



Selena Gomez gives cryptic advice: 'Enjoy it' amid speculation

Price Rs. 10

FOUNDED BY (LATE) KAZI SAEED AKBAR & (Late) Kazi Jawad Akbar
PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI AND HYDERABAD

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

Bilawal pays tribute to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto



Money

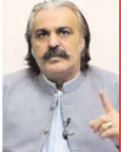
-Zafar Moti is Sad!

PSE 100-index down by 310.21 points to close at 95,546.45



NATIONAL

Gandapur Challenges Nation: Oppression Or Liberation?



SPORTS

Former Pakistan captain delivers harsh verdict on Sahibzada Farhan's potential



Murad Sounds The Alarm As Polio Cases Surge Across Sindh

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 328 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

www.regionaltimes.com

Thursday, November 21, 2024, Jumada Al-Awwal 18, 1446 A.H 8 Pages

Tarar Doubts Imran's Freedom Despite Toshakhana Case Bail

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Ataulah Tarar has said that PTI founder Imran Khan is unlikely to walk free despite securing bail in the new Toshakhana case.

"There is no chance of the PTI founder's release," the information minister said while speaking to media on Wednesday.

Tarar said that the case regarding the selling of state gifts was being heard in a trial court and that sufficient evidence was available against the PTI founder. "The trial is yet to be concluded," he added.

He further noted that the "bail can be cancelled" in case of non-cooperation on Imran's part, particularly if he emulates his wife, Bushra Bibi, who has a history of such conduct.

The information minister reiterated that case would continue for a long time.

Addressing the possibilities of Imran Khan's release, Tarar said the PTI founder had not received bail in eight FIRs related to the May 9 mayhem when the party and its members targeted defence structures, in-



cluding monuments for the martyrs.

"Release for him is not possible; there are many other cases he needs to secure bail in," he said while speaking to media.

When asked about negotiations between the federal government and PTI leadership, Tarar questioned, "Even if there were negotiations, who would guarantee that PTI will remain peaceful?" citing the party's history of violating peaceful protest norms.

The minister's remarks came following a major development ahead of the looming November 24 protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on

Wednesday approved the bail plea of party founder Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb accepted Khan's bail plea against two surety bonds worth Rs1 million each, which must be submitted by separate guarantors.

The PTI founder is no longer wanted in any other case within Islamabad's jurisdiction following this development. Meanwhile, the IHC directed the ousted prime minister to appear before the trial court after securing bail.

"The bail can be cancelled if you [Imran] do not cooperate with the trial court," the court added.—RT/Agency

Imran Secures Bail in Toshakhana Case Ahead Of PTI's Crucial Nov 24 Protest

RAWALPINDI: In a major development ahead of the looming November 24 protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved the bail plea of party founder Imran Khan in the new Toshakhana case.

IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb accepted Khan's bail plea against two surety bonds worth Rs1 million each, which must be submitted by separate guarantors.

PTI founder is no longer wanted in any other case within Islamabad's jurisdiction following the latest development.

Meanwhile, the IHC cautioned the ousted prime minister not to "misuse the concession of bail and appear before the trial court on each and every date of hearing unless a specific exemption is granted."

The bail can be revoked if the petitioner [Imran] does not cooperate with the trial court, it added.

Imran and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were arrested in the case on July 13, shortly after the husband-wife duo



was acquitted by a district and sessions court of Islamabad in the iddat case — also known as the un-Islamic nikah case.

Bushra Bibi was released last month from jail in the Toshakhana 2.0 case after spending around nine months behind bars.

The case was previously being heard by the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) accountability court, however, it was transferred to the FIA in line with the Supreme Court's verdict restoring amendments to the anti-corruption laws.

During the hearing, the FIA prosecutor voiced concerns over media narratives, claiming that reports had prematurely suggested the approval of bail.

Justice Aurangzeb advised the prosecutor to disregard media speculation, emphasising that the court's decisions would not be influenced by such narratives. The judge remarked on certain claims made in the media, questioning their credibility. He also inquired about the valuation of a jewellery set, asking how its worth was determined.

Barrister Salman Safdar, representing the PTI founder, responded that the prosecution was responsible for clarifying this matter in court. He also highlighted discrepancies in the receipts, noting that the receipts in question were issued in the name of Bushra Bibi, not the PTI founder.

The defence argued that

the prosecution's case relied on testimonies from key witnesses such as Sohail Abbasi, who had been granted pardon and declared an approver in the case.

Barrister Safdar clarified that Abbasi alleged threats from the PTI founder but denied any direct interaction with either the PTI founder or his wife.

The court further asked whether customs officers involved in the valuation had mentioned any intimidation, to which the defence replied that no such claims had been made by these officials.

The FIA prosecutor argued that the Bulgari jewellery set was not deposited in the Toshakhana and alleged that its undervaluation caused financial harm to the state.

Justice Aurangzeb asked how the PTI founder benefited from the undervaluation, to which the prosecutor responded that his wife's gain inherently benefited him as well.

Justice Aurangzeb dismissed this logic, questioning such assumptions. "My wife's things are not mine. I don't know what year are we

living in."

Barrister Safdar defended his client by stating that all gifts were acquired under the Toshakhana policy of 2018, and the valuation was conducted according to the law.

He added that payments were made as per the policy, and no wrongdoing was evident. Justice Aurangzeb noted that the previous government had withheld Toshakhana details, despite inquiries from the court.

The prosecution highlighted the conduct of the accused during trial proceedings, alleging delay tactics.

The FIA prosecutor presented evidence that Abbasi had submitted an apology for undervaluing the set, which was accepted by the NAB chairman.

The defence, however, criticised the expedited manner in which the FIA had filed its challan, stating that essential aspects of the investigation were overlooked.

As the hearing progressed, the court observed that the Toshakhana case had faced significant delays, with over three years passing before its registration.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Establishes Committee To Bridge Provincial-Centre Divide

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has formed a committee to raise grievances with the Federal government, media reported.

As per details, the committee will comprise Raja Pervaz Ashraf, Naveed Qamar, Sherry Rehman, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Makhdoom Ahsan Mahmood, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Hyder, Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Haider Gilani.

The committee will interact with the Federal government to raise the different issues and will submit its report to the meeting of Central Executive Committee (CEC) to be held next month. The notification in this regard was issued from the



Chairman's Secretariat by his Political Secretary Jameel Somro here on Wednesday. Earlier today, People's Party formally suggested election of the Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) chairman by members until the matter decided.

PPP Senator Saleem Mandiwalla has written a letter to NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and demanded holding a session of the PAC on a requisition of the committee's members, parliamentary

sources said. It is pertinent to mention here that the Parliament has yet to decide about its most important public accounts committee.

The Public Accounts Committee's 11 members have submitted a requisition for the PAC session. The PPP has hinted at calling the PAC session itself, if the committee's meeting not being summoned formally.—RT/Agency

COAS Asim Munir Steals Spotlight At IDEAS 2024 Expo In Karachi



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

During the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of defence manufacturers from friendly nations and observed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors, said Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement on Wednesday.

A total of 557 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition of which 333 are international exhibitors while 224 are domestic exhibitors. 36 countries established exhibitors' stalls of which 17 countries are participating for the first time.

Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan.

PTI Signals Potential Nov 24 Protest Cancellation If Talks Succeed

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has said that celebrations will be staged instead of a protest if there's a breakthrough in the PTI-government talks, his lawyer said, hinting at calling off the protest.

Following a meeting with Khan at Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said, "If there's a headway in talks by tomorrow, there'll be celebrations instead of protests. Otherwise, we are prepared for peaceful demonstrations."

The lawyer went on to say that the PTI founder has said that this was the second time he had given a protest call since the May 9 protest — which saw state installations being ransacked.

Khan also said that there is no option left except for protests, emphasising that political parties are crucial in keeping the country united.

The PTI founder also expressed concerns over restrictions faced by the party, saying, "We are not allowed to hold rallies or gatherings."

"I have always called for peaceful protests," he claimed.

The former premier fur-



ther stated that he had given time for the negotiations until tomorrow.

"Talks will only take place with those who hold the real power," the deposed prime minister's lawyer quoted him as saying.

The cricket-turned-batter, the lawyer said, reiterated that PTI's demands would form the basis of any dialogue and that the cancellation of protests depends on the acceptance of those demands.

"It takes effort from both sides for progress to be made."

Moreover, the PTI founder also clarified that reports of spending Rs1 billion on protests were baseless, Chaudhry added.

The former ruling and

now opposition party has announced a "do-or-die" demonstration Islamabad on the call of its founder, who remains incarcerated in Adiala jail. PTI has time and again called for Khan's release and the return of its mandate which it alleges was stolen in the February 8 polls.

For months, it has been at odds with the incumbent government and has marched onto the federal capital on multiple occasions leading to a crackdown against its leaders and workers.

Punjab government has adopted a strong stance against the rival party's "final call" protest, saying that it would deal with protesters on November 24 as they do with terrorists.—RT/Agency

US Denounces Escalating Militant Violence In Pakistan, Pledges Continued Support

WASHINGTON: The United States condemned the recent surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan, including the abduction of seven policemen in Bannu and an ambush on a military convoy near the Afghan border.

US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller expressed solidarity with Pakistan, highlighting the country's continuing struggle against terrorism and pledging continued counterterrorism cooperation.

"We condemn these and all terrorist attacks," Miller stated during a press briefing. "The Pakistani people have suffered greatly at the hands of terrorists and violent extremists, and our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed or injured by recent attacks."

Miller reiterated the United States' commitment to collaborating with Pakistan's government and institutions to counter militant threats.

He emphasised the ongoing counterterrorism partnership, which includes high-



level dialogues and consultations to strengthen Pakistan's civilian and military capabilities to detect, prevent, and respond to such threats.

"We remain committed to engaging with government leaders and civilian institutions to identify opportunities to build capacity in detecting, preventing, and responding to threats posed by militant terrorist groups," he said.

When asked about the role of militant groups based in Afghanistan, Miller underlined the need for bilateral cooperation but did not comment on specific actions against terrorist hideouts in Kabul.

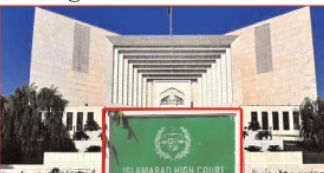
The abduction of seven policemen in Bannu high-

lighted the increasing security challenges in Pakistan's northwestern region. According to District Police Officer (DPO) Ziauddin, the abducted policemen were rescued through a jirga, without any ransom or conditions.

The incident occurred after armed men seized control of the Rocha checkpoint in the Ahmedzai sub-division of Bannu.

In recent months, there has been a sharp rise in attacks on law enforcement agencies and abductions of police personnel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.—RT/Agency

SC Reverses IHC Ruling On Plot Allotments For Judges and Bureaucrats



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has annulled the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision in a case pertaining to allotment of plots to judges and bureaucrats in the federal capital's Sectors F-14 and F-15.

The apex court accepted the Federal Government Employees Housing Au-

PPP Pushes For PAC Chair Election By Members Amid Ongoing Debate

ISLAMABAD: Government ally People's Party has formally suggested election of the Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) chairman by members until the matter decided.

