dayo, and Deputy Commissioners Dr. M.B. Raja Dharejo (Sukkur), Syed Ahmed Fawad (Khairpur), and Syed Muhammad Ali (Ghotki). Their collective insights and reports were instrumental in outlining the current status of the projects and strategizing the next steps. The Commissioner's proactive approach and commitment to overseeing these significant development works reflect the government's dedication to improving infrastructure and fostering economic growth in Sindh.

Elderly TMK Woman Protests For Her Arrested Son's Release

By Abdul Sattar



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A distressed elderly woman, Ms. Sajna Solangi, took to the streets in protest against alleged police misconduct in the Bathoro area of Sujawal district. Speaking to reporters, she recounted the troubling circumstances surrounding the arrest of her two sons, Ghulam Hussain Solangi and Ali Ahmed Solangi.

According to Ms. Solangi, her sons were intercepted by police near the Datta Wah stop while they were traveling back to Tando Muhammad Khan after selling rice from their land. The police allegedly seized two lac rupees in cash, along with their motorcycle and other valuable items, under the guise of conducting a search. Ms. Solangi explained that while her younger son, Ali Ahmed, was released later that night, her elder son, Ghulam Hussain, remained in police custody. In a bid to secure his release, she visited the Bathoro police station, only to be met with resist-

ance. The Station House Officer (SHO) reportedly denied any knowledge of the arrest and dismissed her concerns, even forcibly pushing her out of the station.

Desperate for justice, Ms. Solangi made an appeal to higher authorities, including the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Hyderabad and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Tando Muhammad Khan. She called for their intervention to ensure the safe release of her son from what she described as unlawful police detention.

Her protest highlights broader concerns regarding police conduct and accountability in the region, as many community members have expressed frustration over similar incidents of perceived injustice. Ms. Solangi's plea underscores the emotional toll such experiences can take on families, particularly when loved ones are caught in the crossfire of law enforcement actions. The community is rallying around her, hoping for a swift resolution and justice for the Solangi family.

DC Syed Muhammad Ali Leads Polio Awareness Rally In Ghotki

By Shad Mahar



GHOTKI: In observance of World Polio Day, a significant rally was organized to raise awareness about the polio virus and the importance of vaccinations. The event took place under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, beginning at the District Headquarters (DHO) office and culminating at Bhattai Chowk.

The rally attracted a diverse group of participants, including Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Rao Afrah, National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP) Officer Dr. Zaher Domki, as well as representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, including Dr. Niaz and Dr. Raheem Gadani. A substantial turnout of lady health workers and local citizens further emphasized the community's commitment to eradicating polio.

During the rally, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Ali addressed the crowd, stressing the critical need for

public awareness regarding the polio virus. He highlighted that polio can lead to lifelong disabilities in affected children, significantly impacting their quality of life and creating immense challenges for their families. His remarks aimed to motivate parents to ensure their children receive the necessary vaccinations to protect them from this debilitating disease.

Dr. Ali urged parents and members of civil society to fully cooperate with vaccination teams during the upcoming polio vaccination campaign, which is set to commence on September 28. He emphasized that securing the health and future of children is a shared responsibility, calling on every individual to play an active role in ensuring that no child is left unvaccinated. In a passionate appeal, he

remarked, "The fight against polio is not just the responsibility of health authorities; it is a collective duty that requires the engagement and commitment of every member of our community."

Following the rally, Dr. Ali visited a private hospital in Mirpur Mathelo, where he officially inaugurated the polio vaccination campaign for children. This initiative is a crucial step in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio in the region, and it aims to reach every child with the vaccine. The rally and subsequent campaign launch serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of community involvement in public health initiatives. With the combined efforts of local authorities, health workers, and families, Ghotki aims to make significant strides toward a polio-free future.

38th Death Anniversary Of Shaikh Muhammad Soomar Observed In Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The 38th death anniversary of the esteemed Shaikh Muhammad Soomar was solemnly commemorated by the Shaikh Soomar Memorial Committee and the House of Journalism in a heartfelt ceremony held in Badin. This event brought together literary figures, educators, and local leaders who gathered to pay tribute to a man whose contributions to literature and education have left a lasting impact on the region.



role in uncovering and documenting the rich history of Laar and Badin. Gopang articulated how Soomar's efforts not only preserved the local heritage but also inspired future generations to appreciate their cultural roots. His work was instrumental in bringing to light the stories and events that shaped the identity of the region.

Abubakar Shaikh, another notable speaker, painted a vivid picture of Soomar's dedication to education. He described him as a devoted teacher and playwright who selflessly allocated half of his salary to the purchase of books and other educational materials. Shaikh emphasized that Soomar's love for the history and culture of his region was evident in everything he did, leaving an indelible mark on his students and the community.

The ceremony also featured tributes from other esteemed individuals, including Prof. Muhammad Ismail Abid Ansari, who shared their reflections on Soomar's life and legacy. They underscored his unwavering commitment to education and the arts, noting how his influence extended far beyond the classroom.

As attendees gathered to remember Shaikh Muhammad Soomar, it was clear that his legacy continues to inspire countless individuals. The event served not only as a commemoration of his life but also as a reminder of the importance of education, cultural heritage, and the role of literature in shaping society.

The memory of Shaikh Muhammad Soomar will undoubtedly live on, as those he touched with his teachings and passion for knowledge carry forward his legacy in their own endeavors.

Daulatpur Newlyweds Demand Protection Amid Threats



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: In a heartfelt appeal for safety, a newlywed couple from Daulatpur has voiced concerns over their security following a love marriage that has drawn the ire of certain family members. Faiza, daughter of Ghulam Ali, and Sameer Ali, son of Amanullah Rajpar, formally tied the knot at the local court, asserting their mutual affection and commitment to one another.

The couple expressed their happiness and determination to build a life together, emphasizing that their decision to marry was made willingly and without coercion. However, during the court proceedings, Faiza raised serious allegations regarding threats to their lives, claiming that they are being targeted by Ghulam Ali Rajpar, Shoukat Ali Rajpar, and Li-aquat Ali Rajpar—relatives who reportedly oppose their union.

In light of these allegations, the newlyweds have urgently called upon the relevant authorities to take swift action to ensure their safety. They are seeking protection not only for themselves but also for their families, who they fear may face backlash due to their relationship.

Faiza highlighted that the couple's love story has been met with hostility, and they are now living in constant fear of potential violence. "We just want to live peace-

fully and build our future together," she stated during a press conference following their court appearance. Local community members have shown mixed reactions to the couple's marriage, with some expressing support for their choice and others siding with the opposition. This division has further heightened the couple's anxiety regarding their safety.

The couple's plea underscores a broader issue within the community regarding the challenges faced by individuals in love marriages, particularly when they cross familial or societal boundaries. The situation has drawn attention to the need for greater awareness and protection for couples in similar circumstances, as well as a call for the authorities to take allegations of threats seriously.

As the couple awaits a response from law enforcement, they hope that their case will shed light on the need for legal protections for individuals exercising their right to choose their partners. Faiza and Sameer remain hopeful that their love will prevail over the challenges they face, but they insist that without adequate protection, their future remains uncertain.

The situation continues to develop, and both the couple and their supporters are advocating for immediate action to address their safety concerns.

Sports Activities Halted In Mirpurkhas Due To Flooded Ground

By Narain Das



MIRPURKHAS: In the vibrant city of Mirpurkhas, a concerning situation has emerged over the past two months as sports activities for children in the Pak Colony area and its surrounding neighborhoods have come to a standstill. The recent bouts of heavy rainfall have transformed the Pak Colony ground into what can only be described as a sprawling lake, rendering it completely unusable for any sporting events or recreational activities.

The responsibility for this predicament lies squarely with the Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation, whose apparent incompetence has prevented the timely drainage of rainwater that has accumulated in the area. As a result, the local community finds itself in a challenging situation where children and adults alike are deprived of the opportunity to engage in sports and physical activities that are crucial for their health and well-being.

In addition to the disappointment faced by the youth, the unusual situation has led to some unexpected visitors: buffaloes have taken to frolicking in the flooded ground, further illustrating the extent of the flooding and the lack of action taken by local authorities. This surreal scene highlights not just the disruption of sports activities but also the broader impact of inadequate infrastructure and maintenance on community life.

Community leaders, civil society organizations, and social representatives have raised their voices in frustration, urging the government to take immediate action to drain the rainwater from the

Pak Colony ground. Their plea underscores a vital need for restored playgrounds and recreational spaces, emphasizing that such facilities are essential for the physical and mental development of children.

The suspension of sports activities is not merely a minor inconvenience; it represents a significant loss of opportunities for children to engage in healthy, active play, which is crucial for their growth. As the community rallies together to demand action, the hope remains that local authorities will heed these calls and prioritize the restoration of vital recreational spaces.

PPP-SB Protests Against New Canals On Indus River

By Ibrahim Farooqui



BADAH: A significant protest demonstration was organized by the Pakistan Peoples Party - Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) in Badah to voice strong opposition to the construction of six new canals on the Indus River. Led by prominent activists including Muhammad Ali Khushk, Fida Hussain, and Aijaz Kandhar, the gathering took place in front of the Town Hall, where participants held banners and placards denouncing the proposed canal project.

The protestors articulated their concerns during passionate speeches, emphasizing that the construction of new canals would devastate Sindh's agricultural landscape. "This scheme is an attempt to transform Sindh into a barren wasteland by diverting water from the Indus River to Punjab," stated Muhammad Ali Khushk, highlighting the dire implications for local farmers and communities dependent on the river for irrigation.

The leaders further condemned what they described as unconstitutional amendments in the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), which they believe would exacer-

bate the challenges faced by Sindh's irrigated lands. "These changes will turn our fertile lands into arid regions, similar to those reliant on rainfed agriculture," warned Fida Hussain. The activists expressed their commitment to remain vocal and mobilized against such initiatives, vowing to protect the water rights of Sindh and ensure the region's agricultural sustainability.

Participants of the rally echoed these sentiments, sharing stories of how their livelihoods were intertwined with the health of the Indus River. The collective sentiment among the crowd was one of urgency, as they called upon the government to reconsider the proposed projects and engage with

local stakeholders. As the protest concluded, the PPP-SB leaders reaffirmed their dedication to fighting for the rights of Sindh's people, pledging to continue their activism until their demands are met. "We will not stand by while our lands and livelihoods are threatened," declared Aijaz Kandhar, reinforcing the resolve of the community to stand united in defense of their environment and heritage. The rally not only highlighted the immediate concerns regarding water management but also served as a platform for raising awareness about the broader implications of such governmental decisions on the future of Sindh's agriculture and ecosystem.

Badin Seminar Urges Action Against Fossil Fuel Funding



By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: A significant seminar held at the Badin Gymkhana, organized by the Lad Humanitarian Program, attracted a diverse group of participants, including political figures, local stakeholders, and community leaders. The event served as a platform for a robust discussion about the urgent need for action against fossil fuel funding, particularly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

During the seminar, participants unanimously called on the ADB to cease its funding of fossil fuel projects and to realign its investments with Pakistan's environmental objectives. Iqbal Haider, the CEO of the Lad Humanitarian Program, took center stage to emphasize the pressing need for accountability regarding the environmental damage attributed to projects financed by the ADB. His remarks underscored a growing concern that without proper oversight and accountability, such investments could exacerbate environmental degrada-

tion and hinder Pakistan's progress toward sustainable development. Attendees also highlighted the critical importance of transitioning to renewable energy sources as a means to address the country's energy crisis. Speakers pointed out that Pakistan currently faces a staggering energy shortage of approximately 6,000 megawatts (MW), which significantly impacts economic growth and the daily lives of citizens. Furthermore, the country is grappling with substantial debt in the energy sector, complicating efforts to invest in more sustainable alternatives. A focal point of the discussion was the urgent call for the early retirement of the JPC (Jamshoro Power Company Limited) plant, which many view as a relic of outdated energy practices.

