

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 highlighted the significance of both projects for the region's advancement. 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.

Elderly TMK Woman Protests For Her Arrested Son's Release

By Abdul Sattar



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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 resistance. 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.

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.

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.

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. Mir Khadim Talpur, President of the Awami Jamhoori Party Sindh, delivered a poignant speech, highlighting Soomar's unwavering dedication to his craft. He praised Soomar for his remarkable literary contributions, noting that he passionately taught poetry and engaged in thorough research on literature and history, all while facing significant financial constraints. Talpur's words resonated with the audience, reflecting a shared admiration for Soomar's commitment to nurturing the minds of his students and promoting a love for literature.



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 and 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.

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 degradation 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.

Daulatpur Newlyweds Demand Protection Amid Threats

By Aijaz Jochio



By Aijaz Jochio

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 Raipar, 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 Raipar, Shoukat Ali Raipar, and Li-aquat Ali Raipar—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 peacefully 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.

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 exacerbate 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 are 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.

EDITORIAL

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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

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.

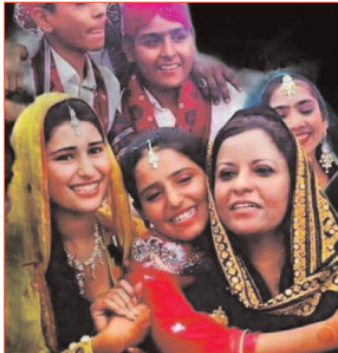
Following the initial incident, members of the Jamali community retaliated against the Mallah community.

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.

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, voca-



itional training, and skills development, and partnerships with 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, skills development, and partnerships with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), aiming to raise Rs 50 million this year. Civil society members and the Chief Minister praised KDSP's work and celebrated the value of inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome in Pakistan.

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 consumers 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



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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