PPP Senator Saleem Mandiwalla has written a letter to NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and demanded holding a session of the PAC on a requisition of the committee's members, parliamentary sources said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Parliament has yet to decide about its most important public accounts committee. The Public Accounts Committee's 11 members have submitted a requisition for the PAC session. The PPP has



hinted at calling the PAC session itself, if the committee's meeting not being summoned formally. Senator Mandiwalla has requested to the Speaker for help. "The members themselves elect the head until a permanent chairman being decided," the letter suggested. The Speaker has again asked the PTI to suggest its list of names for the PAC chair, sources

said. "The PTI is insisting to make the party's Shaikh Waqas Akram as chairman of the public accounts committee," sources said.

Former speaker Asad Qaiser has also held a meeting with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq over the matter. Sources while said that the PML-N has hinted at backing the People's Party for the PAC top seat.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



KETI BANDAR: Daily Regional Times reporter in Keti Bunder, Sajid Ali Janyaro, is seen with Babar Ali Janyaro after exchanging their best wishes to Ali Ahmed Gulati Baloch for opening a Janyaro pesticide franchise in the area.—RT

Mazhar Hussain Junejo vows to serve the masses under Bilawal's progressive leadership

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: PPP leader Mazhar Hussain Junejo expressed strong thoughts about the ongoing political discussions surrounding the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Speaking to journalists, including journalist Mashooq Khaskheli and Gulam Rasool, following the condolences for his uncle's passing, he commented on the enduring strength of PPP's ideology. Junejo emphasized that the PPP's manifesto and vision are rooted in truth and love, distinguishing it from all other political ideologies that have faded away. He praised the fact that the people of Sindh, who once held political affiliations for over forty years, are now joining PPP in large numbers. He referred to this as a significant victory of the ideology of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He further commended the current Sindh government under PPP for bringing about substantial develop-



mental projects in Sanghar, emphasizing the transformation that has erased the divide between urban and rural areas. Junejo concluded by expressing that PPP has brought about positive change and continues to be a symbol of progress and hope for the people of Sindh.

Universal Children's Day marked in Sanghar District

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADPUR: In a concerted effort to raise awareness about children's rights and promote inclusive education, the Sindh Green Foundation (SGF), Sindh Child Protection Authority, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DPED) jointly observed Universal Children's Day in Sanghar District, Sindh. The event aimed to empower marginalized children and highlight the importance of safeguarding their rights. The event featured several esteemed guest speakers, including Tariq Rahim Lakho, Representative of the Sindh Child Protection Authority, Mufti Gulzar Ahmed from the Gov-



ernment Special Education & Rehabilitation Center, DPED, Rasool Bux Setho from Government Provincialised Boys High School Shahdadpur, Noor Muhammad Mangi from Sindh Green Foundation, Mehdi Hassan Pahwar from Press Club Shahdadpur, Muhammad Ayaz and Ali Dost from Youth Learning Hub, and Ms. Rashida and Rahool Kumar from the Social Justice Forum. The event concluded with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to prioritize the well-being and rights of children, ensuring they are protected and given the opportunities they deserve for growth and success.

STEAM Exhibition held at Govt Degree College in Kandiaro

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: A spectacular exhibition on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) was held at Government Ghulam Rabani Agro Degree College in Kandiaro. Students from the college displayed exceptional models on various scientific subjects, including Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics, and Commerce. The students' projects added a remarkable touch to the exhibition.

With their outstanding models. Under the leadership of Principal Professor Abdul Sattar Abro, the dedication of the teaching staff and students was evident. The exhibition featured scientifically crafted models, showcasing fresh ideas, and attracted a large number of visitors from Kandiaro and surrounding areas, including school students and education enthusiasts, who praised the efforts of both teachers and students. The guests included DSP of Motorway Police, Tahir Mehmood, Admin Muhammad Ahmed, Professors Nazir Ahmed Khoso, Mohammad Safar Setho, Headmaster of Kandiaro High School, Abdul Hafeez Khokhar, teachers Imam Din Shah and Farooq Ahmed Soomro, social leader Anwar Din Solangi, Sajjan Jogi, Advocate Wazir Ahmed and numerous other guests from various fields of life. A large number of guests and students attended the event, demonstrating great curiosity.

Three accused arrested in murder case of Bhurt community man

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: In the Mehar area, near the village of Kothi Khokhar, the murder case of Muhammad Mithal Bhurt, a relative of PPP leader Muhammad Khan Bhurt, who was killed 21 days ago during a clash between two factions of the Bhurt community, has been solved. The incident occurred due to a dispute over agricultural land between two close relatives of the Bhurt community. Following the investigation, the Radhan Police Station, under the leadership of SHO Ayaz Ali Bughio, conducted a successful operation and arrested three fugitives involved in the killing, who included Noor Ahmad Bhurt, Sajjad Bhurt, and Abdul Rasool alias Mr. Bhurt. The police also seized a Kalashnikov rifle used in the crime. SSP Dadu, Ameer Saad Magso, stated that the arrest of the accused was made possible through modern technology, with raids conducted at various locations. The rifle used in the crime was also recovered during the operation.

A tragic accident occurred near the village of Khalifo Muhammad Khan Tager on the Jhol-Sanghar Road when a tractor collided with a motorcycle. Two motorcyclists were injured in the accident, one of whom, identified as Hyder Ali Tager from Shahdadpur, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Hyderabad. Upon receiving the body of Hyder

JUI-F Sindh launches awareness campaign for Sindh Bab-ul-Islam Conference



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Sindh has launched an awareness campaign to address various pressing issues including the construction of canals on the Indus River, the economic exploitation of farmers, and the increasing lawlessness in Sindh.

As part of this initiative, JUI-F Sindh officials visited Jacobabad district. The delegation was led by JUI-F Sindh Ameer, Maulana Abdul Qayoom Halevi, Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro, Provincial Deputy General Secretary Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, Provincial Press Secretary Dr. AG Ansari, Nazim Maulana Muhammad Ramadan Phuloto, and Provincial Salaar Saleem Sindi. Other prominent leaders, including District General Secretary Maulana Saleemullah Brohi, Dr. Khalil Ahmed Khoso, Maulana Abdul Jabar Rind, Mufti Abdul Shakur Khoso, and Haji Muhammad Abbas Baloch were also part of the delegation. This visit was a part of the larger awareness campaign leading up to the Sindh Bab-ul-Islam Conference, scheduled to take place on November 28 in Sukkur.

Kotri laborers protest for their rights



By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: A protest demonstration was recorded by the laborers against the registration of a case against the JSOM Central Information Secretary Deedar Sham and nine other laborers.

The protesters said that a case has been registered at Kotri Police Station against Mubarak Khoso, Pervez Khoso, Sajjan Kolachi, Tariq Jatoi, Abid, Khalid Laghari, and Jamshed Khanzad, along with three unidentified individuals, making a total of 10 suspects. The protesters urged the authorities to arrest the attackers of Deedar Sham and end the mafia rule in the factory ensuring workers receive their rightful benefits under labor laws. Deedar Sham also stated that Kotri Industrial Zone has been handed over to mafias and goons. The protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Dr Qadir Magsi leads protest against proposed construction of canals on River Indus

SAKRAND: In a demonstration led by Dr. Qadir Magsi, the Central Chairman of the Sindh Tarqapasand Party (STP), a protest was held at the national highway near the village of Akehd Dadd in Sakrand, against the construction of six canals on the Indus River. Thousands of STP workers from various cities of Sindh, along with hundreds of women from the Ladies Wing, participated in the protest. The highway was blocked from both directions due to the protest, causing a traffic jam with several vehicles stuck. Police attempted to divert traffic through alternate routes. Addressing the historic protest, Dr. Qadir Magsi emphasized that Indus River is the lifeline of Sindh, and the people of Sindh will not allow any canals to be built on it. Dr. Magsi further stated that the protest was not for show, but a serious message to the government that if the canal project is not canceled, their struggle will continue until the decision is reversed. STP leaders including Hyder Shahani, Nisar Ahmed Keerio, Rafiq Mallah, Sarang Unar, Anila Rafiq and Hakim Unar also addressed the protesters.—RT

One killed, another injured in tractor and motorcycle collision

By Mohtab Shar

JHOL: A tragic accident occurred near the village of Khalifo Muhammad Khan Tager on the Jhol-Sanghar Road when a tractor collided with a motorcycle. Two motorcyclists were injured in the accident, one of whom, identified as Hyder Ali Tager from Shahdadpur, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Hyderabad. Upon receiving the body of Hyder

Bilawal pays tribute to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid a heartfelt tribute to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, commemorating him as a symbol of resistance, courage, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy and social justice. Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto's birth anniversary, Chairman PPP highlighted his extraordinary dedication to the cause of a just and equitable society. He stated, "Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto's life, though tragically cut short, remains a source of inspiration for generations to stand against oppression and champion the rights of the marginalized. His sacrifice is a testament to the resilience and determination that define the Bhutto legacy."



Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed the Pakistan Peoples Party's commitment to upholding the vision of the Bhutto family, founded on the principles of democracy, human rights, and social equality.

He called on party workers and supporters to mark the occasion by renewing their dedication to the mission for which Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto lived and laid down his life.

"Let us honor his memory by continuing the struggle for a Pakistan where justice, freedom, and equality prevail," Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari added.

STEAM Exhibition held at Govt Marvi Girls College in Badin



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In an effort to test and promote the constructive and creative skills of students in government colleges, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) exhibition was held in Badin and expressed that teachers play a crucial role in uncovering this talent. He also praised the various projects displayed by the students, saying, "I am surprised by the work done by the students. The projects and their presentations were impressive." The Principal of Marvi Girls College, Irfana Baloch, also addressed the gathering, stating that students from these historically backward areas always excel when given opportunities. At the conclusion of the event, after a thorough evaluation by the judges, the results were announced. Islamia Boys College, Badin, secured first place, while Marvi Girls College, Badin, took second place, and Islamia College Boys from Mir Allam Muhammad Talpur, Tando Bago, claimed third place. The prizes were distributed by the Principal of Government Marvi College, Irfana Baloch, who also thanked the guests for their participation.

Indus Future Foundation holds youth convention in TMK



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A one-day youth convention was organized by Indus Future Foundation in collaboration with the Regional Democratic Network and Peyman El-Munai Trust. The event was attended by student wing activists from various political parties, along with political leaders and councilors. During the convention, the youth prepared a Charter of Demands highlighting their issues and presented it to the political leaders. The students called for the establishment of campuses for Mehran University of Jamshoro, Liaquat University of Medical Sciences, University of Sindh, and IBA Sukkur in their district. They also demanded the initiation of degree programs at Mir Ghulam Ali Government Boys Degree College. The students further requested that a Peoples Bus service be introduced to Tando Muhammad Khan to ease transportation for university-bound students. They also called for the modernization of college libraries and improvements in drinking water facilities. Political leaders, including Ahmed Soomro and Saddam Hussain, assured the youth that efforts would be made to address their issues as soon as possible. The event was also attended by Muhammad Moosa Qambrani and Assistant Professor Abdul Hamid Khatt.

STEVA holds an awareness program in Jacobabad



By Muhammad Hashim

JACOBABAD: A program was organized by the Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVA) in Jacobabad, in which STEVA Regional Director, Mureed Hussain Khakhrani, Manager CC & PC Tariq Hussain Abro, Principal Government Commercial College Ali Bux Kalhoro, Principal Government Polytechnic Institute Jacobabad Ataulah Jagirani, and other college staff participated. The event aimed to raise awareness among new students about the importance of technical education. During the event, the speakers highlighted that STEVA plays a crucial role in technical education in Sindh, training thousands of students each year, who then prove their skills in both local and international markets. The speakers also emphasized that STEVA is playing a key role in reducing unemployment in Sindh, and encouraged the youth to pursue technical education. They assured that upon completing their studies, they would be connected with good job opportunities. The speakers urged the youth to turn towards technical education to ensure they gain valuable skills and improve their economic status.