The participants argued that shifting away from fossil fuels is essential for creating a cleaner, more sustainable energy landscape. In addition to advocating for renewable energy, speakers stressed the necessity of investing in

flood-resistant infrastructure, particularly for marginalized communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and natural disasters. They argued that targeted investments in such infrastructure are vital for enhancing resilience and protecting vulnerable populations. The seminar concluded with a collective call for multilateral development banks to play a more proactive role in bridging the funding gap for sustainable energy initiatives in Pakistan. Participants expressed hope that increased collaboration with these institutions could lead to the development of innovative financing mechanisms that support renewable energy projects and infrastructure improvements.

As the event wrapped up, there was a palpable sense of urgency among participants, who recognized that the path toward a sustainable energy future is not only an environmental imperative but also a crucial step in securing the well-being of future generations in Pakistan.



Sehwan Seminar Celebrates Polio Workers And Promotes Eradication Efforts Against Polio

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: An awareness seminar held at the Abdullah Shah Institute focused on appreciating the dedicated efforts of polio workers while promoting ongoing polio eradication initiatives in the region. The event saw participation from prominent figures, including District Commissioner Jashoro Riaz Hussain Wassan, District Health Officer Imam Din Khoso, and Director Dr. Mo'in Siddiqui.

During the seminar, certificates of appreciation were awarded to polio workers from both Sehwan and Manjhand, recognizing their relentless commitment to public health and safety. This acknowledgment served not only to honor their hard work but also to

inspire others in the community to join the fight against polio.

Following the seminar, a rally was organized to further raise awareness about polio and its eradication efforts. Speakers at the rally highlighted the significant achievement of having no reported polio cases in Jashoro for the past 15 years, underscoring the effectiveness of the vaccination campaigns and the importance of continuous public awareness.

The speakers reassured the community that administering polio drops is safe, a message supported by respected religious leaders who participated in the discussions. Their involvement was crucial in dispelling myths and fears surrounding the vaccine, fostering greater

community acceptance. District Commissioner Jashoro Riaz Hussain Wassan took the opportunity to pledge his commitment to protecting polio workers from any harassment or intimidation. He emphasized that the safety of these workers is paramount, as they play a vital role in safeguarding the health of children in the region.

The seminar and subsequent rally not only celebrated the achievements made in the fight against polio but also reinforced the collective commitment of the community, health officials, and local leaders to eradicate this debilitating disease. As efforts continue, the focus remains on ensuring every child receives the necessary vaccinations to secure a polio-free future.

PPP TMK Takes Out A Jubilation Rally



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In a vibrant display of unity and celebration, the People's Party (PPP) organized a jubilation rally in Tando Muhammad Khan to express their shared joy and unity. The participants took this opportunity to praise the efforts of former Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, acknowledging his instrumental role in the party's recent successes. They also expressed their appreciation for President Asif Zardari, who has played a critical role in guiding the party through challenging times and fostering a spirit of resilience among its members.

Throughout the rally, participants reaffirmed their commitment to standing with the People's Party and its leadership. Many expressed their pride in being part of an organization that continues to fight for the common people's rights and welfare. The event served not only as a celebration of recent achievements but also as a rallying point for future endeavors, as supporters vowed to carry forward the ideals of the party in their communities.

In summary, the jubilation rally in Tando Muhammad Khan marked a significant moment for the PPP, uniting members and supporters in a shared vision for a better future. The enthusiasm displayed during the event is a testament to the party's enduring connection with the people and its unwavering commitment to their rights and aspirations.

to dance and celebrate their collective achievements.

Upon reaching the Press Club, the jubilant crowd engaged in various festivities, including the distribution of sweets as a symbol of their shared joy and unity. The participants took this opportunity to praise the efforts of former Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, acknowledging his instrumental role in the party's recent successes. They also expressed their appreciation for President Asif Zardari, who has played a critical role in guiding the party through challenging times and fostering a spirit of resilience among its members.

Throughout the rally, participants reaffirmed their commitment to standing with the People's Party and its leadership. Many expressed their pride in being part of an organization that continues to fight for the common people's rights and welfare. The event served not only as a celebration of recent achievements but also as a rallying point for future endeavors, as supporters vowed to carry forward the ideals of the party in their communities.

In summary, the jubilation rally in Tando Muhammad Khan marked a significant moment for the PPP, uniting members and supporters in a shared vision for a better future. The enthusiasm displayed during the event is a testament to the party's enduring connection with the people and its unwavering commitment to their rights and aspirations.

Livestock Disease Outbreak In Mehar Taluka Raises Concerns

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A troubling outbreak of a rapidly spreading disease known as ghoghhi has emerged in Mehar Taluka, leading to significant livestock deaths and raising alarm among local farmers. Reports indicate that the illness is severely affecting cows, goats, and sheep across several union councils, including Balishah, Mureed Lakher, and Shah Panjo Sultan. Livestock owners have observed their animals becoming increasingly weak and dying at an alarming rate, creating distress in the community.

Despite the seriousness of the situation, the Livestock Department has yet to take any noticeable action to address the outbreak. Frustrated local livestock owners, including Ayaz Ali Solangi, Ahmed Ali Bhurt, Lal

Bakhsh, and Ghulam Haider, have voiced their concerns, highlighting that veterinary teams have not visited their areas for necessary vaccinations. They criticized the department for seemingly prioritizing certain locations over others, leaving many farmers without support in their time of need.

The affected livestock owners are calling on higher authorities to intervene and ensure that vaccination efforts are initiated across all villages in Mehar Taluka, without any discrimination. They emphasize that the current inaction from the Livestock Department could lead to devastating losses for their businesses and livelihoods.

Local farmers are well aware that timely vaccination is crucial in preventing the spread of ghoghhi and protecting their livestock

from further harm. They urge the Livestock Department to dispatch veterinary teams promptly to immunize the affected animals, thereby safeguarding their herds and securing their income.

As the outbreak continues to pose a threat, the community remains hopeful for a swift response from authorities. The situation serves as a critical reminder of the need for comprehensive animal health management and the importance of timely intervention in protecting both livestock and the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

The ongoing plight of livestock owners in Mehar Taluka highlights the urgent need for effective disease control measures and accessible veterinary services, ensuring that no farmer is left to face such crises alone.

8th Death Anniversary Of Sufi Singer Jamaluddin Faqir Observed In Jhol

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: The eighth death anniversary of the esteemed Sufi singer and poet Jamaluddin Faqir was commemorated with heartfelt tributes near the Babi Railway Station, organized by his sons, the Jamal Brothers. The ceremony included a solemn offering at his mausoleum, drawing together notable figures and community members to honor his enduring legacy.



Among the distinguished attendees was Faqir Muhammad Bux Zamin, the head of the shrine of Hazrat Manthar Faqir, alongside various writers, poets, and local leaders who came together to celebrate Jamaluddin Faqir's significant contributions to Sufi music and literature. The event served as a platform for speakers to reflect on the life and impact of this beloved figure, highlighting his compassionate nature and deep spirituality.

Jamaluddin Faqir was revered not only for his en-

ality and social service, showcasing his belief in uplifting humanity through art and compassion.

Attendees also emphasized Jamaluddin Faqir's initiatives to support education and marriage for underprivileged women, highlighting his proactive efforts to enhance the lives of those in need. His dedication to social causes resonated deeply with the community, reinforcing the idea that true spirituality is manifested through acts of kindness and support for others.

The anniversary celebration not only honored Jamaluddin Faqir's contributions to Sufi music but also inspired those present to carry forward his legacy of compassion and community service. As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose, motivated to continue promoting the values of peace and upliftment that Jamaluddin Faqir passionately embodied throughout his life.

Action Sought Against Sewage Discharge From Mehran Cooperative Society In Kotri

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: A pressing environmental and public safety issue has come to light in Kotri, where a group of concerned advocates has taken legal action against the ongoing discharge of sewage water from the Mehran Cooperative Society onto National Highway 55. Prominent advocates Mir Imtiaz Mangi, Zulfiqar Ali Chindio, and Adeeab Ali Burriro have jointly filed a petition in the Sessions Court, seeking urgent intervention to address this alarming situation.

The sewage discharge from the Mehran Cooperative Society has not only raised serious health concerns but has also had dire consequences for the infrastructure in the area. Over time, the continuous flow of untreated sewage has severely damaged the road surface of National Highway 55, creating hazardous conditions that have resulted in frequent accidents. Motorists and pedestrians alike have expressed their frustration and fear as they navigate this perilous stretch, where the



combination of water pooling and deteriorating road conditions poses a significant risk.

In response to the petition, the Sessions Court has issued notices to all parties involved, signaling the gravity of the situation and the need for immediate action. The advocates argue that the discharge of sewage is not only an environmental violation but also a blatant disregard for the safety and well-being of the community. They are calling for accountability and urging local authorities to take swift measures to rectify the issue, including the proper treatment and disposal of sewage waste.

Community members have voiced their support for the advocates' efforts, emphasizing the urgent need for a resolution to this

crisis. Many residents have expressed their concern about the potential health hazards associated with sewage exposure, which can lead to serious illnesses and exacerbate existing public health challenges.

As the legal proceedings unfold, there is a growing hope among the residents of Kotri that the court's intervention will lead to a long-term solution, ensuring that such irresponsible waste disposal practices are curtailed and that National Highway 55 can be restored to a safe and usable condition. The situation serves as a stark reminder of the need for responsible environmental management and the importance of safeguarding public health in our communities.

Jhudo Residents Protest For Repair Of Faulty Transformer



By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: In a determined show of unity, the Gujarati community in Jhudo staged a protest to voice their frustrations over ongoing electricity supply issues caused by a faulty transformer. The protest highlighted the community's demands for urgent repairs and the need for accountability from the local power utility, HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company).

For the past ten days, residents have been grappling with prolonged power outages, a situation exacerbated by the transformer's repeated failures. Protesters reported that the transformer, which had already undergone standard repairs, continues to burn out every few days, leading to significant disruptions in their daily lives.

The community members alleged that after each breakdown, they were forced to pay bribes to have the power restored, which they condemned as an unacceptable practice. This time, however, the situation escalated when the latest outage was compounded by delays in installation due to a demand for 40,000 PKR for repairing the transformer—a sum the community feels is unjust and unreasonable.

During the protest, community leaders expressed their anger and disappointment with

HESCO Jhudo's management, stating that the repeated failures of the transformer not only disrupt their lives but also reflect poor service and negligence on the part of the power company. The demonstrators carried banners and shouted slogans demanding immediate action to repair the faulty transformer and restore electricity supply to their neighborhood.

"We are tired of living in the dark and paying bribes just to get basic services," one protester exclaimed. "This is not just about electricity; it's about our right to a fair and reliable service."

The community's urgent appeal to authorities included calls for strict action against HESCO for its failure to provide adequate and safe electrical services. They emphasized the need for a thorough investigation into the recurring issues and demanded that the authorities ensure that the transformer is repaired properly this time, without the expectation of bribes.

As the protest drew attention from local media, community leaders vowed to continue their fight until their demands are met, emphasizing that access to reliable electricity is essential for their livelihoods and well-being. They hope their collective action will compel the relevant authorities to address their concerns swiftly and effectively.

Seva Development Trust Holds Seminar On Nutrition In Gambat

By Hafeez Mallah

GAMBAT: A significant one-day seminar focused on nutrition was organized by the Seva Development Trust Sindh Khairpur at the Government High School Sabto, near Gambat. The event attracted a diverse audience, including women from various union councils such as Jado Wahan, Kamaldro, Aghra, and Sabto, along with local journalists, poets, writers, and community members from different social backgrounds.