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



Indonesian Consul for Economic and Cultural Affairs visits Hyderabad SITE Association's Office

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Dewanto Priyokusumo, the Indonesian Consul for Economic Affairs, and Arie Polluzie, the Consul for Social and Cultural Affairs, visited the Hyderabad SITE Association office with their delegation on a special invitation. During their visit, they expressed their desire to strengthen trade and cultural ties between Indonesia and Pakistan. Mr. Priyokusumo stated that the purpose of their visit was to enhance bilateral trade relations and foster greater cultural exchange between the two nations. He emphasized that both countries share a strong bond and that Indonesia is ready for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) if the Government of Pakistan permits it. He also expressed his pleasure about visiting Hyderabad, describing it as a city with cool breezes and friendly people, rich in history. He further shared his hope to establish a "Sister City" relationship between Hyderabad and Jakarta. In his address, Chairman of the Hyderabad SITE Association, Abdul Rehman Rajput, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed his confidence that both countries would work together to pro-



more trade activities. Senior Vice Chairman Jahangir Barkat, Vice Chairman Ahsan Moeed Sheikh, Advocate Mahmood Ali Rajput, and other members of the Association also extended their greetings to the visitors. They stressed the importance of fostering brotherhood and enhancing trade relations to help both countries achieve development. The event was attended by several notable figures including members of

Youth gather for political tolerance and social issues in Sujawal



By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In Sujawal, a seminar titled "Charter of Demands on Political Intolerance and Social Issues" was organized by the social organization, We Care Foundation, at the Sujawal Press Club. Political and social leaders from various organizations participated in the event, emphasizing the importance of not bringing political differences into personal lives and highlighting the need for a collective approach to address social issues. During the event, party members presented joint proposals for addressing societal problems. The gathering was attended by Nisar Ahmed Memon, leader of the City Alliance, Dr. Hotchand, President of the Hindu Pan-chayat, Aslam Mirbaha, Program Manager of Baanh Beli, Faqir Allah Dino Khatri, social worker Khameso Memon, and journalists Hanif Malkh, Nadeem Shahzad Khatri from the Sujawal Press Club. At the end of the event, Kashif Umrani, the head of WeCare Foundation, thanked all the guests for their participation.

Chinese Students Tour SPU Headquarters In Lahore

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: A delegation of Chinese students visited the Special Protection Unit (SPU) Headquarters in Manawan, Lahore, where they met with DIG SPU Muntazir Mehdi, SSP Operations Usman Aijaz Bajwa, and DSP Kamran Zafar. During their visit, the students were given a detailed briefing on the responsibilities and security measures employed by the SPU. DIG Muntazir Mehdi emphasized the operational aspects of the unit and highlighted the steps taken to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals in Punjab. He noted that the foundations of Pakistan-China friendship are strong, and the relationship between the people of both countries is growing more stable. He further assured that the security of Chinese citizens is a top priority for the SPU, and all available resources are being utilized for their protection. The Chinese delegation expressed their appreciation for the profes-

sionalism and effectiveness of the SPU, particularly praising the advanced security arrangements and the operation room. They conveyed their complete satisfaction with the security measures in place and remarked that they feel Pakistan is one of the safest places in the world.

Punjab Ombudsman Secures 11,500 Kanals Of State Land, Offers Lifeline To The Needy

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: The Punjab Ombudsman's Office has successfully reclaimed 11,551 kanals of government land across the province, valued at over PKR 420 million. The action was taken in response to public complaints about illegal encroachments and the misuse of public pathways. Provincial departments promptly acted on the Ombudsman's directives to recover the land from land-

grabbers. In addition to the land recovery, the Ombudsman's Office also facilitated the disbursement of financial aid, including PKR 1.712 million in monthly financial support to two applicants, PKR 1.426 million in pending grants (monthly and marriage grants) to three applicants, and PKR 0.562 million in overdue educational scholarships to 13 applicants. These actions came after citizens raised concerns regarding delays in payments and illegal occupation of public property, showcasing the Ombudsman's commitment to resolving grievances efficiently. Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the timely and transparent actions taken by the office. This initiative strengthens the Punjab Ombudsman's ongoing mission to ensure justice, protect public resources, and deliver effective services to the people of Punjab.

Ombudsman Sindh's Regional Director visits District Jail Ghotki

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The Regional Director of Ombudsman Sindh, Fazal Muhammad Shaikh, visited District Jail Ghotki, where he toured various wards, the hospital, kitchen, mosque, and school to inspect cleanliness and overall conditions. During the visit, he assessed the situation and gathered information on the issues faced by the inmates. Fazal Muhammad Shaikh stated that the purpose of the visit was to address the legitimate concerns of the prisoners. He mentioned that the conditions of cleanliness,



food quality, and overall facilities were satisfactory. He also provided directions to the jail superintendent to resolve the inmates' legitimate issues. He emphasized that providing facilities to prisoners is the responsibility of the jail administration according to the law. The biggest issue identified during the visit was the electricity load shedding, with reports indicating up to 18 hours of outages. He mentioned that he would write to the relevant authorities to address this issue.

Watan Dost Mazdoor Federation decries construction of new canals on Indus river

By Ibrahim Farooqui

BADAH: In Badh, a rally was organized by the Watan Dost Mazdoor Federation to protest against the plan to extract canals from the Indus River. The protest march began from the Press Club Badh and proceeded to Haider Chowk. The protest was led by Comrade Sadruddin Masan, Nabi Bux Jonejo, Imtiaz Ali Masan, Muhammad Alam Brohi, and others.

They stated that the project to extract six canals from the Indus River under the name of "Green Pakistan" is, in fact, a plan to turn the fertile Sindh region into barren land. The protesters demanded that the federal government revoke the decision of extracting canals from the Indus River, as the people of Sindh would never accept any plans for the construction of dams or canals on the Indus River.

Maryam Nawaz's Health Camps Bring Vital Care To Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood



TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, "Healthy Society, Prosperous Punjab," quality healthcare services are being provided across the province. As part of this health initiative, a three-day screening health camp has been launched in various hospitals of Toba Tek Singh district.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG), Zeeshan Labha Masih, visited the health camp at DHQ Hospital in Toba Tek Singh to review the arrangements. He interacted with patients at various counters and inquired about the services being provided. During his visit, he was accompanied by CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mahmood Kamboh, MS Dr. Kashif Bajwa, and other health department officials. Dr. Kashif Mahmood Kamboh, CEO Health, emphasized that comprehensive healthcare services are available to the public at the District Headquarters Hospital in Beryanwala, Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals in Gojra, Kamalia, and Pirmahal, as well as at Rural Health Centers and Basic Health Units in various locations. He encouraged the public to take advantage of these free check-ups to monitor their health. The ongoing health camps, which will run until November 22, aim to provide health awareness and promote wellness in the community. Additionally, Assistant Commissioner Ali Sameer visited the Rural Health Center in Chak No-321 JB to inspect the arrangements at the health camp, further ensuring that the health services are being delivered effectively across the district.

Students protest for recovery of stolen goods from GBPS Muhammad Siddiq Musafir

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: A protest rally was held by the Sujag Bar Tehreek (Awakened Children Movement) from Muhammad Siddiq Musafir Primary School to the press club in Tando Bago, against thefts in government schools. The rally was led by Mehran Das, President of the Public Movement Badin District, and Amir Jalil Halipoto, General Secretary of Sujag Bar Tehreek, along with other activists. The protesters criticized the Tando Bago police for their failure to maintain law and order in the city, highlighting an increase in thefts and drug abuse. They reported recent thefts from



educational institutions, including Muhammad Siddiq Musafir Primary School, where items like motors, fans, solar panels, and batteries were stolen. Prior thefts were also reported at other schools. The protesters demanded the return of the stolen items and threatened to escalate their protests if their demands were not met.

Youth shot dead, another injured in Mehar

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A few unidentified armed men opened indiscriminate fire on two youths and as a result, Kashif Ali Dahar died on the spot in village Bothro, while another youth named Mehran Dahar sustained critical injuries. After the incident, the murderers managed to flee from the scene. The body of the deceased and injured youth were rushed to a local area hospital, while no case of the incident was lodged till the filing of this news.

SPS Dadu and Deputy Commissioner Dadu should ensure that no disturbances occur inside the hospital and take legal action against those involved in any such incidents. The lawyer for the DHQ Hospital also informed the media that recently, representatives of the Awami Forum, along with 25 to 30 individuals, attempted to forcefully enter the women's ward of the hospital. When hospital guards intervened, the activists broke the ward door. As a result, the hospital administration filed an FIR at the Section Police Station in Dadu, and evidence was presented in the High Court. Following this, the court dismissed the petition and issued stern directives.

SHC orders to improve conditions at DHQ Hospital Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The Sindh High Court Hyderabad Bench has dismissed the petition filed by the Awami Forum leadership against the DHQ Hospital Dadu administration. The court, while rejecting the petition, issued strict directives to the district administration of Dadu. A few days ago, the Awami Forum leaders, including Ashiq Zaun, had filed a petition in the Sindh High Court against the DHQ Hospital administration. During today's hearing, the chief justice, addressed the gathering and stated that organizing such science fairs not only enhances educational standards at the global level but also nurtures analytical and critical thinking skills.

The driver's reckless maneuvers nearly caused multiple collisions with other vehicles. The RTA team, along with patrolling police, pursued the truck, but the driver refused to yield, speeding and swerving dangerously. The truck eventually lost control and overturned near the Gojra bypass. Secretary RTA Toba Tek Singh, Mohsin Riaz, was conducting the

Reckless Escape Ends In Disaster As Truck Overturns Near Gojra Bypass

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: A chaotic scene unfolded during a routine vehicle inspection by the Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) when an intoxicated truck driver fled instead of stopping.

losing control and overturning near the Toba Tek Singh Bypass. The driver attempted to escape but was apprehended by the police and RTA team. The truck, carrying refrigerator compressors, goods, and second-hand items, was handed over to the City Police Station for further legal action.

Sehwan Boys Degree College holds STEAM Exhibition

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: A Science Fair under the theme of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Exhibition was organized at Sehwan Boys Degree College to promote and enhance educational infrastructure. The event was hosted by the college with former MPA Syed Asif Ali Shah as the chief

guest, along with Principal of Sehwan Degree College, Hafiz Sibghatullah Solangi, President of SPLA, Professor Manzoor Memon, and other distinguished guests. The Science Fair and exhibition featured over 60 projects presented by students from various boys' and girls' colleges in Jamshoro district, including those from Sehwan, Bhan, Syedabad, and Manjhand. The projects displayed were highly appreciated by the guests, who expressed both surprise and admiration for the students' hard work. During the event, Syed Asif Ali Shah, the chief guest, addressed the gathering and stated that organizing such science fairs not only enhances educational standards at the global level but also nurtures analytical and critical thinking skills.