The seminar featured trainer Muhammad Ali Sehto, who represented Seva. He presented a compelling overview of the current nutritional landscape in Sindh, emphasizing the alarming rates of nutritional deficiencies among children. Sehto highlighted that many children in the region are significantly weak due to a lack of access to nutritious foods, which has far-reaching implications for their health and development.

During his presentation, he called for a collaborative approach to combat these deficiencies, urging everyone to



contribute to the collective effort of enhancing nutritional standards in the community. He stressed the importance of providing children with a varied diet rich in essential nutrients, pointing out that such efforts can dramatically improve their overall well-being and future prospects.

The seminar also served as a platform to raise awareness about nutritional issues among both women and men in the community. By engaging participants in discussions about healthy eating habits and the importance of nutrition, the seminar aimed to foster a more informed and health-conscious society.

At the conclusion of the event, certificates were distributed to participants, recognizing their commitment to learning and contributing to the health of their communities. The attendees expressed their gratitude for the informative session and acknowledged the efforts of Seva Development Trust Sindh Khairpur in addressing these critical health issues.

Overall, the seminar was seen as a step forward in the fight against nutritional deficiencies, with hopes that similar initiatives will continue to raise awareness and promote healthier lifestyles across the region. The collaborative spirit demonstrated at the seminar underscored the importance of community involvement in creating a healthier future for all.

These communities and the collective responsibility to advocate for their rights. The participants left the rally with renewed determination, vowing to continue their activism until justice is achieved. The event highlighted not only the local community's commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause but also the broader implications of the conflict, urging a united global front against oppression and violence. As the situation in the region remains critical, the TLP rally served as a call to action for all those who believe in the rights of oppressed peoples worldwide.

LUMHS To Observe Kashmir Solidarity Day On October 27th

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) is set to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on October 27, with a rally aimed at highlighting the ongoing struggles faced by the people of Kashmir. The event, organized by the Directorate of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Campus Administrator, will commence from the main campus and march to the AC-II main gate, bringing together students and faculty members in

a unified expression of support.

During this important occasion, Vice Chancellor of LUMHS, Professor Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, delivered a poignant message emphasizing the significance of the day, which marks 74 years since India's unlawful occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed the importance of raising awareness about the plight of the Kashmiri people and the ongoing human rights violations they face. The rally will serve as a platform for students and faculty to express their solidar-

ity with the people of Kashmir, reminding everyone of the urgent need for international attention to the humanitarian crisis in the region. The participation of the university community underscores a collective commitment to advocating for justice and peace.

As the rally approaches, the university is encouraging all students and staff to join in solidarity, reinforcing the message that the struggle for Kashmir is not just a political issue but a humanitarian one that requires the support and attention of all.

Lower Staff Employees In Tando Jam Struggle With Unpaid Salaries

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A troubling situation has arisen for lower staff members in the Education Department, including peons, gardeners, watchmen, and sweepers, who have not received their salaries from the Sindh government for the past fifteen months. This prolonged period without pay has exacerbated the ongoing unemployment crisis, leading to increased mental stress and financial hardship among these workers and their families.

In a bid to address their grievances, a delegation from the education department, led by Hakim Ali Zardari and Nisar Ahmed Soomro, recently met with Hyderabad Commissioner

Zain ul Abideen Memon. During the meeting, they expressed their frustrations over the unpaid wages, highlighting the severe impact it has had on their lives.

Commissioner Memon acknowledged the delegation's concerns but noted that there was no record of the lower staff's salaries or any formal orders to halt their payments. He pointed out that the issue is entangled in legal disputes, indicating that if the courts rule in favor of the staff, the government would comply with the decision. He encouraged the staff to discuss their concerns with their elected representatives, who could play a crucial role in facilitating the release of their salaries.

Despite the reassurances, the delegation lamented the lack of concrete solutions and expressed their dissatisfaction with the vague promises made by authorities. They made a heartfelt appeal to Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, urging them to intervene and ensure that their salaries are released promptly. The staff emphasized the dire situation they face at home due to their financial struggles, underscoring the urgent need for action to alleviate their suffering.

As the plight of these workers continues, the community remains hopeful for a resolution that will bring much-needed relief and stability to their lives.

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, October 26, 2024



A House Divided!

The recent remarks by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah about former Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa have exposed deep-seated fractures within the Supreme Court of Pakistan, signaling a crisis that cannot be ignored. Justice Shah's decision, along with five other justices, to skip the full court reference in honor of outgoing CJP Isa is a clear indication of discontent and division. In his letter, Justice Shah accused CJP Isa of fostering divisions, failing to defend judicial independence, and being indifferent to external pressures that threatened the judiciary's autonomy. Such strong words from a senior judge demand serious introspection, not just within

the judiciary but also by the new Chief Justice, Yahya Afridi, and the government.

The allegations raised by Justice Shah paint a



troubling picture of a judiciary divided, with claims of pettiness and administrative failures under CJP Isa's tenure. These concerns, coupled with the boycott of six judges, highlight a crisis of confidence that could erode the public's trust in the courts. It is imperative for the incoming Chief Justice to take proactive steps to heal these divisions, fostering a culture of

unity, transparency, and meritocracy. The judiciary must not be allowed to become a battleground of individual egos and factionalism.

The government, too, must tread carefully. An independent judiciary is the cornerstone of democracy, and any attempts to undermine it will be detrimental to the rule of law. The new Chief Justice has a historic opportunity to restore faith in the institution by building bridges, ensuring fair justice, and upholding the judiciary's independence without succumbing to external pressures. It is a moment that calls for courage, integrity, and leadership, qualities that will define the judiciary's future in Pakistan.

THE HEARTLAND



SACM Rajveer Singh Sodho Reviews Ongoing Development Projects In Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Rajveer Singh Sodho, recently conducted a comprehensive review of development projects in the Umerkot district during a briefing at the Deputy Commissioner's office. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Ahmed Larik and SSP Azhar Memon, as well as engineers from various departments.



Engineers Shaukat Ali Rajpar (XEN Machinery & Maintenance), Vishal Kumar (XEN Education Works), and Haider Shah (XEN PHED) presented detailed reports on the status of both completed and ongoing development schemes in the area. Their presentations highlighted the progress made thus far, as well as the challenges faced in implementing these projects.

During the meeting, SACM Sodho emphasized the importance of expediting the completion of projects that already have allocated budgets. He urged the officials to prioritize these initiatives to ensure that the bene-

fits reach the community as soon as possible. "It is essential that we remain accountable and work diligently to enhance the living standards of our people through timely project completion," he stated.

Sodho also announced his plans to visit Umerkot in the near future to conduct a field assessment of the Sindh government's development initiatives. He expressed his commitment to providing a detailed report to the Chief Minister, which will include recommendations based on his observations and discussions with local stakeholders.

The meeting underscored the government's focus on enhancing infrastructure and public services in Umerkot, which is crucial for the district's overall development. By coordinating efforts among various departments, the government aims to create a more efficient and effective delivery of services to the residents.

As the briefing concluded, Rajveer Singh Sodho reiterated his dedication to ensuring that the development projects meet the needs of the community and contribute to sustainable growth in Umerkot.

His engagement with local officials reflects a broader strategy to foster collaboration and accountability in the execution of government initiatives.

Radio Pakistan Khairpur Launches Children's Program Initiative

By Naem Shaikh



KHAIRPUR: In a bid to foster creativity and develop young talent, Radio Pakistan Khairpur is launching an innovative initiative to record children's programs outside the studio, directly within local schools. This initiative aims to engage students and provide them with a platform to showcase their skills and talents.

A team from Radio Pakistan, led by Program Manager Musarat Ali Mangi and senior producer Kalemullah Shaikh, recently visited the Government Boys Primary School in the Nizamani neighborhood. During this visit, they recorded the beloved children's program "Gulan Jehra Barira," bringing the excitement of radio directly to the students.

The recording session was attended by the school's headmaster, Ghulam Sarwar Narejo, along with other teachers, creating an encouraging atmosphere for the children. During the session, students including Kashif Bhambro, Muhammad Hussain, and Ghulam Abbas showcased their diverse talents through Hamd, Naat, and the national anthem.

Two Men Injured In Tando Bago Clash

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Tensions flared in Tando Bago after a minor dispute over fish sales escalated into a violent clash between two local communities.

The incident began when fish vendor Manzoor Mallah was slightly injured during an altercation on the road near the Bago Wah Bridge. What initially seemed to be a simple disagreement quickly spiraled into a broader confrontation.

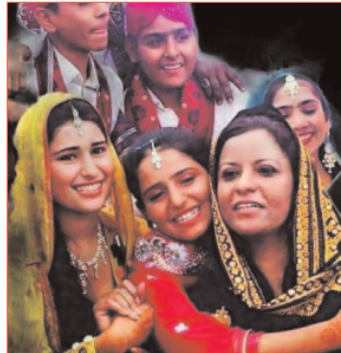
Following the initial incident, members of the Jamali community retaliated against the Mallah community.

In the ensuing fight, two individuals from the Jamali side, Ghulam Haider Jamali and an elderly member of their community, sustained serious injuries and required immediate medical attention. They were rushed to the Tando Bago Taluka Hospital for treatment.

In the aftermath of the violence, a significant group from the Mallah community, led by prominent figures Noor Muhammad Mallah,

Advocate Sabiha Solangi Lauds Services Of MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani

By Naz Solangi



KUMB: Advocate Sabiha Solangi, a prominent member of the Pakistan Peoples Party's Ladies Wing, recently commended the outstanding contributions of MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani to public service, particularly in support of women and marginalized communities. Speaking at a gathering, Solangi highlighted how Dr. Nafisa has tirelessly dedicated herself to the welfare of the people during her tenure and even after stepping away from formal political power.

Advocate Solangi outlined several key areas where Dr. Nafisa has made a significant impact. She noted the MNA's role in improving essential services across the region, including health and education, as well as infrastructure related to sewage and other basic amenities. Among her notable initiatives are the establishment of vocational schools aimed at empowering women and young people through skill development, as well as efforts to ensure a clean drinking water supply for local communities.

Additionally, Solangi pointed to the construction of metal roads, which have enhanced connectivity in rural areas, facilitating easier access to markets and healthcare. Dr. Nafisa has also been active in providing financial assistance to widows and or-

phans, showcasing her commitment to uplifting vulnerable segments of society. During the recent floods, Dr. Nafisa Shah demonstrated her dedication by helping those stranded and providing them with much-needed shelter. Solangi emphasized that her proactive approach during such crises highlights her compassion and readiness to serve. Furthermore, Advocate Solangi acknowledged Dr. Nafisa's efforts in repairing the damaged national highway from Rani Pur to Babar, a vital route that connects multiple districts and is crucial for the region's economic development. This initiative has not only improved transportation but has

also significantly contributed to local trade and accessibility. Despite the absence of other politicians in need, Dr. Nafisa has consistently been present to address public issues, earning her the respect and admiration of the community. Advocate Solangi concluded her remarks by asserting that Dr. Nafisa Shah's unwavering commitment and exemplary services deserve widespread recognition and commendation.

As the community continues to benefit from her initiatives, it is clear that Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani remains a pivotal figure in advocating for progress and social justice in the region.

Nawab Noshad Ali Laghari Felicitates PPP Leadership On Party's Historic Victory In NWM

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has celebrated a historic victory in the recent local elections, successfully securing the vacant councilor seat in Ward No-02 of the UC Patt Peeral. PPP leader Nawab Noshad Laghari addressed the media at Nawab House, expressing his satisfaction with the outcome.



Laghari noted that despite previous electoral setbacks in the area, the dedicated efforts of the Nawab family and their supporters played a crucial role in achieving this unopposed success for the PPP candidate. He attributed the victory to a combination of strategic campaigning and community engagement, which resonated with the voters.

In his remarks, Laghari also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Sindh United Party (SUP) candidate, Ghulam Mustafa Machhi, for his decision to withdraw from the race in favor of the PPP candidate.

This act of collaboration demonstrated a spirit of unity and cooperation within the political landscape, aiming for a better governance for the local community.

The PPP's victory is seen as a significant step forward, reinforcing the party's presence in the region and signaling a renewed commitment to addressing the concerns of the constituents. Laghari emphasized that this win reflects the community's trust

Hingorja Premier League To Begin From October 28th

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Excitement is building in Hingorja as the Hingorja Sports Society has officially announced the commencement of the Hingorja Premier League, set to kick off on October 28. This highly anticipated tournament will feature six competitive teams, showcasing local talent and fostering a spirit of sportsmanship within the community.



The announcement was made during a press conference attended by key figures of the Hingorja Sports Society, including Chairman Farman Ali Sehto, Vice Chairman Jameel Ali Bhutto, President Adnan Ameen Mughal, and General Secretary Kashif Sehto. The leaders expressed their enthusiasm for the upcoming league, which promises to deliver thrilling matches over a span of 15 days.

During the press conference, Chairman Sehto emphasized the importance of promoting healthy sporting activities in the region. He highlighted that the Hingorja Sports Society has been dedicated to organizing various sporting events and festivals for the past 12 years, significantly contributing to the local sports culture. The

commitment to fostering talent and encouraging community participation has made the society a cornerstone of sports in Hingorja.

In addition to the league announcement, a meeting of the sports society was held prior to the press conference, where annual elections took place under the supervision of the chairman and vice chairman. The elections resulted in a new leadership team for the year 2024/25. Adnan Ameen Mughal was elected as President, with Abdul Razaq Tunio taking the role of Senior Vice President. Ayaz Sehto was appointed Vice President, while Kashif Sehto will continue in his position as General Secretary. The new leadership team also includes Hassan Ali Mallah as Joint Secretary, Nadeem Arain

as Treasurer, and Mohsin Ali Bhutto as Office Secretary. The Hingorja Premier League is not only a platform for local athletes to showcase their skills but also an opportunity to strengthen community bonds and promote healthy competition. As the league approaches, anticipation continues to grow among players and fans alike, eager to witness the thrilling matches and the vibrant atmosphere that the event is sure to bring.

The Hingorja Sports Society remains committed to enhancing sports in the region, and the upcoming league is a testament to their ongoing efforts. With dedicated leadership and community support, the Hingorja Premier League is poised to be a remarkable celebration of sportsmanship and talent.

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Three Men Killed In Khairpur's Kandhro Community Clash

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A tragic incident unfolded in Khairpur as three members of the Kandhro community were shot dead in a violent attack while attending court proceedings. The victims—identified as Shakeel Kandhro, Khadim Kandhro, and Barkat Kandhro—were ambushed by armed assailants on motorcycles outside the Sessions Court. The gunmen, who were masked and heavily armed, opened fire indiscriminately, leading to immediate fatalities and instilling fear among bystanders.

Eyewitnesses reported that the attack occurred during a tense moment, with many present at the court expressing shock and horror at the sudden eruption of violence. The rapid response from police, however, drew criticism, as no First Information Report (FIR) was filed at the time of reporting.

raising concerns about the handling of the situation. In the wake of this brutal incident, Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, ordered a thorough investigation into the killings and demanded the immediate arrest of the attackers. He also instructed local police to extend support to the bereaved families, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring justice.

In response to the incident, a high-level meeting was convened at the Sessions Court to discuss heightened security measures. Officials considered various strategies, including the potential installation of CCTV cameras to enhance surveillance and prevent such violent outbreaks in the future. SSP Khairpur, Samiullah Soomro, assured the public that efforts were underway to apprehend those responsible for the attack, but details of the investigation remained sparse.

There Will Be No Compromise On Azadari-e-Hussain (AS): SUC

By Didar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: In a powerful statement delivered during a recent media address, Syed Gulam Mehdi Shah Kazmi, the Vice President of the Shia Ulema Council District Sanghar, asserted unequivocally that there will be no compromise on Azadari-e-Hussain (AS). Kazmi emphasized that the observance of mourning for Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is not merely a tradition, it is a timeless symbol of resistance and resilience that will endure through the ages.

Kazmi passionately condemned any attempts to divert the routes of mourning processions or impose bans on Majalis-e-Aza, calling such actions unacceptable. He stated that the community will not be deterred by these challenges and will continue to uphold the principles and values associated with the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS).

In his address, Kazmi vowed to actively promote the message of Hussainiyat, underscoring its critical importance in the face of adversity. He articulated that the gatherings held in honor of Imam Hussain (AS) serve as essential platforms for expressing collective grief and maintaining the spirit of resistance against oppression and injustice.

These gatherings are not just religious observances; they represent a unified stand against tyranny and a commitment to uphold justice. Kazmi reassured the community that they would remain steadfast in their dedication to commemorating the legacy of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). He called upon all members of the community to participate actively in the observances of Azadari, reinforcing the idea that such participation is a crucial aspect of their identity and faith.

The remarks made by Kazmi resonate deeply within the community, reflecting a shared resolve to honor the memory of Imam Hussain (AS) and to continue the struggle against oppression. His address serves as a rallying cry for unity and resilience, reminding all that the spirit of Azadari will not waver, regardless of the obstacles that may arise.

As the community prepares for upcoming observances, the sentiments expressed by Kazmi reinforce the commitment to preserving the values of justice, courage, and sacrifice that Imam Hussain (AS) embodies. The Shia Ulema Council remains dedicated to ensuring that the legacy of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) continues to inspire future generations.

Eight Shaikh Community Homes Gutted In Sujawal Fire

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A sudden fire broke out in Ward No-6 of Sujawal city, igniting from a household stove and swiftly engulfing eight homes in the Shaikh Muhalla. This devastating incident has resulted in the complete loss of property for the affected families, leaving them in a state of shock and despair.

The fire, which spread rapidly, consumed the homes of Ubaidullah Shaikh, Abdul Shaikh, Abdul Wahid Shaikh, Muhammad Umar Shaikh, Abdul Aleem Shaikh, Aziz Shaikh, Muhammad Ismail Shaikh, and Gul Muhammad Shaikh. Among the casualties of this tragedy was the wedding dowry for one bride, which was entirely destroyed in the flames, adding to the heartache of the affected families.

Haji Abdul Sattar Shaikh, a respected leader within the Shaikh community, expressed profound concern over the impact of the fire. He noted that many of the affected families were already impoverished and now find themselves completely destitute. "This fire has left us devastated," he stated, emphasizing the urgent need for assistance.

In light of the tragedy, Haji Abdul Sattar has appealed to district authorities and local philanthropists for immediate support. He urged the community to come together to help these families rebuild their lives and recover from the devastating loss they have suffered. The call for help underscores the solidarity within the community and the pressing need for resources to aid those in distress.

Local authorities have been urged to assess the situation and provide necessary relief efforts, including food, shelter, and financial assistance, to help the affected families regain stability in the wake of this tragic incident. The community remains hopeful that with collective support, they can overcome this hardship and rebuild their lives.

Handiari's Journalists Condemn Registration Of Cases Against Their Colleagues

By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: In a strong show of solidarity, local journalists gathered to protest against the registration of false cases targeting their colleagues. The demonstration, held in Handiari, was marked by impassioned speeches from several prominent figures in the journalism community, including Fida Baloch, Bilawal Shar, Abdul Hafeez, and Sikandar Shar.

The speakers condemned the increasing harassment faced by journalists not only in Khairpur district but throughout Sindh, emphasizing that such tactics are attempts to stifle free press. They highlighted specific instances of intimidation, citing the recent false charges filed against journalists Hussain Bux Kunar and Bhango Bhan as particularly egregious examples of this troubling trend.

"Targeting journalists with baseless accusations is an attack on freedom of expression," declared Fida Baloch, urging the authorities to reconsider their actions. "We are here to report the truth, and these intimidation tactics only serve to undermine the critical role that journalism plays in our society."

The protesters called upon high-ranking officials, including the Inspector General of Sindh, to intervene and drop the unfounded charges against their colleagues. They expressed their concerns that such actions create an atmosphere of fear, making it increasingly difficult for journalists to perform their duties without fear of retribution.

"Without a free press, there is no democracy," warned Abdul Hafeez, reinforcing the urgency of the situation. He urged the government to uphold the rights of journalists and protect them from unwarranted legal actions.

As the rally continued, the participants made it clear that if their demands are not met, they are prepared to escalate their protests. "We will not remain silent in the face of injustice. Our voices will only grow louder until we see real change," added Sikandar Shar, reflecting the determination of the gathered journalists. The protest served as a crucial reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by media professionals in Pakistan, highlighting the need for solidarity and collective action to defend the freedoms that are essential for a healthy democracy.

The local journalists vowed to continue their fight against harassment and intimidation, standing firm in their commitment to uphold the principles of truth and transparency in their reporting.

REGIONAL TIMES
SPORTS

Legendary Boxer Muhammad Ali's Ex-Wife Ventures To Afghanistan, Backed By Taliban, To Build Sports Stadium



A former wife of legendary US boxer Muhammad Ali arrived in the Afghan capital, a Taliban government official said on Friday, to reportedly open a stadium in a country where women are barred from sports.

The head of the Taliban government's sports directorate, Ahmadullah Wasiq, told AFP that Khaliliah Camacho-Ali, who was married to the boxer for a decade from 1967, had arrived in Kabul.

State media cited the directorate as saying she was in the city "to build a sports stadium to be named 'Piroz' (victory in Dari) and a sports association named after Muhammad Ali."

Born Belinda Boyd in 1950 in the United States, Camacho-Ali, like her world champion boxer ex-husband, converted to Islam after they married.

Muhammad Ali himself visited Kabul in 2002, a year after the US forces overthrew the first Taliban government, visiting a girls' school in his role as a United Nations peace ambassador.

Since the Taliban government came to power in Afghanistan in 2021, they have imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law, with women bearing the brunt of restrictions on combat sports as well, saying free fighting such as in Mixed Martial Arts was un-Islamic. Camacho-Ali is a martial artist, as well as an actress and author, according to her website. Ali was born Cassius Clay in the southeastern state of Kentucky and is known as both a sporting great and for his role in fighting for civil rights for African Americans. He died in 2016.—Agency

Mohammad Rizwan Joins Elite Club, Becomes Fifth Pakistani Keeper To Cross 2000 Test Runs



Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has cemented his place in the annals of Test cricket by reaching a coveted milestone during the third and final Test against England in Rawalpindi. In his 57th Test innings, Rizwan became the fifth Pakistan wicketkeeper to cross 2000 runs in Test cricket. Rizwan now joins an elite group of Pakistani wicketkeeper-batters, with Sarfaraz Ahmed holding the top spot at 3031 runs across 95 innings. Here's a look at the record-holding wicketkeepers in Pakistan's Test cricket history: Most Runs by Pakistani Wicketkeeper Batters in Test Cricket:

Sarfaraz Ahmed	3031 runs
Kamran Akmal	2648 runs
Moin Khan	2581 runs
Imtiaz Ahmed	2010 runs
Mohammad Rizwan	2000* runs

As the Test match progresses, England faced a challenging first innings after opting to bat, with their lineup bowled out for 267 runs. Pakistan's spinners dominated, with Sajid Khan claiming six wickets, Noman Ali taking three, and Zahid Mahmood adding one to his tally.—Agency

Badin Hosts Meeting On MAMTA Social Security Program

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a significant step towards enhancing social welfare in the region, the fourth meeting of the District Coordination Committee for the Sindh Social Protection Authority was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti. The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Two, Rajesh Dalpat, who provided an overview of the "MAMTA" social security program, which has been making strides across 15 districts in Sindh.