SU's Institute of Biochemistry organizes Diabetes Awareness Program

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The University of Sindh's Institute of Biochemistry organized an awareness program for World Diabetes Day, focusing on the prevention and management of diabetes. The event included lectures, live counseling, and diagnostic sessions for pre-diabetics. Dr. Samia Bashir and Dr. Jaweria Chiman conducted diagnostic sessions, while Khadija Syed, CEO of Hyderabad Nutrition Society, spoke on the role of balanced nutrition in diabetes management. Prof. Dr. Afshien Shah and Dr. Atuf



Mangi highlighted the rise in diabetes cases and discussed prevention strategies. The event, presided over by Prof. Dr. Agha Asad Noor, attracted over 300 participants, including students and faculty. Prof. Allah Nawaz, a retired director, donated an audio system for the Institute's auditorium. The program aimed to raise awareness and encourage proactive measures against diabetes.

Road Action Committee protests for construction of roads in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Leaders of the Road Action Committee and local villagers, including Haji Achar Marri, Muhammad Marri, Atta Muhammad Marri, Abdullah Nuhri, Abdul Wahab Nuhri, Advocate Zafar Marri, Abdul Malik Halipoto, Fazal Samejo, Faiz Sindh, Kail Meghwar, Sikandar Mangrio, Amolk Bheel, and others, participated in the protest. During a media interaction, the villagers emphasized the need for the construction of a road to serve the residents of various villages such as Marvi, Rodo

Kolhi, Nanji Kolhi, Kat Sama, Mor Khok Mari, Haji Mangrio, Siddique Nuhri, and others. They pointed out that despite the presence of hundreds of villages in the area, the roads remain in poor condition, leading to significant problems during the rainy season. The villagers stated that although they have repeatedly requested elected representatives for improvements, they only receive promises without any action. The protest will continue until the construction of the road begins. The villagers urged the authorities to prioritize repairing the road.

Azhar Hayat Visits Narowal To Review Revenue Department's Performance

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Member of the Board of Revenue (Judicial-IV), Azhar Hayat, paid an official visit to Narowal, where he was warmly received by Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza. The visit included a high-level meeting with officials from the Revenue Department to review its performance and progress.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza presented a comprehensive overview of revenue-related matters in the district, highlighting achievements, challenges, and ongoing initiatives. Azhar Hayat expressed satisfaction with the administration's efforts to address revenue concerns. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADCR) Ahmed Haroon, Assistant Commissioners Salman Qayyum Sheikh, Muhammad Arshad, and Shabana Mekan. The visit focused on evaluating the efficiency and transparency of revenue operations, identifying bottlenecks in service delivery, and providing guidance to enhance administrative processes.

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, November 21, 2024



Breaking the Digital Chains That Keep us Shackled

Pakistan's IT sector is brimming with potential, bolstered by a young, tech-savvy population eager to make its mark globally. Yet, outdated policies and conflicting approaches, such as the ongoing tussle over VPNs, threaten to throttle this progress. The lack of clear direction and an evident disconnect between policy and global IT norms make it appear as though we are determined to sabotage our own growth.

VPNs, essential tools for secure and efficient global connectivity, have become a focal point of governmental inefficiency. Citing concerns ranging from national security to access to banned websites, authorities have taken to blocking unregistered VPNs while conducting haphazard firewall tests. This not only disrupts business operations but

also tarnishes Pakistan's image in the global market. Clients from abroad demand seamless VPN usage to ensure security and confidentiality, yet our



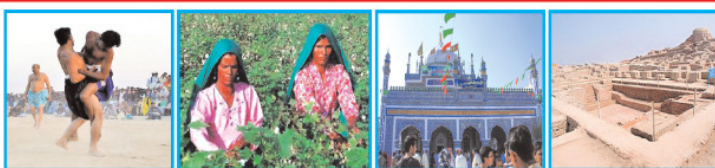
policies push IT professionals into a chaotic scramble for compliance, often at the cost of missed deadlines and lost contracts.

The ramifications of these missteps extend beyond reputation. IT exports, currently growing at an impressive rate of 30%, are seen as a lifeline to Pakistan's debt-ridden economy. By fostering an environment of uncertainty and inefficiency, the

government risks undoing the progress made in this sector. Meanwhile, countries like India, through institutions like IITs, have cemented their dominance in global IT markets—an advantage rooted in decades of consistent, forward-thinking policy.

Pakistan must embrace a balanced approach, prioritizing security without stifling innovation and growth. The government must align with international IT standards and provide an environment conducive to technological advancement. The world is moving forward at an unprecedented pace, and unless we shed the shackles of indecision and antiquated thinking, we risk being left far behind. Connectivity isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. It's time we acted like it.

THE HEARTLAND



Indus Eagle Squad launched in Sukkur for enhanced safety and crime prevention

By Absar Ali

SUKKUR: Sukkur Municipal Corporation and Sukkur Police have launched the Indus Eagle Squad to improve safety, combat narcotics, and address encroachment issues in the city. The launch ceremony, attended by MNAs Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Noman Islam Shaikh, and other officials, marked the beginning of joint operations between the two entities. The squad consists of 60 personnel, including 20 anti-encroachment staff, and has been provided with 30 motorcycles for 24/7 patrols. The squad aims to eliminate street crimes, narcotics, and encroachments.



SSP Sukkur Amjad Sheikh emphasized that the squad will improve city surveillance and help tackle crime. In the second phase, the squad will be integrated with the city's CCTV system to enhance its effectiveness.

Shah Latif Cricket Club secures victory in SMBB Tournament

By Naeem Shaikh



KHAIRPUR: In the second round of the inaugural Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Cup Cricket Tournament, Shah Latif Cricket Club Khairpur achieved a historic victory over Al-Rashidi Cricket Club of Pir Jo Goth, eliminating them from the competition. The match, played at the Naz High School Ground in Khairpur, saw Shah Latif Cricket Club's captain, Abdul Hafeez Mangrio, winning the toss and choosing to bat first.

Notorious criminal Liaquat alias Liaqu surrenders in Halani

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: Under the leadership of SSP Nausheero Feroze, Singhar Malik, strict actions against dangerous criminals and wanted suspects involved in serious cases are ongoing in the district. As a result, Liaquat alias Liaqu, a wanted criminal from Halani and involved in serious cases, voluntarily surrendered himself at the Halani Police Station today,

bidding farewell to the criminal world. The said suspect had over 40 serious cases registered against him at various police stations, including Halani. It is important to note that anyone who wishes to leave the world of crime and live an honorable life will be welcomed and provided with legal assistance. However, those who challenge the rule of law will not be given any leniency and will be brought to justice.

Sufi Faqir Nawaz Ali Soomro congratulated on becoming General Secretary of PPP Umerkot District again

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Sufi Faqir Nawaz Ali Soomro continues to receive congratulations after being re-elected as the General Secretary of Umerkot District for the second time. Dr. Khadim Kaheri, Vice President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) City Kunri, along with Ulfat Hussain Hyder Kaheri, and Muhammad Hassan Khokhar, the President of Ward No-2, visited Soomro's residence to offer their congratulations. Additionally, Kunri City President Ghulam Mustafa Arain, Senior Vice President

Haji Abdul Ghafoor Arain, Deputy General Secretary Umerdean Chaman, Information Secretary Rizwan Mughal, Deputy General Secretary Abdul Rehman Solangi, Mehboob Khaskheli, Imran and Haji Abbas Kapri also visited to congratulate Sufi Nawaz Ali Soomro on his re-election.

GHSS KGM's Smart Home Model wins prize during Science Exhibition

By Maqbool Dai

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: At the science fair organized by the Director of School Education (Secondary) in Mirpurkhas, students from Government Higher Secondary School Kot Ghulam Muhammad showcased a high-tech smart home model designed for the Physics subject. The model featured eight different types of smart sensors. The project was led by the best Physics



teacher, Muhammad Bilal Mughal, along with the diligent matriculation student, Zeeshan Ali Khaskheli, and his team. Their hard work earned them the third position in the Mirpurkhas district.

Young doctors and medical staff protest at Johi Hospital

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: In response to the violence against doctors, nurses, and other staff members, the demonstration was led by Dr. Pervaz Shah, Dr. Asif Raza Malkani, and others. During the protest, the leaders condemned the violent attack on paramedical staff, nurses, and other medical personnel. The protest followed a boycott of the OPD (Outpatient Department) by the staff. The demonstration was led by Dr. Pervaz Shah, Dr. Asif Raza Malkani, and others. During the protest, the leaders condemned the violent attack on paramedical staff, nurses, and other medical personnel. The protest followed a boycott of the OPD (Outpatient Department) by the staff. The demonstration was led by Dr. Pervaz Shah, Dr. Asif Raza Malkani, and others. During the protest, the leaders condemned the violent attack on paramedical staff, nurses, and other medical personnel. The protest followed a boycott of the OPD (Outpatient Department) by the staff.

MUET employee abducted from SU Housing Society Phase-I

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Shafqat Kandhar, an employee of the Mehran University's Petroleum and Natural Gas department, was abducted by car riders from his residence at Sindh University Housing Society Phase-I in Jamshoro. The administration of Mehran University has remained silent about the incident. According to reports, the car riders knocked on Shafqat Kandhar's door late at night, and when he stepped outside, he was abducted and taken away. Following this, the Mehran University Employees Welfare Association (MEWA), led by Qadir Burfat, Shahab Nazir, and Murtaz Kallhor, staged a protest in front of the Jamshoro District Press Club. Shafqat's brother, Irfan Kandhar, stated that his brother was forcibly taken by unknown people from his house in Sindh University Housing Society at night. The protesters have demanded the immediate release of Shafqat Kandhar, urging authorities to reveal his whereabouts. Meanwhile, attempts to get a response from the Vice Chancellor (VC) and university administration have been unsuccessful, as they have remained evasive and unwilling to comment on the matter.



3rd death anniversary of journalist Qamruddin Malik observed

By Sajjan Jani



SHAHADADPUR: The third death anniversary of the senior journalist Late Qamruddin Malik, founding member of Shahdadpur Press Club, was observed with utmost simplicity. Flowers were offered at his grave, and special prayers were made for his elevated status in the hereafter. The event was attended by Qamar Malik's family members, including his son, Haroon Qamar, along with notable figures such as Shahdadpur Press Club President Mehdi Hassan Panhwar, Vice President Ali Nawaz Sariwal, social leader Niaz Jani Detho, journalist Aslam Azad Khaskheli, Faqir Muhammad Chandi, Rauf Jan Bagrani, Waheed Bagrani, and others. They paid their respects at his final resting place by offering floral tributes, reciting prayers, and saluting his journalistic contributions.

CIA Police lead major crackdown on gutka and drug suppliers in Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Following directives from IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIGP Hyderabad Range Tariq Razzak Dharejo, and SSP Thatta Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police have intensified operations against the illegal sale of drugs, Gutka, and other criminal activities. The CIA Police, under the leadership of Incharge Muntaz Brohi, have taken the lead in these operations. In a recent raid, the CIA Police uncovered large quantities of illegal goods, including 103 kg of Gutka material, 40 sachets of tobacco leaves, 9,770 packets of Indian Gutka, and 4,650 packets of locally made Gutka Mawa. The police also seized two vehicles, a Datsun pickup and a Suzuki pickup. This operation showcases the proactive approach of the CIA Police in tackling illegal activities. Meanwhile, operational police teams from various areas, including Thatta, Makli, Keenjhar, Jhimpir, Garho, Ghorabari, Dhabaji, Ghoro, Sakro, and Ketu Bander, conducted additional raids, resulting in the arrest of 19 individuals involved in the sale and distribution of Gutka and Indian Gutka. These suspects, including Karim Bux Notiyar, Habib Gandro, and others, have been charged under the Gutka Act. Furthermore, the police arrested three drug dealers Manzoor Jakhro, Sarfaraz Shah and Shahid Mallah with 510 grams of hashish and 40 bags of homemade liquor.