Dalpat highlighted that the MAMTA program is designed with the critical objective of safeguarding maternal health, addressing the nutritional needs of newborns, and providing financial support to economically disadvantaged women. Since its launch on January 24, 2024, in Badin, the program has targeted an impressive 38,777 eligible mothers in the district.

As part of his report, Dalpat noted that the initiative has seen significant engagement, with 25,566 pregnant women having registered for assistance. Out of these, 21,466 women are currently benefiting from the program. He shared that over 11,000 women are actively receiving financial aid, while approximately 10,300 women have yet to collect their funds.

To qualify for the MAMTA program, mothers must meet specific criteria: they should be at least 18 years old, currently pregnant, and possess a NADRA-issued identification card. The program encourages eligible mothers to register at the nearest People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) hospital and to keep their issued tokens safe for future reference. Dalpat emphasized the importance of regular medical check-ups, which are advised to ensure that participants fully benefit from the program's offerings.

For those seeking more information or assistance regarding the MAMTA program, Dalpat reminded attendees of the available resources, including the helpline at 1054 and the Sindh Social Protection Authority (SSPA) website.

The meeting was attended by various district officials, including health and education officers, who discussed the effective implementation of the program and strategized on how to further enhance outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible mothers are aware of and able to access the support provided by MAMTA.

This collaborative effort signifies a proactive approach to improving maternal and child health in Badin, showcasing the government's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations and fostering a healthier future for the community.

Pakistan vs. England: Sajid And Noman Strike Early, England In Trouble At 24/3



RAWALPINDI: England suffered from three early blows against Pakistan as the hosts concluded their first innings on 344 runs on the second day of the third and final Test of the series on Friday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

As the English began their second innings, they faced two early blows as openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley were dismissed by Sajid Khan and Noman Ali respectively.

Pakistan continued their domination as Noman dismissed the dynamic Ollie Pope taking England to 20/3 in eight overs of the innings.

The match had to be suspended due to light concerns after England had just batted for nine overs and ended the day on 24/3. The side trails by 53 runs.

Earlier, Saud Shakeel crafted a gritty century to haul Pakistan back into the contest as the hosts bundled out on 344 runs.

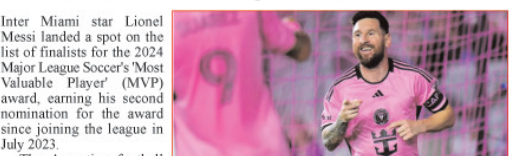
Pakistan were reeling 46-3 on Thursday in their first innings before Saud went on to forge three 50-plus partnerships to help them reach 267-8 at tea.

His 88-run stand with an equally defiant Noman Ali (45) for the eighth wicket helped Pakistan regain much of the ground they had lost in the match.

Saud hit only four fours in his painstaking knock that stood out for its discipline. Sajid Khan was on one at the other end after as Pakistan staged a remarkable turnaround.

England captain Ben Stokes began the day with spin from both ends and Saud got a life on 26 when he edged Shaob Bashir low into the shin of wicketkeeper Jamie Smith. Off-spinner Bashir would not be denied, however, and removed Pakistan captain Shan Masood for 26, caught in the second slip. Rehan Ahmed (3-54) was brought in somewhat late but did not take long to make his mark, trapping Mohammad Rizwan low for 25. Rizwan burned a review on his way back to the pavilion trying to get the decision reversed.—Agency

Lionel Messi Earns Coveted Spot As Finalist for Prestigious MLS Award



Inter Miami star Lionel Messi landed a spot on the list of finalists for the 2024 Major League Soccer's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) award, earning his second nomination for the award since joining the league in July 2023.

The Argentine football legend joined his Inter Miami teammate Luis Suárez on the list of finalists for the award which also included Columbus Crew's Cucho Hernandez, Portland Timbers' Eyan Der and DC United's Christian Benteke, ESPN reported.

Each player met the new qualifying regulations that require a minimum of 1,000 minutes played in the regular season campaign.

The 36-year-old former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) star failed to win the award last season but he is being considered the leading candidate for the award this year, after contributing 20 goals and 16 assists in just 19 games.

Despite concerns over his lack of participation throughout the 34-match campaign, playing only 55% of games, teammate Jordi Alba has insisted that Messi must win MVP. "Regarding Leo, I repeat myself, every time you ask me, I think he deserves all the awards they can give him. I think he is the best player in the world, with a lot of intensity compared to the rest and until he retires," he said on Friday. "I'm sure he'll win the MVP and if he doesn't win it, well, it's no longer anyone's decision, it's the people who vote but hey, for me he's the best."—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
ENTERTAINMENT

Liam Neeson And Busty Pamela Anderson's 'Dynamic' Bond Finally Revealed



The Naked Gun co-stars Liam Neeson and Pamela Anderson recently got candid and spoke highly of each other.

According to People magazine, Anderson and Pamela developed a mutual understanding while filming the new version of the popular Leslie Nielsen's comedy The Naked Gun earlier this year.

"With Pamela, first off, I'm madly in love with her. She's just terrific to work with."

"I can't compliment her enough. I'll be honest with you. No huge ego. She just comes in and do the work. She's funny and so easy to work with. She's going to be terrific in the film," the 72-year-old actor added, singing praises of her.

In addition, the Oscar-nominated actor praised Anderson's work but was not so "confident" about his own "comedy skills" in the lead role. Taking into account his acting, he quipped, "Whether I can carry it or not, I honestly don't know," to which Anderson disagreed and added, "It was hard to keep a straight face in scenes together." Moving forward, the Baywatch actress called Neeson a "humble and 'the perfect gentleman'" and noted that "he brings out the best in you... with respect, kindness and depth of experience. It was an absolute honor to work with him." The 57-year-old star also revealed that the Wildcat actor "sincerely looked after me — wrapped his coat around me when I was cold." While to reciprocate his respect and love, she made him bread and cookies and let them for him in his dressing room. For those unversed, Anderson stars as a "femme fatale" opposite Neeson, who plays the protagonist role of Detective Sergeant Franklin "Frank" Drebin Jr., "presumably" the son of Nielsen's character Frank Drebin in the upcoming film.

CENTRAL PUNJAB

Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto Unveils New Water Supply Scheme In Ibrahim Hyderi

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Chairman of Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporation, Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, inaugurated a new water supply scheme in the Chaukandi area of Marri Goth Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, assuring the community that fulfilling election promises is a priority, stating that providing clean water is a duty, not a favor. He emphasized that under the guidance of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, municipal services are being delivered impartially to the public. He asserted that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is the only party dedicated to serving the people, claiming that no other party has undertaken developmental work in the area of Ibrahim Hyderi, Karachi. He announced plans for future projects, including the transformation of urban areas into model cities and dignified villages. The inauguration event was attended by PPP leaders, including Hashim Lashari, Naem Abbasi, Haji Manzoor Arifani, and other local dignitaries.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Mirpurkhas Is Moving Towards Improvement After Getting Corporation Status: Commissioner Faisal Uqaili

By Naran Das

MIRPURKHAS: Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqaili has expressed optimism about the progress of Mirpurkhas following its recent designation as a corporation. During a collaborative meeting with Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan, and the chairpersons of various town and union councils, Uqaili emphasized the critical need for joint efforts to tackle the city's ongoing challenges.



asserting that the district administration and local bodies are united in their mission to address pressing issues and enhance the overall beauty of Mirpurkhas. He remarked on the vital role that elected representatives play in this transformative process, stating, "We must work collectively to elevate Mirpurkhas to the standards of other cities in the region. Our efforts must be cohesive to see real change."

A significant point raised during the meeting was the urgent need to address illegal encroachments throughout the city. The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that such activities must cease immediately, aligning with directives issued by the Sindh High Court. "Negligence in this matter will not be tolerated," he warned, emphasizing the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards encroachments that undermine urban development and public safety.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to collaborate closely, share resources, and engage the community in beautification initiatives. They plan to organize campaigns aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean and orderly environment. By fostering community involvement and encouraging civic responsibility, the leadership aims to create a lasting positive impact on Mirpurkhas.

As Mirpurkhas embarks on this new chapter following its corporation status, the collective vision of its leaders and residents is set to redefine the city's landscape and quality of life for its citizens.

ADC-I Javed Ahmed Dahri Chairs Meeting To Set New Rate For Bricks In Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: In a significant step to standardize the brick pricing in the region, a meeting was convened at the Deputy Commissioner's office, presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, Javed Ahmed Dahri. This important gathering aimed to establish a new official rate for bricks, ensuring fairness and transparency in pricing across Umerkot district.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali, Assistant Commissioner Samaro and Pithoro Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan, and the District Labor Officer. Also present were representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, including Deputy Director Ali Muhammad and Assistant Director Vikram Kumar, alongside officials from the Bureau of Supply and Price Control. Brick kiln owners from across Umerkot district participated actively, providing insights into the current market dynamics.

During the session, ADC Dahri emphasized the need for a collaborative approach in determining the brick prices. He gathered comprehensive information regarding the current prices and production costs from all assistant commissioners and brick kiln owners. This data collection aimed to ensure that the new rate reflects the realities of production expenses while remaining fair to consumers.

The discussions highlighted various factors affecting the cost of bricks, including raw material prices, labor costs, and environmental considerations. Participants voiced their concerns regarding fluctuations in prices due to market competition and external economic factors. The ADC encouraged brick kiln owners to maintain transparency in their operations and pricing, reinforcing the importance of ethical business practices in the construction industry.

After thorough deliberation, the meeting reached a consensus on the need to set a new official rate for bricks, which would be applicable throughout Umerkot district. This new rate is expected to stabilize the local market and provide clarity to both buyers and sellers, ultimately benefiting the community. In his closing remarks, ADC Dahri thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring fair pricing and protecting the interests of both consumers and producers. He urged all stakeholders to work together in implementing the new rates and to remain responsive to any future adjustments that may be necessary based on changing market conditions.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with an agreement to reconvene in the near future to monitor the impact of the new pricing structure and address any emerging issues. This proactive approach signifies a commitment to fostering a balanced and equitable business environment in Umerkot district, benefiting the local economy and ensuring the sustainability of the brick production industry.

As the new rate comes into effect, stakeholders are optimistic about the potential for improved market conditions and enhanced cooperation among all parties involved in the brick production and supply chain.

Two Boys Drown In Rice Canal Near Mehar

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A heart-wrenching tragedy unfolded near the village of Mehar Gogani when two young boys drowned in the rice canal while playing. The incident occurred on a warm afternoon, highlighting the dangers that waterways pose to children in the area. The victim, 7-year-old Saeed Gogani, tragically lost his life after slipping into the canal while playing with a friend. Local reports indicate that the other boy, whose name has not been disclosed, was fortunately rescued by nearby villagers who heard their cries for help. Quick action from the community likely saved the second child, but the loss of Saeed has left an indelible mark on the hearts of many.

As the news of the tragedy spread, a profound sense of grief enveloped the village. When the body of Saeed Gogani was brought home, family members and neighbors gathered to offer their condolences, their sorrow palpable in the air. The small community has come together to mourn, sharing stories and memories of the young boy, who was known for his playful spirit and infectious laughter. The loss has prompted discussions among villagers about the need for greater safety measures around the canal. Parents have expressed concerns about the lack of barriers or warning signs that might prevent such tragic accidents in the future. Community leaders are being urged to take action to ensure the safety of children in the area, emphasizing the importance of monitoring play activities near dangerous waterways.

In a statement, a local resident remarked, "This tragedy serves as a stark reminder of how quickly joy can turn to sorrow. We must do our best to protect our children and ensure that such accidents do not happen again." As the community grapples with this devastating loss, thoughts and prayers are being extended to Saeed's family, who now face the unimaginable pain of losing a child. The incident underscores the vulnerability of young lives and the critical need for communal vigilance to safeguard children from preventable tragedies. The family has received an outpouring of support from neighbors and friends, with many offering to assist in any way they can during this difficult time. As they come to terms with their grief, the community remains united in its commitment to honor Saeed's memory by advocating for safer environments for all children.

Legal Aid Society Hosts 3-Day Community Paralegal Training In Dadu Under PPRF Project

By Javed Laghari



DADU: The Legal Aid Society (LAS) successfully organized a comprehensive three-day Community Paralegal Training from October 22 to October 24, 2024, at the Benazir Inn Hotel in Dadu. This initiative was part of the PPRF (Protecting & Promoting Religious Freedom) project, aimed at empowering community paralegals to better serve their local communities.

The training sessions were designed to enhance the participants' understanding of fundamental and individual rights, as well as essential skills such as financial literacy, digital literacy, and effective communication. These competencies are vital for equipping paralegals to assist vulnerable populations in navigating legal challenges and advocating for their rights.

Facilitators for the training included a dedicated team of experts: Mr. Muhammad Faisal Memon, who brought his extensive experience in legal education; Delivery Associate Aftab Alam; Field Officer Qamar Abbas from Dadu; and Community Lawyer Advocate Muhammad Tasleem Qureshi. Together, they provided participants with a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, enabling them to address various legal issues faced by their communities.

The training also emphasized the importance of teamwork and collaboration among community members.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions, role-playing scenarios, and case studies that highlighted real-life legal challenges. This hands-on approach allowed them to apply what they learned in a practical context, reinforcing their ability to support and empower those in need. As the closing ceremony, held on the final day of the training, certificates were awarded to all participants. This acknowledgment not only celebrated their dedication to community service but also recognized their enhanced legal knowledge and skills. The event concluded with an inspiring address from the LAS representatives, who encouraged the newly trained paralegals to implement their knowledge in their communities and to remain committed to promoting justice and equality.

The LAS remains committed to ongoing training and capacity-building efforts, ensuring that community paralegals are well-equipped to meet the challenges they face in their important roles.

As the participants left the training with newfound skills and confidence, they expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn and grow. Many pledged to share their knowledge with others in their communities, amplifying the impact of the training beyond the immediate group. This initiative underscores the importance of grassroots legal education and support, reinforcing the idea that empowered individuals can drive meaningful change within their communities. The Legal Aid Society looks forward to continuing its work in Dadu and beyond, fostering a culture of legal awareness and social justice.

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SALU Hosts Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, Climate Justice, And Peace Building

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) recently concluded a two-day conference titled "Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, Climate Justice & Peace Building." The event was organized by the Youth Assembly Members and the Students Societies Center at SALU, in collaboration with USAID and the Center for Peace & Development Initiative (CPDI).



The conference provided a platform for scholars, activists, and students to engage in critical discussions regarding the pressing issues of climate change and its impacts on communities, as well as strategies for disaster risk reduction and peace building. In his closing address, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousef Khushk, Vice Chancellor of SALU, commended the efforts of Dr. Ali Raza Lashari, the Incharge of the Students Societies Center, along with the Youth Assembly volunteers, for their hard work and dedication in organizing the event.

Dr. Khushk expressed gratitude to Haseeb Iqbal, the focal person of the Hum Ahang project, as well as to USAID and CPDI for their support. He underscored the significant role of student societies in fostering peace building and disaster risk reduction, linking the conference's outcomes with the university's broader mission of social responsibility and community engagement.

During the conference, Dr. Taj Muhammad Lashari presented key recommendations derived from the discussions. Among the highlights was a strong call for organizing awareness campaigns aimed at educating communities about the effects of climate change. Participants proposed a nationwide plantation drive to promote reforestation efforts, which would contribute to a greener Pakistan and combat environmental degradation. Additionally, attendees advocated for a ban on plastic bags, recognizing the detrimental effects they have on the environment and public health. They also urged educational and governmental institutions to establish climate donation funds to support local initiatives that address climate challenges.

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Ali Raza Lashari expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all participants, organizers, and supporting partners. He emphasized the importance of continuing collaborative efforts to combat climate change and foster sustainable development practices within communities. The conference not only facilitated valuable dialogue but also set the groundwork for actionable solutions that can be implemented in partnership with government agencies, international NGOs, and civil society organizations. As the participants left, there was a palpable sense of commitment to the environment and public health. They also urged educational and governmental institutions to establish climate donation funds to support local initiatives that address climate challenges.

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Anti-Encroachment Campaign Launched In Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: In a decisive move to reclaim public spaces and ensure compliance with legal standards, municipal officials in Dadu have launched an anti-encroachment campaign. This initiative comes in response to directives from the Sindh High Court and under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mukhtar Ali Abro. The campaign aims to address the growing issue of illegal encroachments that have disrupted the urban landscape and posed challenges to city management.

To spearhead this effort, Pir Danish Ali, the Chairman of the Municipal Committee, has established a dedicated task force focused on combating illegal encroachments throughout the city. Iftikhar Abro has been appointed as the in-charge of this task force, which comprises a robust team of 40 personnel committed to conducting daily operations aimed at identifying and removing encroachments.

Since the inception of the campaign, the task force, under the leadership of Iftikhar Abro and in collaboration with Anti-Encroachment Officer Ashiq Jalbani, has made significant strides. They have successfully cleared several illegal structures from key areas, including New Chowk Station Road and the vicinity of the DHO Hospital. These locations were previously plagued by unauthorized constructions that not only obstructed traffic but also compromised public safety and access to essential services.

Iftikhar Abro expressed his firm commitment to the campaign, stating that under the orders of the Municipal Committee Chairman, the task force is resolute in its mission to eliminate encroachments and illegal constructions within the city. He emphasized that such activities would not be tolerated and reiterated the importance of maintaining the integrity of public spaces. Regular operations will be conducted to ensure compliance, and the task force is prepared to take necessary action against violators.

The encroachments. Many have expressed optimism that this campaign will restore order and improve the overall urban environment in Dadu. The municipal authorities have also pledged to raise public awareness about the legal implications of encroachments and the importance of adhering to zoning regulations. As the campaign unfolds, officials are hopeful that it will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the city but also contribute to better urban planning and development. The Dadu municipal officials are determined to set a precedent for effective governance and community cooperation in maintaining public spaces.

The ongoing anti-encroachment operations reflect a broader commitment to sustainable urban management and the rule of law. Municipal authorities encourage citizens to report any instances of encroachment, reinforcing the idea that community involvement is crucial in this endeavor. As the task force continues its work, the people of Dadu remain hopeful for a cleaner, safer, and more organized city.

Nasirabad woman commits suicide

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A woman named Seema W/o Ayaz Ali Chandio committed suicide by consuming poison over a domestic matter in Nasirabad. The woman was rushed to the CMC Hospital in Larkana, where the doctors confirmed her death. The body of the deceased was handed over to her heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities.

DC Tando Allahyar Saleemullah Odho Reviews Arrangements For Anti-Polio Campaign

By Afaq Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: In a proactive move to combat polio, Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho has called upon health department officials to mobilize all available resources for the upcoming anti-polio campaign, set to commence on October 28, 2024. During his recent visit to the Civil Hospital Tando Allahyar, he stressed the importance that no child under the age of five in the district should miss out on receiving the critical polio vaccine.

Odho's visit underscored the significance of the campaign, as polio remains a serious public health concern. He remarked, "We must ensure that every child is vaccinated and protected from this debilitating disease. It is our collective responsibility to safeguard our future generations."

Following his visit, a vibrant awareness rally was held, led by the Deputy Commissioner himself, which traveled from the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road. The rally was attended by health officials, community leaders, and enthusiastic volunteers who distributed informational pamphlets, engaging the public in discussions about the importance of the polio vaccine. Banners and posters adorned the route, emphasizing the campaign's message and encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated.

Later, in a dedicated meeting at his office, Deputy Commissioner Odho reviewed the preparations for the anti-polio campaign in detail. He convened health department officials and other stakeholders to assess logistical arrangements, including the deployment of vaccination teams and the distribution of vaccines. The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to ensure that every corner of the district is covered, particularly focusing on areas that are typically hard to reach.

"Collaboration and coordination are essential for the success of this campaign," he emphasized, highlighting the importance of teamwork and collaboration among community members.

As the campaign launch date approaches, the district administration is committed to monitoring the progress of vaccination efforts closely and addressing any challenges that may arise. The goal is not only to vaccinate but also to educate parents about the significance of immunization in preventing polio and ensuring a healthier future for their children.

With the support of the community and dedicated health officials, Tando Allahyar aims to achieve a significant milestone in its fight against polio, ensuring that every child is protected and empowered to grow up healthy and strong.

TLP Protests In Solidarity With Oppressed Palestinians

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) district chapter organized a significant protest outside the press club to express solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian Muslims and to condemn the ongoing atrocities committed by Israeli forces. The demonstration drew a large crowd, reflecting the community's deep concern for the plight of the Palestinian people. During the protest, District President Ghulam Rabbani addressed the attendees, emphasizing the urgent need for action against the violent acts perpetrated by Israeli President Netanyahu in mandating justice for Palestinians and an end to Israeli aggression. Chants of solidarity echoed throughout the demonstration, showcasing the community's unwavering commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause.

In their speeches, TLP leaders addressed the broader implications of the ongoing conflict, urging citizens to stay informed and engaged. They called for a collective effort to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Palestine and to pressure the Pakistani government to take a proactive role in international forums. As the protest concluded, the TLP leaders reaffirmed their commitment to standing with the Palestinian people, promising to continue advocating for their rights until justice is achieved. The event served as a powerful reminder of the solidarity that exists within the community regarding global issues affecting Muslims, showcasing the collective voice calling for justice and support for those in need.

The protesters carried placards and banners emblazoned with slogans demanding justice for Palestinians and an end to Israeli aggression. Chants of solidarity echoed throughout the demonstration, showcasing the community's unwavering commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause.