Jhol Police attacked during attempt to arrest a motorcycle thief

By Mohtab Shar

JHOL: In Jhol, police conducted a raid in the village of Ghandan to arrest the alleged motorcycle thief, Irfan Khaskheli, who was accused of stealing a motorbike. However, during the operation, a large group of villagers, including both men and women, strongly resisted the police. They attacked the Jhol police, creating chaos, which allowed the accused and his associates to escape. The incident was reported by Sub-In-

spector Umeed Ali Shar of Jhol Police Station, who filed a complaint against 7 women, including Ms. Haliman Khanzadi, and 14 men, including Irfan Khaskheli, Asif Khaskheli, and Yameen Chang. A case was registered at the Jhol Police Station against a total of 21 individuals involved in the attack and obstruction. Despite conducting multiple raids at various locations to arrest the suspects, the police have yet to apprehend the accused individuals.

SPORTS



Haris Rauf surges ahead while Shaheen Afridi slides in ICC T20I Rankings



DUBAI: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf made a significant leap, while his fellow pacer Shaheen Afridi experienced a downfall in the latest ICC T20I Bowling Rankings released on Wednesday.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series against Australia, which resulted in Pakistani players' steep fall in the rankings.

Shaheen Afridi had a disappointing outing during the series, struggling to find his rhythm on the field. He managed to claim just one wicket, resulting in a frustrating bowling average of 107.00 and a high economy rate of 11.88 runs per over.

This below-par performance caused him to drop 10 spots to settle in the 24th position in the ICC T20I Bowling Rankings.

Similarly, Naseem Shah also claimed only one wicket in two games, conceding runs at an economy rate of 13.50, which caused him to drop 14 places to 65th.

However, Haris Rauf and Abbas Afridi made significant gains in the ICC T20I Bowling Rankings courtesy of their brilliant performances despite Pakistan's loss.

Haris gained four spots to reach 20th with 601 rating points after taking five wickets in three games at an average of 15.40. Meanwhile, Abbas Afridi claimed six wickets in as many games at a brilliant average of 6.66, which resulted in him entering the top 100 T20I bowlers in the rankings. He is currently sitting in the 83rd spot after making a 39-place jump.—Agency

Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan hit a rough patch in ICC T20I Rankings

DUBAI: Pakistan batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan experienced a drop in their positions in the latest ICC T20I Batting Rankings released on Wednesday.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series, mainly courtesy of the team's below-par batting performance. Babar managed a meagre 47 runs in the series at an average of 15.66 and a strike-rate of 142.42, meanwhile, Rizwan scored 16 runs in two games at a dismal strike-rate of 57.14. Consequently, both batters dropped one place each in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings.

Mohammad Rizwan is currently in 6th place with 719 rating points, while



Babar Azam has dropped from 4th to 5th place with 742 rating points.

It's worth noting that other than Babar and Rizwan, no Pakistani batter is among the top 50 batters in the T20I rankings, with Fakhar Zaman (64) being the third-highest-ranked batter from the country.

Meanwhile, Indian batter Tilak Varma made a massive leap in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings, jumping a whopping 69 spots to clinch third place after his stellar performance in the four-match series against South Africa.

Varma smashed two undefeated centuries in the series, amassing a total of 280

runs over the course of four innings with a remarkable average of 140.00 and an explosive strike rate of 198.58.

It's worth noting that Australia's Travis Head, who missed the series against Pakistan, is leading the batting rankings, followed by England's Phil Salt.

Varma's team-mate Sanju Samson, who was the second-highest run-scorer in the series against South Africa, also made a notable gain, rising 17 places to reach 22nd.

Samson also struck two centuries during the series and accumulated 216 runs at an average of 111 and a strike rate of 194.59.—Agency

Former Pakistan captain delivers harsh verdict on Sahibzada Farhan's potential



LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt has criticised top-order batter Sahibzada Farhan for his repeated failures in the recently concluded T20I series against Australia.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series, mainly courtesy of the team's below-par batting performance.

Farhan made his return to the team during the series, having last played in the T20I series against New Zealand earlier this year, however, he failed to impress particularly struggling against short-pitched deliveries.

In a dismal display of batting, he scored just 22 runs across three innings at a strike rate of 104.76, with his highest score being a mere nine.

However, what made his shortcomings even more remarkable was the identical nature of his dismissals in all

three matches.

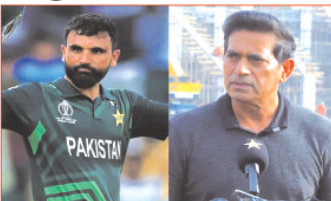
He consistently attempted to execute a pull shot against the short-pitched deliveries from Spencer Johnson, only to find himself caught by Xavier Bartlett at mid-wicket each time.

Salman Butt, in a video on his YouTube channel, after the third T20I, expressed his concerns about Farhan's struggles against pace and bounce.

"He was late on the ball. After getting out once or twice, a batter realizes that he's late on a particular shot, especially here [in Australia], where there is steep bounce and the new ball is coming at pace," said Butt. The former captain pointed out that Sahibzada Farhan failed to adjust his technique and kept getting out in a similar way, which highlights his limitations.

"You either avoid such deliveries or if you can't avoid them, you take a single towards third man on such short-pitched balls.—Agency

Aaqib Javed hints at Fakhar Zaman's long-awaited comeback



LAHORE: Aaqib Javed, the interim white-ball head coach of Pakistan, has discussed the potential return of top-order batter Fakhar Zaman to the national team on Wednesday.

Fakhar was excluded from the central contracts for the 2024-25 international season, as well as the squads for the tours to Australia and Zimbabwe last month.

However, Aaqib, who recently took charge as the interim head coach, heaped praise on Fakhar, calling him a match-winner.

The former pacer shared that Fakhar is dealing with some fitness issues and he will be back in the team once he achieves full recovery.

"Fakhar Zaman is a match-winner. He has been facing some fitness issues, but the selection committee will reconsider him once he regains fitness," Aaqib stated while addressing the media in Lahore.

Remember, Fakhar expressed his disappointment through a social media post over the selection committee's decision to drop star batter Babar Azam after the first Test against England last month.

Consequently, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) issued a show-cause notice

to the left-hander over breaching the Code of Conduct.

Aaqib Javed further shared that as interim head coach his goal is to take Pakistan cricket forward using his extensive coaching experience.

"PCB has entrusted me with additional responsibilities, and I will fulfil them to the best of my abilities," he added. "I have been coaching for over 22 years and will use my experience with the team."

"As a coach, I am not focusing on individual players but on improving Pakistan cricket as a whole."

He emphasized that significant changes are needed for Pakistan's T20I team, and for this reason, new players will be provided ample opportunities ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026.

"There's still over a year left for the next T20 World Cup, so a lot of changes will be seen," Aaqib Javed stated. "The team selected for Zimbabwe gives a message to new players that they will be given opportunities."

"However, as of now, we are focusing more on ODI matches and the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025."—Agency

Head coach addresses Mercurial Babar Azam's future in men's T20Is squad

LAHORE: Newly-appointed head coach of Pakistan's white-ball cricket team Aaqib Javed touched on star batter Babar Azam's inclusion and position in the T20I team.

The former captain, who has been going through a tough patch across all formats of the game, also had an unimpressive run in the recent three-match T20I series against Australia where he only scored 47 runs at a meagre average of 15.66 and strike-rate of 142.42.

Aaqib while addressing



the media in Lahore on Wednesday, was asked whether Babar would be considered for T20Is.

"Senior players like Babar and Rizwan have a value. They performed over

the years for Pakistan," he said. Earlier, commenting on Babar's woes in the aforementioned series, former cricketer Basit Ali had claimed that the third T20I against Australia was the bat-

ter's last in the format, since Aqib - one of the most vocal critics of star batter - had taken the reins of the white-ball side. "As long as Aqib Javed is the head coach, this may be Babar Azam's last T20 match," Basit had said during a local TV programme. "I am simply stating what is evident. You have a premium batsman averaging just 14 runs across three matches. What kind of batsman gets dismissed before the eighth over?" he had questioned.—Agency

THE HEARTLAND

Sharjeel Inspires Youth To Drive Pakistan's Future Progress

HYDERABAD: Sindh Senior Minister for Information and Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon, highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping Pakistan's progress during the inauguration of World Sustainable Transport Day at Isra University's Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Commending students' innovative transport projects, Memon encouraged them to pioneer solutions for sustainable public transport and acknowledged Isra University's contributions to Hyderabad's development.

The Minister emphasized Sindh's achievements, such as harnessing wind energy in Thatta and electricity generation from Thar coal—initi-



ated by Benazir Bhutto and expanded under Asif Ali Zardari's leadership. He noted that Thar coal now powers thousands of megawatts of affordable electricity.

Memon also detailed

ble-decker buses, and youth-focused EV taxis.

Urging students to embrace technology responsibly, Memon advocated for the integration of IT and AI into education while cautioning against misuse. He stressed ethical protests, condemning violence against national institutions, and highlighted the government's commitment to addressing societal issues, including drug abuse and transport reforms.

During the ceremony, Memon planted a sapling at Isra University Park and praised students' sustainable transport ideas, calling on the youth to lead Pakistan toward a brighter future.—RT

Shoaib Akhtar confirms India's Champions Trophy 2025 tour to Pakistan



RAWALPINDI: In a recent interview with a local TV

channel, former fast bowler and renowned cricketer Shoaib Akhtar, also known as the "Rawalpindi Express," expressed his belief that back-channel negotiations between Pakistan and India will eventually lead to India's participation in the Champions Trophy, despite the current uncertainties.

Akhtar emphasized the importance of not losing hope and waiting for a solution.

Akhtar pointed out the crucial role of India in the global cricket ecosystem, stating, "We all know that 95 to 96 percent of sponsorship in the International Cricket Council (ICC) comes from India, which is why the In-

dian board can exert pressure."

He added that the situation was not solely in the hands of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) or the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) but ultimately depended on the governments of both countries.

He also raised a hypothetical scenario, saying, "Imagine Virat Kohli playing in Pakistan and scoring a century."

While Pakistan cannot host major events like the World Cup, the Champions Trophy could be a significant step towards such larger tournaments. I still believe the Indian team will come to Pakistan.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Britney Spears always clung to hope for reconciling with her sons



Britney Spears remained hopeful amid her estranged relationship with sons, Sean and Jayden.

The 42-year-old superstar shares her 18- and 19-year-old with ex-husband, Kevin Federline and has been distant from them ever since a conservatorship that had been governed by her family was terminated in November 2021.

However, even after that, the Criminal singer "never gave up hope on a reconciliation" with and "never stopped loving" her sons.

After Spears reunited with her youngest son, an insider reported to Page Six, "It made her so happy to spend one-on-one time together and just hang out. It really was a dream come true for her."

"Despite being apart for such a long time, Britney has never stopped loving her boys and she never gave up hope on a reconciliation with them," they added.

The source further mentioned, "Seeing Jayden for the first time in a really long time was wonderful for Britney."

For the unversed, the Oops!...I Did It Again hitmaker and her now ex-husband, Kevin went their separate ways in 2007, ending three years of marriage, with him being granted full custody of their children due to a lot of personal issues. Britney Spears was struggling with that time.

Selena Gomez gives cryptic advice: 'Enjoy it' amid speculation



Selena Gomez recently got candid and opened up about a piece of advice she received from another woman.

She attended the 2024 ELLE's Women in Hollywood, an event that was organised to honour top women in the industry in Los Angeles on November 19, where she conversed with People.

While talking to the outlet, Gomez quipped, "I know this sounds silly, but someone once said, 'Don't take yourself too seriously.'"

The 32-year-old star proceeded to elaborate, saying, "Because it allows you to have room and empathy and compassion, and you can go into a film or a character and be able to really appreciate that."

Keeping the name of

women under wraps, the Baby Calm Down hitmaker revealed, "That was from an actress that I really respect."

It is pertinent to mention that Gomez shared the advice she received from another actress shortly after speaking with ELLE earlier this month about her inspiring experience working with Meryl Streep on Only Murders in the Building.

Face of the Day



Name: Ahsan Abbas
Location: Karachi
About me: I love Pakistan!

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



MPA Muhammad Arif Khan Mahar lauds services of Sindh Government

By Adeel Ali

SHIKARPUR: PPP MPA Muhammad Arif Khan Mahar praised the Sindh government's initiative to provide "Sindh Hari Card," calling it a great step to assist farmers in the province. Speaking at a reception at Mahar House in Wazirabad, he discussed various issues, including improvements in education and health in Sindh, and the security situation in Shikarpur. He clarified that there were no criminal gangs in Shikarpur and that the Jirga held by the Mahar Jatoi community was for resolving disputes between two groups, not for criminals. He emphasized



that no support was given to criminals by any political leader, and all PPP elected representatives, including MNA Shahryar Khan Mahar, MNA Shabbir Ali Bijarani, and others, stood united in supporting the police in maintaining law and order. Regarding Shikarpur's security, Mahar appreciated the efforts of

SSP Shikarpur, Shahzeb Chachar, for improving the situation. He concluded by discussing the developmental issues in his constituency, mentioning that some school buildings were in poor condition and that he would work with the PPP leadership to secure more development projects for his constituency.

-Let love rule!

Newlyweds demand protection



By Maqbool Dal

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A divorced woman from Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Kavita, daughter of Roopo Kolhi, has married her love, Weermal Kolhi, against the wishes of her family. Speaking to the media, the couple stated that

the woman's relatives have been threatening and harassing them due to the marriage. Kavita explained that she married Weermal Kolhi of her own free will and choice. She appealed for protection, requesting the authorities to ensure their safety from further harassment.

Commissioner Bilal Ahmed Memon chairs seminar on Master Plan and development of Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The Divisional Commissioner of Hyderabad, Bilal Ahmed Memon, stated that work on the master plan for Sujawal city is underway, emphasizing that a master plan is essential for the development of any city or area. He further stated that without a master plan, there is a risk of resource wastage. These views were expressed by him during a broadcast seminar held on the Master Plan for the development of Sujawal. Dr. Imtiaz Bhatti, Director General of Planning and Development, presented the Master Plan, highlighting the importance of comprehensive planning and strategy for the future construction and development of any city or area. He explained that the Master Plan includes various sectors such as housing, health, education, drainage systems, water supply, and environmental considerations. During the seminar, MNA Syed Ayaz Shah Sheerazi, MPA Rehana Laghari, and other partici-



pants shared their thoughts on the development of Sujawal city. MNA Syed Ayaz Shah Sheerazi pointed out that the establishment of new constituencies and the Sujawal Town Committee has led to an increase in the population of the city, and called for including nearby villages and towns in the development process. MPA Rehana Laghari also emphasized the implementation of the Master Plan, stressing the need for more work in the education and health sectors, particularly the restoration of the drainage system. At the con-

clusion of the seminar, Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind thanked the Divisional Commissioner, the Director General of Planning and Development, and all other participants, expressing hope that everyone will contribute their full support to the development and progress of Sujawal. The seminar was attended by District Council Chairman Danish Khan Malkani, Haji Shaikat Ali Khan Malkani, officials from various departments, residents, lawyers, media representatives, and members of civil society.

Sindh Dost Committee organizes Grand Peace Conference in Jacobabad

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: A Grand Peace Conference was organized by the Sindh Dost Committee in Jacobabad to address the growing lawlessness, restore peace, and tackle the city's major issues. The event was attended by various political, social, religious leaders, as well as representatives from civil society, businesses, media, and the education sector. Key participants included leaders such as Intizar Chhelgari, Naadeem Qureshi, Khalid Jhelan, Muhammad Alam Khoso, Lal Chand Saitani, Abdul Sattar Jagirani, Yasir Abro, Advocate GM Soomro, and others. During the conference, the leaders expressed concern over the increasing crime rate in the



city and demanded immediate action to restore law and order. They called for operations against street crime and the mafia operating on national highways. They also emphasized the need to address the shortage of police personnel by reclaiming police guards assigned to private individuals. The leaders highlighted serious issues like the harassment of women and girls, with reports of sexual violence and harassment on the streets, as

well as at schools and colleges. They also raised concerns over the operation of illegal gambling dens, which they said were leading the youth towards destruction. The conference presented 21 resolutions, which will be shared with elected representatives, the police, and district authorities for implementation. The leaders urged the authorities to act on these resolutions to restore peace in the city and resolve other critical issues.

97th annual Urs of Hazrat Pir Sher Muhammad Shah Jilani celebrated in Gajelo Sharif

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The 97th annual Urs of the great spiritual leader Hazrat Pir Sher Muhammad Shah Jilani (RA) concluded at Gajelo Sharif. The event was attended by the Sajada Nasheen (caretaker) of the shrine, Pir Chhattan Shah Jilani, along with his heir, Pir Ali Muhammad Shah Jilani. The celebrations included a musical evening featuring performances by renowned artists. In recognition of the contributions made by various individuals, awards were presented to folk singers, artists, and performers, including Deeba Sehar, Fiza Marvi Group, Ram Chand Faqir, Zulfiqar Khaskheli, Journalist Irfan Memon, and Ustad Ameer Ali.

GDA rallies against construction of canals on Indus River



By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: A protest rally was held in Thari Mirwah against the construction of new canals on the Indus River, organized by the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA). The rally started from Naka Chowk and ended at Shaheed Fazil Rahu Chowk. Prominent participants in the rally included lawyer Ameer Tariq Kubar, President of Thari Mirwah Bar, lawyer Mehtab Ahmed Shar, Raees Ali Akbar Dasti, lawyer Ghulam Nabi Shar, Abdul Shakoor Mallah, Advocate Ayaz Ahmed Jogi, Muhammad Hanif Pirzada, and others. During the rally, the leaders stated that the GDA representing the people of Sindh stands with the Sindh community. They vowed to sacrifice their lives but not allow the construction of new dams on the Indus River. The leaders warned that if the government does not withdraw its decision, the scope of the protests will be expanded.

Children's assembly organized to mark World Children's Day in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: On the occasion of World Children's Day, the Sindh Child Protection Authority, Social Welfare Department, organized a children's assembly at the Begum Nusrat Bhutto Memorial Hall in Larkana. Students from various public and private schools in Larkana participated as assembly members, delivering speeches in Sindhi, Urdu, and English. Deputy Commissioner of Larkana, Dr. Sharjeel Noor Chahna, attended as the chief guest. Other distinguished guests included



Professor Mukhtiar Ahmed Samo, Deputy Director of Sindh Child Protection Authority, Social Welfare Department Larkana, Tayab Korojo, Toheedullah Kolhoro, Imtiaz Jokhio, In-charge of Sweet Home Larkana, Ali Akbar, Director of Private Schools, Abdul Malik Chandio, and Coordinator of the Child

Rights Advocacy Network, Syed Javed Shah, among others. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Sharjeel Noor Chahna said that on the occasion of World Children's Day, today we have organized a children's assembly in Larkana, providing children with an opportunity to fully utilize their abilities.

Crackdown on expired medicines begins in Nara

By Gada Hussain

NARO: In a surprise raid conducted by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nara, Wasim Elahi Laghari and Drug Inspector Altaf Buzdar, a large quantity of expired medicines was seized from medical stores in the city. The raid, carried out under judicial orders, targeted several medical stores, where expired drugs were found in vi-

olation of regulations. As a result, heavy fines were imposed on the store owners involved in selling expired medicines. AC Wasim Elahi Laghari and Drug Inspector Altaf Buzdar emphasized that the raids were conducted based on judicial orders and aimed to ensure public safety. They issued a warning to the store owners, stating that if any further complaints about expired medicines arise, their

medical store licenses will be revoked, and the stores will be sealed. Additionally, samples of some medicines have been taken for laboratory testing to ensure their quality and safety. During the raids, Mukhtiar Ahmed Samo, Revenue Supervisor Ashiq Hussain Shar, Sardar Wasseem, Tehsildar Sikandar Shar, and other officials were also present to assist in the operation.

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed emphasizes support for women entrepreneurs

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed, highlighted the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs and pointed out that currently, women make up less than 10% of the total borrowers, and their share in bank accounts is only 26%. To reinforce its commitment to increasing women's participation in the economic landscape, the State Bank of Pakistan organized the Women Entrepreneurship Day, across all regions of Pakistan, including Hyderabad. The event saw participation from various stakeholders, including international and local partner organizations, banks, key civil society figures, and successful women entrepreneurs. In his keynote address, Governor Jameel Ahmed emphasized the significant role of women entrepreneurs in innovation, economic growth, and social development. He acknowledged the structural and cultural challenges



that businesswomen face, including limited access to finance, markets, and mentorship. Despite these obstacles, Pakistani women have demonstrated remarkable resilience, achieving success in diverse sectors such as agriculture, technology, and manufacturing. Governor Ahmed urged financial institutions to adopt innovative and inclusive strategies, emphasizing the importance of partnerships with organizations such as UN

Women and USAID. At the conclusion of the event, awards were presented to outstanding women entrepreneurs and banks for their contributions to advancing the role of women in economic activities. The Governor expressed hope that these women, with their leadership abilities, would inspire future generations and reaffirm the State Bank's commitment to promoting an inclusive financial ecosystem that empowers women.

Jhando Marri residents protest against extortionists



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Jhando Marri, residents including Zarina, Javed, Pappu Oad, and others from Sakrand, appeared at the media center in Mirabad to speak out against the alleged abuses they have faced from extortionists. They accused individuals such as Shadi Khan Pathan, Aziz Gul Pathan, Haroon Qureshi, Sikandar Oad, and others of making their lives miserable through constant abuse, forced labor, and threats. The victims revealed that they were subjected to daily violence and

exploitation, with the Pathans allegedly threatening to kill them. As a result, they were forced to flee their homes and live a life of displacement and hardship. In response to the ongoing threats and abuses, the victims have filed a petition in the Sindh High Court seeking protection. They have appealed to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, the IG Sindh, and other relevant authorities to take notice of the alleged atrocities committed by the influential Pathan community men and provide them with justice.

14-year-old girl ends her life

By Maqbool Dal

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A 14-year-old girl named Kavita D/o Madhav Kolhi

committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan at her home in village Waheed Bhurgari Farm over a domestic matter. The body of the

deceased was handed over to her heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities from a local area hospital.