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METRO KARACHI



Sindh Govt Rolls Out Bold Public Welfare, Energy, and Transport Initiatives

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced an end to political turmoil, with the provincial government focused on public welfare under the direction of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari. Recently, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah inaugurated six new projects in Karachi, underscoring the Pakistan People's Party's commitment to development across all sectors. Highlighting progress in renewable energy, Minister Memon announced a 2,320 MW solar project at Dow Medical Campus and full solarization of Karachi Central Jail, with similar initiatives underway in schools and health centers across Sindh. He further shared that 200,000 families are set to receive solar systems to reduce electricity costs. In the transport sector, double-decker buses and the



Yellow Line BRT are under rapid development, with plans for eco-friendly EV buses, the Pink Bus Service, and EV taxis for men and women. The Excise Department has also introduced on-line vehicle registration. On the constitutional front, Memon highlighted the recent passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, achieved with broad parliamentary consensus. He emphasized PPP's dedication to Pakistan, noting its history of sacrifices for the nation and respect for the judiciary despite challenges. Minister Memon affirmed efforts to improve the judiciary, maintain law and order, and address criminal activity, pointing to a declining crime rate as proof of progress. He assured that the Red Line BRT project remains a top priority and will be completed promptly, with collaborative efforts for democratic consensus at the forefront.—RT

Murad Congratulates Acting Governor Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah In Power-Packed Visit To Governor House



KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, visited the Governor House to congratulate Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah on his appointment as Acting Governor of Sindh. He was accompanied by several Sindh Cabinet ministers and Provincial Assembly members, including Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, Industries Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, and Environment Minister Dost Muhammad Rahimoon. The meeting covered discussions on the province's political climate and law and order issues. Acting Governor Awaiz Qadir Shah hosted a luncheon in honor of the Chief Minister and Sindh Cabinet members, commending the provincial government's public welfare efforts.—RT

Victory For Pakistan! Jamal Said Crowned As 2024 Backyard Ultra-World Team Champion



KARACHI: Jamal Said has clinched the title of Backyard Ultra-World Team Champion of Pakistan by completing an astounding 39 loops in the 2024 championship, which ran concurrently across 63 countries and six continents. Organized locally by the Margalla Trail Runners in Islamabad, this grueling event saw 13 ultramarathoners from across Pakistan showcase remarkable endurance and skill on the trails of Margalla Hills. The Backyard Ultra format challenges runners to complete a 6.706-kilometer lap every hour until only one runner remains; all others receive a "Did Not Finish" status. Jamal covered 241.42 kilometers in 39 hours, securing victory as his closest competitor fell short on the final lap. Notably, Umaira Sheeraz broke records with 25 laps, surpassing the previous national record set at 24 laps. An Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins sponsored and supported Jamal, even running alongside the participants. World Athlon also backed Jamal's team, ensuring essential support at the Margalla Hills Camp. This win marks Jamal's third consecutive national title in this demanding event.—RT

TEXPO 2024 Ends With A Bang! Game-Changing Deals And Global Partnerships Sealed

KARACHI: The 5th International Textile & Leather Exhibition (TEXPO 2024) wrapped up on October 25 at Karachi Expo Centre, showcasing Pakistan's textile sector to a global audience. Organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the event attracted 527 international buyers from 60 countries and featured 272 exhibitors, with buyers from non-traditional markets adding diversity to the textile trade base. A key highlight was the 1,969 B2B meetings, facilitating strategic connections between exhibitors and international buyers, resulting in deals exceeding USD 910 million and ten significant MoUs. TDAP hosted



seminars focused on sustainable and circular innovations in textiles, with prominent speakers discussing trends like green manufacturing and SME transformation. The final day included industrial visits, giving foreign delegates a firsthand view of Pakistan's manufacturing capabilities and quality standards. Top global brands also participated, underscoring Pakistan's potential as a leading hub for textile and leather industries.—RT

Arts Council Of Pakistan Karachi Dazzles With "Flavors Of The UAE" Event At World Culture Festival



KARACHI: The Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi marked the 29th day of its ongoing "World Culture Festival" with an engaging event titled "Flavors Of The UAE" at the Jaum Elia Lawn. The event celebrated the rich culture and culinary traditions of the United Arab Emirates, attended by UAE Consul General Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Alreimeithi, Sindh's Minister for Culture and Tourism Syed Zulqifur Ali Shah, and Arts Council President Muhammad Ahmed Shah. The evening featured an Arabic cultural tent offering a variety of traditional dishes, including kahwa, date tea, and luqaimat, alongside a captivating display of a rare white falcon and a traditional sword dance, enhancing the festive atmosphere with lively Arabic music. In his remarks, Consul General Alreimeithi expressed gratitude for the opportunity to showcase Emirati culture in Karachi and announced plans for a festival in the UAE to promote Sindhi culture, in collaboration with the Arts Council and the Sindh Culture Department. President Ahmed Shah praised the UAE Consulate's efforts, emphasizing the strong ties between Pakistan and the UAE and the importance of such cultural exchanges. Minister Shah added that the festival fosters understanding and friendship, creating a positive global image for Sindh amid challenges.—RT

KATI Celebrates New Leadership With Lavish Ceremony, Honored For Major Economic Gains



KARACHI: Sindh's Minister for Industry and Trade, Jam Ikram Dharejo, lauded the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) as a vital institution supporting national economic growth. Speaking at a dinner celebrating the election of Sheikh Umar Rehan, Danish Aman, Afif Rashid, and Mehwish Akhtar to key positions within KATI, he commended KATI's role in fostering industrial development. The event drew notable attendees, including KATI President Junaid Naqi, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya, senior officials, and prominent business figures. Minister Dharejo reaffirmed the Sindh government's commitment to industrial growth and economic stability, emphasizing its collaborative ties with KATI. President Junaid Naqi recognized the new leadership's achievements, crediting the late SM Munir for mentoring KATI's leaders. Zubair Chhaya praised the new leaders as assets to KATI, contributing both to economic growth and social welfare, and emphasized the importance of nurturing future business leaders for sustained progress.—RT

Murad Pushes For Equality At Karachi Down Syndrome Program's Star-Studded 10th Anniversary

By Rahib Gaho
KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized that Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition, not a disease, urging a shift from misconceptions to recognizing the potential of individuals with Down syndrome. Speaking at the Karachi Down Syndrome Program (KDSP) Conference 2024, titled "Stepping Towards an Inclusive Tomorrow," Shah highlighted the importance of early intervention and support for enabling independent, fulfilling lives. Since the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, the Sindh government has funded assistive devices, vocational training, and skills development, and partnerships with awareness programs. This year, Rs 2 billion was allocated to partner organizations, with an additional Rs 25 million for KDSP. Shah also revealed plans for an "Inclusive City" in Korangi, supported by a Rs 5 billion budget. KDSP, reaching over 2,300 families, has made strides in inclusive education, from 300 units, agricultural consumers, and EVCS customers of all power distribution companies except K-Electric.



NEPRA held a public hearing on September 26 and formally notified this adjustment on October 24, allowing an additional refund of Re0.8555 per unit under the FCA mechanism.—RT/Agency

CS Sindh Promises Unwavering Support For Karachi Press Club Members Amid Growing Tensions



By Rahib Gaho
KARACHI: A Karachi Press Club delegation, led by President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shaob Ahmed, met with Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah to discuss key issues, including plot allotment for new club members, lease renewals, KPC solarization, and ongoing development projects. The meeting, attended by officials from the Information Department, KDA, and MDA, provided a platform for the Press Club to outline member concerns. Chief Secretary Shah assured his full cooperation, pledging priority action on land allocation and developmental needs. Recognizing the Karachi Press Club as a historic institution, he directed relevant departments to expedite solutions. President Sarbazi expressed gratitude for the government's commitment, hoping the support would lead to meaningful improvements for Press Club members.

PPP Plans Massive Celebration For 26th Amendment Passage On Oct 28 At Mazar-e-Quaid



KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Karachi Division will hold a celebration on the evening of October 28, 2024, outside the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment. This decision was made during a meeting led by Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, who emphasized the positive response to the amendment and the pivotal role of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In addition to the celebration, the PPP Karachi Division will participate in the All Parties Hurriyat Conference rally on October 27, expressing solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir. Ghani announced that a large gathering would take place at the VIP Gate of Mazar-e-Quaid at 6 PM, with attendees including PPP office-bearers, workers, and supporters from across the city. The meeting also addressed upcoming local government by-elections in Karachi, with plans to field candidates for all vacant seats under the election symbol "Arrow." Ghani instructed party members to ramp up campaign efforts, particularly in union committees where the by-elections will occur, highlighting the active involvement of the women's wing in the election campaign. PPP Sindh General Secretary Waqar Mehdi commended party workers for their significant turnout at a recent public meeting in Hyderabad and acknowledged their contributions to strengthening the party and assisting citizens.—RT

Power Shock! K-Electric Consumers Hit With Rs3.03 Tariff Hike Under FCA

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has announced an increase of Rs3.03 per unit in electricity tariffs for K-Electric consumers, effective under the Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) mechanism for July 2024. This revised tariff will take effect on electricity bills issued in December 2024. The adjustment will apply across most consumer categories, with exceptions for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), lifeline, and prepaid metering consumers. A recent NEPRA notification further revealed that the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has recommended a reduction of 57 paise per unit for this period. The power regulator clarified that the decrease would apply to all consumer categories, except lifeline, domestic users consuming up to 300 units, agricultural consumers, and EVCS customers of all power distribution companies except K-Electric. NEPRA held a public hearing on September 26 and formally notified this adjustment on October 24, allowing an additional refund of Re0.8555 per unit under the FCA mechanism.—RT/Agency



NEPRA held a public hearing on September 26 and formally notified this adjustment on October 24, allowing an additional refund of Re0.8555 per unit under the FCA mechanism.—RT/Agency

Murad Demands Immediate Release Of Rs22 Billion In Withheld Federal Taxes

By Rahib Gaho
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected over Rs. 22 billion from approximately 500 industrial units in Sindh between 2014 and 2021, without transferring the funds to the provincial government. In a meeting with provincial ministers and officials, Shah emphasized plans to address these pending transfers with the federal government, including the recovery of the Sindh Workers Welfare Fund (SWWF) and the Sindh Workers Participation Fund (SWPPF). The FBR has also collected funds from major trans-provincial entities like OGDCL, PPL, and Engro, which remain unlocated to Sindh since 2016. The Chief Minister highlighted the province's authority, post-18th Amendment, to collect SWWF and SWPPF from industrial establishments. Currently, Rs. 25.36 billion collected from trans-provincial firms is under review by the Sindh High Court. The meeting discussed the Sindh Workers Welfare Board's ongoing initiatives, including free education at Workers Model Schools, financial support for workers' children, and housing projects. The CM intends to request the prime minister's intervention to expedite provincial entitlement transfers and devolution of the Workers Welfare Fund and Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) assets.

PPP Senator Sarmad Ali Sounds Off On Dangerous Fake News Culture And AI's Threat To Critical Thinking



KARACHI: Senator Sarmad Ali of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) criticized the pervasive fake news culture in Pakistan, asserting that 99% of false information is presented as truth. He expressed concerns about the impact of social media on political dignity, noting that this trend is increasingly embraced by political parties. Speaking as the chief guest at the final day of a workshop organized by the Women Media Center, Sarmad Ali reflected on the legacy of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who, he said, upheld his integrity even in the face of death. He also argued that AI has diminished critical thinking skills, as people increasingly rely on search engines like Google instead of reading books. The two-day workshop, attended by women journalists and media students in Karachi, concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants.—RT

Try not to become a man of success
but rather try to become a man
of value.

—Albert Einstein

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 2024

Finance Minister Aurangzeb Pushes For Pakistan's First Panda Bond In Explosive Talks With IFIs

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb engaged with leaders from many international finance institutions (IFIs) in Washington, doubling down on Pakistan's commitment to entering global capital markets by issuing its first Panda Bond.

The discussions were held on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings. Aurangzeb is leading a Pakistan delegation to the event underway in the US capital from October 21 to 26.

Other delegates accompanying him include Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary of Economic Affairs Dr Kazim Niaz, and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad.

In his meeting with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, the finance minister acknowledged the bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its



Finance Minister Aurangzeb (left) with World Bank and IMF officials during the meeting in Washington.

financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education, and health. He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih to Pakistan for business-to-business engagements with the private sector.

The minister lauded the IDB's investment in Mohmand dam along with other members of the Arab Cooperation Group which, he said, "could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in the future".

Separately, the finance minister met with the representa-

tives of JP Morgan Bank and provided an overview of the improvement in Pakistan's economic outlook on the back of the recently concluded SBA.

Aurangzeb underlined the criticality of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to lending permanence to macro-economic stability and executing the structural reforms. He also highlighted important reforms in the areas of taxation, privatisation, and overhauling of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

He expressed the resolve to tap into International Capital Markets (ICM) through

the issuance of the inaugural Panda Bond. In the meeting with World Bank Managing Director of Operations Ms Anna Bjerde, the finance minister discussed Pakistan's development priorities supported by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF).

He also briefed the MD about the Joint Domestic Resource Mobilisation Initiative (JDRMI) being launched with the support of the World Bank and IMF.

"We welcome the decision of the Board not to levy any commitment fee for four years for Program-for-Results Financing (PforR) and Investment Project Financing (IPF) instruments," he said.

Aurangzeb appreciated that the bank was considering a grant facility for project preparation and noted with satisfaction that IDA replenishment was proceeding satisfactorily.

While appreciating the recent improvements in the disbursements, the forum

agreed that efforts would continue to sustain the continued improvements.

Moreover, the Pakistani dignitary requested to organise capacity-building workshops for implementing agencies as well, in the quest to ensure better project preparation that will lead to improved implementation.

In a meeting with the leadership of Mashreq Bank, the minister expressed satisfaction that the bank was expanding its operations in Pakistan and would launch a new office soon. He hoped that approval of its digital banking license would be processed soon. Meanwhile, the finance minister held a meeting with Ms. Anneliese Dodds, Minister of State for Development, Women and Equalities of the United Kingdom. He appreciated the long-lasting partnership between the two countries in the development sector and welcomed the contribution of \$120 million to IFC's Climate Investment Funds for Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Chinese Envoy Demands Pakistan Take Action, Calls For Aggressive Crackdown On Terrorism

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan on Friday termed the recent visit of the Chinese prime minister a "complete success" but urged Pakistan to take practical and concrete steps to crack down on terrorist groups targeting Chinese nationals in the country.

"Top priority should be the security of Chinese personnel because they come to Pakistan to participate in the country's development," Jiang Zaidong told a select group of journalists at a rare press conference at the Chinese Embassy.

"They (Chinese) are innocent and they don't deserve this kind of sacrifice and their families do not deserve this kind of tragedy," the Chinese envoy added.

The Ambassador said that during the recent visit of the Chinese PM, the Pakistani leadership made commitments that the government would crackdown on terrorism and effectively safeguard the security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects.

Just days before the visit of the Chinese PM, two Chinese engineers were killed in a terrorist attack outside the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. The Ambassador



Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong during his visit to Pakistan.

noted that this was the second terrorist attack this year on Chinese nationals, adding that it is not acceptable.

"We hope the Pakistani side translates statements into concrete actions," the Chinese envoy stressed. He also stressed that those who were behind these incidents must be apprehended and brought to justice as soon as possible.

The envoy further said his country was cooperating with Pakistan in the counter-terrorism efforts and was ready to extend all possible assistance to counter this menace.

Referring to the Chinese investment under the banner of CPEC, he noted, "We believe high-value projects deserve high-level security arrangements".

Talking about the outcome of the Chinese PM's

visit, the envoy said the visit occurred amidst frequent high-level exchanges and signifies the strengthening of diplomatic relations, particularly since the formation of the new Pakistani government.

He pointed out that the Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif over his election after the February 8 polls. "This has never happened before. The Chinese President only sends messages to the heads of state, not, to the heads of government," the envoy said. He added, "The friendship is characterized by strong bilateral relations and head of state diplomacy. The leaders of both countries have played a crucial role in advancing the relationship."—RT/Agency

PM Urges Modern Tech To Revolutionize Pakistan's Tax System

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif directed concerned officials to timely complete all reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue.

Presiding over a meeting on the progress of reforms in the FBR, PM Shehbaz emphasised that a cordial and friendly environment should be ensured in the FBR for taxpayers.

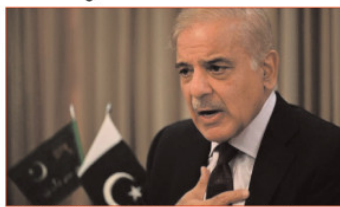
The prime minister stressed the need to use modern technology to make the taxation and revenue collection system more effective. Shehbaz Sharif also instructed to formulate a strategy for the restructuring of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited.

Besides, he called for enhancing the professional capabilities of FBR officers and ensuring their effective utilization.

The Prime Minister also directed that the system to check smuggling in the country be further strengthened.

Meanwhile, he amended the income tax rules 2002 to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) system, streamlining tax operations for enhanced compliance.

The board announced this under the Income Tax Rules, 2002, as notified via S.R.O.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during a meeting on FBR reforms.

1638(1)/2024, dated October 18, 2024, said a news release. These amendments, issued under section 237 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, are aimed at improving the efficiency and responsiveness of the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) system.

Under the new amendments, the ATL will now be updated on daily basis, replacing the previous practice of weekly updates.

This adjustment ensures that taxpayers who meet their filing obligations are reflected as active taxpayers promptly, enhancing real-time accuracy and facilitating compliance.

Taxpayers who submit their Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the latest tax year (2024) by the due date, or within an extension granted, will be included in the ATL immediately.

Additionally, taxpayers who file their returns after

Vawda Celebrates Imran's Sisters' Bail Victory: "I Promised, And I Delivered"



Senator Faisal Vawda celebrating the bail victory for Imran Khan's sisters.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda stated that he has successfully secured bail for the sisters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Vawda expressed his satisfaction, stating, "I had already said I would make efforts for the release of Imran's sisters, and today, thank God, their bail has been granted." Express News reported.

In a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), he remarked, "Last night, I mentioned my intentions regarding Imran's sisters, and today, their bail has been secured".

He further criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, labelling them as "sellouts" and "fugitives", asserting that they did not even visit Imran's sisters while they were in jail.

Vawda questioned the commitment of the PTI leadership, stating, "The nation

Naqvi Hails Mianwali Police For Taking Down 10 Notorious Extremist Terrorists

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has praised the brave efforts of Mianwali Police for their successful operation that resulted in the elimination of 10 extremist terrorists in the Mianwali district on Friday.

The police action was described as a major blow to terrorist activities in the region and a testament to the courage and efficiency of Punjab's law enforcement agencies.

In an official statement, Minister Naqvi commended the District Police Officer (DPO) of Mianwali, Akhtar Farooq, along with his entire police team, for their exceptional performance in thwarting what could have been a devastating attack by the terrorists.

The operation, which was carried out in a strategic and daring manner, successfully neutralized the terrorists and prevented any harm to civilians in the area.

"The brave personnel of Punjab Police have brought 10 extremist terrorists to a humiliating end," Naqvi said, emphasizing the significance of the operation. He added that the terrorists were part of a dangerous extremist network seeking to spread fear and chaos in the region, but their evil plans were crushed by the prompt action of the police.

Naqvi also highlighted the broader impact of this successful mission on the ongoing fight against terrorism in the country. "The Mian-



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praising Mianwali Police.

wali police team courageously thwarted the nefarious designs of extremist terrorists," he remarked, pointing out how their decisive actions served as a crucial contribution to national security.

The minister took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to the Inspector General of Punjab Police (IG) Usman Anwar and his entire team, recognizing their leadership and operational excellence. "I congratulate Punjab Police Commander IG Usman Anwar and his team," he stated, underscoring the collaborative efforts that led to the operation's success.

In a message directed to the public, Naqvi expressed that the nation should be proud of its law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of the people. "The nation is proud of the achievements of Mianwali Police," he said,

while praising the exceptional bravery of the officers involved in this particular operation.

"The brave sons of Punjab Police have achieved significant successes in the fight against terrorism," the Interior Minister declared, reflecting on the sacrifices and efforts made by the force to uphold peace and stability across the province.

In closing, Naqvi hailed the officers who carried out the mission as national heroes. "The police officers who killed 10 extremist terrorists are the nation's heroes," he concluded, expressing his gratitude for their dedication and service.

This operation comes as a strong message to terrorist organizations attempting to disrupt peace in the country. With the continuous efforts of law enforcement agencies, Pakistan remains committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms.—RT/Agency

Tarar Blasts PTI For Allegedly Orchestrating Armed Assault On Prison Vans Near Sangjani Toll Plaza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had orchestrated an armed assault on prison vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza.

"Armed workers of the PTI including a son of the MPA of the PTI from KPK Liaquat Sahib attacked the prison vans which were carrying 83 detainees, and slowed down near the Sangjani Toll Plaza," said the minister while talking to the media.

He said upto 30 persons in four cars attacked the vans to help the detainees to escape from the custody of the police which had successfully repulsed the attack. Two police personnel got injured, but all those who tried to flee had been re-arrested.

Four assailants including the son of the PTI's MPA have been arrested, while their weapons and two cars were taken into custody, he said, adding interrogation of the arrested persons was underway.

Tarar said rest of the assailants and their cars were being traced and would be taken into custody soon. All those involved in the plan-



Attaullah Tarar speaking at a press conference.

ning and abetment of the attack would face the law, he added. The authorities had the CCTV footage of the attack, said the minister while debunking a flimsy story worked out by the PTI which claims that the police had staged the attack and itself opened the gates of the vans for prisoners and then vandalized the vehicles by their selves.

The PTI's reaction over the incident is "ludicrous," he said asking its spokesperson to be ashamed of himself for churning out such lies that showed the party had nothing to do but "deceit and fraud".

The minister condemned the attack which was planned by the PTI in a habitual criminal manner and just like gangsters, who always at-

Tarar: Ending Contracts With Five IPPs To Cut Power Burden On Overburdened Consumers

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar said on Friday the government had terminated contracts with five independent power producers (IPPs).

He said termination of contracts with the five IPPs would help bring down the electricity prices leading to a positive impact on the economy as well.

Speaking on the National Assembly floor on calling attention notice, he stated that reduction in electricity prices was PM Shehbaz Sharif's first and foremost priority. He said contracts with another eight power producers were on the cards.

He also mentioned that NEPRA reduced 86 paise per unit on fuel price adjustment.

He highlighted the federal government's people friendly measures including Rs50 billion subsidy for consumers using up to



Attaullah Tarar speaking in the National Assembly.

200 electricity units while government provided Rs276 billion subsidy upto 300 units every year.

Tarar mentioned that K-Electric was being provided a subsidy of 174 billion while lifeline and non-life line consumers were already being provided subsidy annually.

However, users were given additional subsidies this year. The government was more focused on the issues of power, he asserted. Attaullah Tarar stated that fuel cost adjustment and closure of IPPs would reduce the electricity bills.—RT/Agency

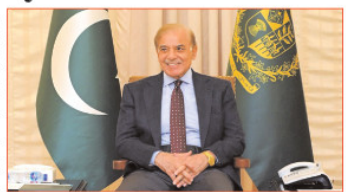
PM Hails PSX Milestone, Claims Economic Stability Is Finally Within Reach

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended felicitations to the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) reached a historic milestone, with the KSE-100 index crossing the 90,000-point mark on Friday.

He attributed this significant achievement to the relentless efforts of his administration's economic team and stated it as a marker of investor confidence in the government's economic policies.

In a statement, the PM commended the economic team for orchestrating a 36% surge in the stock market since March and for helping reduce inflation from 38% to 6.9%. He highlighted recent economic stability, pointing to increased remittances and a surplus in the current account for the past two months.

Remittances from Pak-



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif celebrating the PSX milestone.

istanis abroad reached a record \$8.8 billion in the last quarter, supporting the balance of payments and reinforcing financial resilience, he noted. The PM also cited the forthcoming \$7 billion facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a stabilising factor for Pakistan's economy, assuring the public that these indicators represent a turnaround from the economic challenges faced previously.

"The positive economic

indicators have dispelled the narrative of imminent default," he said, expressing satisfaction with the progress on multiple fronts and promising further positive developments for the economy in the coming days.

PM Shehbaz said that his administration remains committed to steering the country away from economic distress, calling this progress a testament to his government's focus on fiscal responsibility and investor trust.—RT/Agency