REGIONAL TIMES

BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Councilor Khair Bugti stresses need for addressing sewerage system issues in Dera Allahyar

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: Councilor Awar Khair Bugti of the Municipal Corporation of Dera Allahyar stated that the city's most pressing issue is the lack of a proper sewerage system. He highlighted that residents face severe difficulties during rains and floods due to inadequate drainage facilities. He mentioned that the funds allocated through MPA funds, specifically for projects assigned to Nisar Shaikh, are being utilized efficiently, but additional funding is needed to address the issues comprehensively. Awar Khair Bugti emphasized the need for collaborative efforts from elected representatives, the Municipal Corporation, and



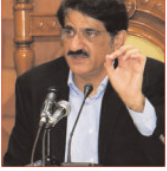
the district administration cleaned, and a comprehensive drainage system should be developed to rectify the issue permanently. The drainage channels in streets and neighborhoods should be

METRO KARACHI

Murad Unveils New Park And Expanded Care For Children With Disabilities

KARACHI: On World Children's Day, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced plans to establish a dedicated park for children with disabilities in Clifton Block-5 and the launch of UJALA-II in collaboration with the Department of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD).

During his visit to the UJALA Centre in Defence Phase-8, CM Murad toured the facility and engaged with stakeholders to understand the challenges faced by children with autism and disabilities. He praised UJALA Chairman Zakria Godal and CEO Hamad Aslam for their efforts in creating an inclusive environment and emphasized the need for expanding such initiatives.



The proposed UJALA-II project, spanning 400 square yards, will offer specialized educational and therapeutic services for children with autism. The Chief Minister directed its completion within two years, expediting the timeline by a year.

Highlighting the Sindh Government's commitment to inclusivity, Murad Shah announced the Inclusive City Project, aimed at improving urban accessibility, transportation, and public infrastructure for people with disabilities.

"An inclusive Sindh is a prosperous Sindh," he reiterated, pledging equal opportunities for all children.—RT

JI Karachi Accuses PPP Of Orchestrating Fake Mandate In By-Elections

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi has accused the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of securing a fraudulent mandate in the city's local council by-elections and demanded the resignation of the Election Commission official.

JI Karachi chief Munim Zafar Khan alleged irregularities in Liqatullah's UC-7, claiming that 9,727 voters were registered in a block with only 1,178 residents. "They are attempting to impose fake representations on Karachi through such practices," he said,

adding that JI plans to challenge the election results in court.

The JI leader also demanded the announcement of results in accordance with Form-11 and accused PPP of manipulating the polls. He revealed that JI has filed a petition with the Election Commission contesting the results of Model Town's UC-7 by-election.

"We possess Form-11 and Form-12 for all 10 seats," Khan asserted, underscoring the party's commitment to pursuing justice against alleged electoral rigging.—RT/Agency

Murad Sounds The Alarm As Polio Cases Surge Across Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has voiced serious concerns over the increasing number of polio cases, revealing that out of 50 cases reported nationwide, 13 are from Sindh.

Chairing a high-level meeting on polio eradication efforts, the CM was briefed by Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, and other key officials. It was disclosed that the affected areas in Sindh include Shikarpur (1), Kemari (2), Hyderabad (2), East Karachi (1), Saeed (1), Malir (1), Jacobabad (2), Mirpurkhas (1), Sanghar (1), and Ghotki (1).

Dr. Pechuho informed the meeting that Sindh is home to 10.6 million children under five years of age, with 321,323 frequently migrating, complicating immunisation efforts. Currently, 69% of children in the province are fully immunised, but environmental samples from 20 districts indicate a 66% positive rate for polio markers in 2024.

During the October polio campaign, 66% of the target population received vaccinations, but 248,758 children were left unvaccinated. These included 43,227 refusal cases

and 205,531 children absent during the drive.

Expressing dissatisfaction, CM Shah directed district commissioners and senior police officers to personally oversee vaccination efforts in areas with refusal cases. "Refusals will no longer be tolerated. I want 100% vaccination coverage," he asserted, warning that any official showing negligence would face dismissal.

The provincial government has intensified efforts to combat polio, with a renewed focus on reaching every child and eliminating gaps in immunisation.—RT

MPA Saleem Baloch Celebrated For Securing Prestigious New Role

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: MPA Muhammad Saleem Baloch, elected from Malir, has been appointed as the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Public Health Engineering and Rural Development. He received con-

gratulations from political and social figures, party workers, and local residents, including a delegation from the District Press Club Malir. Baloch expressed gratitude to Chairman Bilawal at the event by several Bhutto Zardari and Co-PPPs leaders and local representatives.

Zardari for the honor and pledged to work with CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah to improve public services and address social issues in his constituency. He was joined by several Bhutto Zardari and Co-PPPs leaders and local representatives.

Police Crack Down After Land Encroachment Clash In Rind Village

By Jamshaid Zuhrani

KARACHI: In a crackdown against land encroachments in Rind Village near Bhains Colony, police forces, along with anti-encroachment teams and revenue officials, launched an operation that involved demolishing houses, fences, and walls. The operation faced strong resistance from local residents, leading to a tense standoff. The police responded with baton charges resulting in the arrest of 10 individuals. The incident

took place in the jurisdiction of Sukhan Police Station, near the Labor Square area of Rind Village. The operation targeted illegal land occupations, with the authorities demolishing walls, fences, and several homes. As news of the operation spread, a large number of local residents gathered to resist the action, resulting in a violent confrontation. According to the authorities, the operation was part of an ongoing effort to

reclaim government land from illegal occupations. Malir District Administrator, Mukhtiar Khan Hyderi, along with anti-encroachment officials, stated that anyone found occupying government land illegally would be dealt with. However, local residents claimed that they were being unfairly treated and that police and revenue officials were forcibly seizing their land.

Commerce Minister Pushes Wexnet 2024 And OIC Trade Fair Plans Into High Gear

KARACHI: The Minister of Commerce chaired a high-level meeting at the National Insurance Corporation Limited (NICL) to assess the progress of Wexnet 2024 and the 18th OIC Trade Fair, set to take place from November 29 to December 1 at Expo Centre Lahore.

The meeting was attended by Secretary TDAP Sheryar Taj, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala, and senior officials from the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). TDAP representatives provided a detailed briefing on the planning and execution strategies for the upcoming events.

The Minister highlighted the critical role of Wexnet 2024 in empowering women entrepreneurs and directed TDAP to enhance efforts to spotlight their achievements. He also underscored the strategic importance of both events in promoting Pakistan's exports and strengthening global trade partnerships.

Stressing the need for meticulous planning and im-



peaceful representation, the Minister urged stakeholders to ensure widespread outreach and effective promotion of Pakistan's trade potential.

Wexnet 2024 will serve as a premier platform for women entrepreneurs, while the OIC Trade Fair will facilitate international networking and collaboration among

Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states. Both events aim to boost Pakistan's export-oriented growth and foster inclusive trade development.

TDAP reiterated its commitment to showcasing Pakistan's export capabilities and driving trade expansion on the global stage.—RT

Osama Jafari Warns: Sindh's Water Rights Must Be Respected

KARACHI: Osama Jaffari, Deputy Convenor of the Pakistan Muslim League (Functional) Karachi Zone Rabta Committee and President of PS 91, stated that any form of injustice towards the people of Sindh will not be tolerated. He expressed these views while addressing a peaceful public protest in Korangi against amendments in the IRSA Act and the construction of a new canal on the Indus River. He further said that if corrupt rulers plot to cut off water for the people of Sindh, the conspirators will be defeated by the power of the people, under the



leadership of Younis Sain and Sardar Abdul Rahim.

He added that the PPP is equally involved in plans to make Sindh barren, but such conspiracies will not succeed.—RT

Sindh CM Prioritizes Clean Water, Energy Access, And Global Diplomacy

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing clean drinking water, affordable electricity, and improving education and health under the leadership of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

During meetings at CM House with diplomats from Turkey, Sweden, and Oman, CM Shah discussed enhancing bilateral relations, trade, and investment opportunities in Sindh.

Engagement with Turkey: Turkish Ambassador H.E. Irfan Neziroglu, accompanied by Consul General Cemal Sangu, emphasized Turkey's strong ties with Pakistan and its participation in the IDEAS Expo-2024. CM Shah highlighted Sindh's resources and invited Turkish firms to invest in energy, coal mining, and tourism under the Public-Private Partnership

model. Strengthening Swedish Cooperation: Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde, on her first visit to Karachi, celebrated 75 years of Pakistan-Sweden diplomatic ties. Discussions included investment in wind and solar energy and water management. The ambassador lauded the Pink Bus service, while CM Shah urged greater trade and collaboration.

Omani Partnership: Oman's Consul General Eng. Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari invited the CM to Oman's National Day celebrations. CM Shah highlighted Sindh's strategic location and natural wealth as avenues for future cooperation.

These meetings emphasized Sindh's focus on sustainable development and fostering international partnerships for mutual progress.—RT/Agency

Karachi Airport And Surrounding Areas Declared High-Security Red Zone

KARACHI: The Sindh government has designated Karachi airport and its surrounding areas as a "red zone" following consultations with law enforcement agencies. The decision comes in light of heightened security concerns amid the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024.

As IDEAS 2024 commenced on Tuesday, Malir District police officials announced restricted access to the red zone. Only passengers traveling to or from the city and those on official duty will be allowed entry.

To bolster security, checkpoints have been established at five key locations: Star Gate, CAA Club, Madame Bridge, Model Morr, and ASF Road Rangers Post. Police and Rangers are maintaining a 24/7 presence, conducting thorough inspections of individuals and vehicles to deter any potential threats.



Residents of M9 Motorway, Malir Cantt, Memon Goth, Model Colony, and nearby areas are advised to use Sharea Faisal and Malir Halt instead of red zone routes when traveling to the city. Similarly, passengers traveling from Drigh Road towards Malir Cantt or Model Colony should avoid Star Gate and CAA Club Road, opting for Malir Halt instead.

Travelers heading to the airport are urged to carry their flight tickets and national identity cards to streamline security checks. All passengers are advised to arrive well in advance to ensure smooth processing and avoid delays.

Officials have emphasized vigilance at all checkpoints, with strict monitoring of suspicious individuals and vehicles to maintain security during the event.—RT/Agency

Naval Chief Unveils Pakistan's Pioneering Maritime Science And Technology Park



KARACHI: Pakistan's inaugural Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) was officially launched during a groundbreaking ceremony at EXPO Centre as part of IDEAS-2024. Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff, presided over the event as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Admiral Ashraf highlighted the landmark importance of PMSTP, describing it as a catalyst for growth in maritime sciences, tech-



nologies, industries, and businesses. He emphasized that the initiative will unlock new opportunities to boost Pakistan's GDP and strengthen the maritime sector. He attributed the project's success to the collaborative efforts of visionary individuals and organizations.

As Pakistan's first dedicated maritime science park, PMSTP aims to integrate academia, industry, and government to foster innovation in key areas, including Naval

Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Ocean Renewable Energy, Seafood Processing, Shipbuilding, and Coastal Tourism.

Designed as a hub for transformative innovation, PMSTP is expected to play a vital role in advancing Pakistan's blue economy and addressing economic challenges. Future expansion plans include establishing PMSTP branches in Islamabad, Lahore, and Gwadar.—RT

Rohde & Schwarz Pakistan Shines At IDEAS 2024 With Stellar Start



KARACHI: The 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 commenced on November 19 at the Karachi Expo Centre. The inaugural ceremony, graced by Federal Defence Production Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif as Chief Guest, was attended by prominent delegates, exhibitors, and senior military officials.

Rohde & Schwarz Pakistan, a consistent participant in IDEAS, showcased advanced technologies in radio communication, test and measurement, and digital broadcasting. Managing Director Haris Ali highlighted the company's investment in Pakistan's

high-tech sector and its commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions through trained local expertise.

Key exhibits included the R&S@SDAR airborne radio and R&S@SDHR handheld radio, both designed for civil-military operations and network-centric warfare. These innovations underline Rohde & Schwarz's contribution to achieving spectrum dominance and fostering defense capabilities.

IDEAS 2024 runs until November 22, with Rohde & Schwarz demonstrating solutions tailored to modern defense and security challenges.—RT

Traffic Safety Crisis In Korangi District Sparks Public Concern

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Traffic management in Korangi District has become a serious issue due to the arbitrary policies of the Traffic Department, leading to frequent accidents and the loss of lives along the Korangi Crossing to Landhi Babar Market and Murtaza Chowrangi on the National Highway.

Daily incidents are being reported due to corruption and incompetence among traffic personnel. Overloaded vehicles and water tankers also contribute to the growing number of accidents.

Local leaders and citizens have expressed concern and urged the Sindh government, including the Chief Minister and the Traffic Police, to take immediate action to improve traffic safety in the area.

Gas leakage is a major environmental hazard—report if you see one



Mr. Sher Muhammad S/o Muhammad Ali Bachkani, Emp. No. 26841, Supervisor Inspector Meter Reader, C/O Noor Hussain Dahmani, Gold Smith, Sareela Bazaar, Village Sakhi Subhat Khan Bakani, Kandhkot.

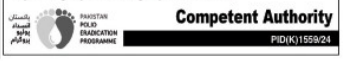
DISMISSAL ORDER

Reference Charge Sheet vide Letter No. E&D-Emp. No. 26841/10 dated 12.01.2024 issued to you on following allegations:

- You are continuously absent from duty since 19.10.2023 till date without intimation / permission of your superiors.
- Further, you were transferred from Billing Department, Kandhkot to Billing Department, Thul vide memo dated 16.08.2023 and accordingly, relieved from Billing Department, Kandhkot on 05.09.2023. However, instead of reporting to Sub-Zonal Manager, Thul on 05.09.2023, you joined duty on 22.09.2023 after 16 days of unauthorized absence from duty, which is also a clear violation of Company Rules / Regulations.
- Furthermore, it has also been revealed from your biometric attendance record for the period from January to October 2023 that you are a habitual latecomer and frequently leave the office before an hour which also depicts your non-serious attitude towards the job.
- The above acts on your part tantamount to gross misconduct under the Law and violation of Company Rules / Regulations.

Subsequently, an Enquiry was conducted wherein you were provided full & fair opportunity to defend your case. The Enquiry Officer after thorough examination has submitted the Enquiry Report wherein you have been held GUILTY of the noted charges. Hence, the above acts on your part amount to gross misconduct in terms of Standing Order 15 (3) (a), (e) & (f) of The Industrial & Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Ordinance, 1968.

Therefore, in view of proven charges of gross misconduct, you are hereby, Dismissed from Company Service with effect from 19.10.2023, the date from which you are continuously absent from duty. You may collect your legal dues (if any) from the Finance Department during working hours on any working day after fulfilling regularity formalities.



"Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else."

—Les Brown

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2419454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 2024



KARACHI: This historic and timeless photo was taken when former Sindh Senior Minister Mir Rasool Bux Talpur organized a lovely poetry recital at the Chief Minister's House featuring legendary poets Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Ahmed Faraz and Rais Amrholvi. The event took place with special permission from then President General Zia-ul-Haq as Faiz and Faraz were travelling from London to Russia. This group photo shows Mir Rasool Bux Talpur, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Ahmed Faraz, Rais Amrholvi, journalist Mahmood Sham, Mehnaz Barna, and sitting below, then Sindh Information Secretary Ahmed Maqsood Hamidi and Daily Ibrat newspaper's Bureau Chief and Senior journalist Majeed Abbasi. The memorable picture was taken 40 years ago.—RT

Shehbaz Reaffirms Commitment To Eradicating Polio From Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed commitment to becoming a polio-free nation, emphasising the joint efforts of the federal and provincial governments in the fight against the disease.

Speaking on Wednesday, the Prime Minister assured that all provinces were fully aligned and taking decisive steps towards the eradication of polio.

"The Federation, along with all the provinces, is taking active measures for polio eradication," Sharif said, adding that all provincial governments had been brought into confidence regarding the strategy to combat the disease.

He expressed his confidence that with coordinated efforts, the nation would successfully eliminate polio.

A high-level delegation from the Polio Oversight Board, including key representatives from global health organisations, met with the Prime Minister to discuss ongoing efforts.

The delegation comprised Christopher Elias,



representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director of the World Health Organization; UNICEF Regional Director Sanjay Wijesekera; and Dr Andrea Frisetti, Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among others.

The Prime Minister thanked the delegation for their continued support and for joining hands with Pakistan's government in its anti-polio initiatives.

He also acknowledged the contributions of the King Salman Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation, Rotary Foundation, UNICEF, and CDC, all of which have been instrumental in the campaign.

"These global organisations have played a significant role in our battle against polio," Sharif said. "We are confident that with their continued support, we will overcome this challenge and rid the country of this debilitating disease once and for all."

polio strategy had been effectively implemented and that positive results were beginning to show.

Dr Hanan Balkhy stressed the need for strengthened regional co-operation to combat public health challenges, including polio. She urged neighbouring countries to maintain dialogue and share resources for a more unified approach.

In response to the challenges posed by the disease, the Prime Minister's office confirmed that a third-party audit of the polio eradication drive had been conducted as part of the ongoing evaluation. The government has focused on ensuring proper care for polio-affected children, while polio vaccination rates in areas with previously low coverage have shown significant improvement.

The meeting concluded with renewed optimism, with the Prime Minister and global partners reaffirming their collective goal to eradicate polio and protect future generations.—RT/Agency

Apologetic Fawad Chaudhry Seeks Reconciliation In ECP Contempt Case

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has pleaded for an apology in the contempt of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) case.

During the hearing, Chaudhry requested the ECP to solve the matter through an apology, Express News reported.

A four-member ECP bench, led by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani, heard the case in which Fawad appeared and stated that he had already apologised in three related cases.

"I have submitted apologies for these cases," Fawad Chaudhry said. However, Justice Iqbal, a member of the ECP, reminded him that charges were to be framed today.

In response to a question from the ECP, Fawad requested that the matter be resolved with an apology. "Sir, please settle this with an apology," he pleaded. The ECP member responded, "Are you saying the same thing outside as well, or has something changed?" Fawad retorted, "These days, you are not paying attention."

The commission member said, "The witnesses have arrived in this case; let them mark their attendance."

Fawad Chaudhry replied, "You forget others' matters, but you remember mine." Afterward, the Election Commission adjourned the hearing.



ing of the case until December 10.

The hearing was adjourned until December 10, 2024.

Fawad Chaudhry said after the hearing that if a resolution is found through negotiations, it could improve politics. He urged that such negotiations should not be seen as a compromise. The release of political prisoners, he added, is an issue in line with Pakistan's constitution, and they will continue their struggle for the restoration of the constitution and rule of law.

He concluded by saying that the final decision regarding the protest is expected by Thursday. If talks take place, it could lead to a decrease in the political temperature. The founder of PTI currently has three demands: the return of the mandate, the 26th constitutional amendment, and the release of political prisoners.—RT/Agency

He further claimed that there is no government of elected representatives in Pakistan at the moment.

A prime minister with only 18 seats has come to power. Fawad also noted that the founder of PTI had announced a protest on November 24, stressing that this

protest is not limited to one party or individual, but is for all Pakistanis.

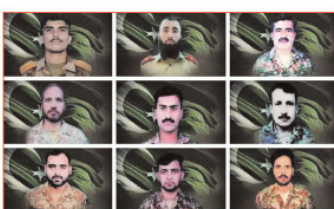
Fawad Chaudhry mentioned that if a solution is found through negotiations, it would lead to improvement in politics. He urged that such negotiations should not be seen as a compromise. The release of political prisoners, he added, is an issue in line with Pakistan's constitution, and they will continue their struggle for the restoration of the constitution and rule of law.

He concluded by saying that the final decision regarding the protest is expected by Thursday. If talks take place, it could lead to a decrease in the political temperature. The founder of PTI currently has three demands: the return of the mandate, the 26th constitutional amendment, and the release of political prisoners.—RT/Agency

He further claimed that there is no government of elected representatives in Pakistan at the moment.

A prime minister with only 18 seats has come to power. Fawad also noted that the founder of PTI had announced a protest on November 24, stressing that this

Deadly Suicide Attack In Bannu Claims Lives Of 12 Valiant Security Personnel



BANNU: At least 12 security personnel were martyred in a suicide attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) District Bannu, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

The military's media wing, in a statement, said that terrorists or 'khwari' attempted to attack a joint check post in the general area of Mali Khel in Bannu on November 19 (Tuesday).

"In [the] ensuing fire exchange, six terrorists were sent to hell," the statement read, adding that the attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by the troops, which forced the attackers to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the post.

Explaining the attack further, the military's media

wing said that the suicide blast led to the collapse of a portion of the perimeter wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure.

This, the ISPR said, resulted in the martyrdom of 12 brave sons of soil that included 10 soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary.

Following the attack, the statement mentioned, a sanitisation operation was being conducted in the area and the perpetrators of this heinous act would be brought to justice.

"Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve."—RT/Agency

Naeemi Clarifies Controversial VPN Statement As CII Typographical Blunder

ISLAMABAD: As the federal government gears up for a crackdown on unregistered virtual private networks (VPNs), Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr Raghbir Hussain Naeemi clarified on Wednesday that there was a "clerical error" in its previous statement which caused confusion that the use of these encrypted networks is against the shariah.

"No one has declared the VPNs against shariah or un-Islamic," said Naeemi in a press conference in Islamabad, adding: "A typing error in our previous statement created a misunderstanding after 'not' was omitted from it."

This formal statement came after the council's November 15 fatwa (Islamic decree) declaring the use of VPNs "un-Islamic" drew much criticism from different quarters.

He said that the council held a session to discuss the use of social media in the country in light of the Islamic principles.

Elaborating on the CII's stance on using social media platforms, Naeemi said that these platforms are effective



mediums of public expression, however, they should not be used for blasphemy, religious hatred, extremism, and terrorism.

"If these regulations are being violated, then the use of social media will be un-Islamic," he clarified said.

Earlier this week, the CII chairman had given a clarification regarding the body's decree for the private gateways, saying its nature as being Islamic or un-Islamic mainly depended on its usage.

"No matter if VPN is registered or unregistered, it will be un-Islamic if it is used for indecent content and false propaganda," said Naeemi speaking on Geo News morning show, "Geo Pakistan".

It is noteworthy to mention here that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has extended grace period for unregistered Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) until November 30.

The decision comes amid increasing concerns over the misuse of unauthorised VPNs for illicit activities, including bypassing internet restrictions and accessing prohibited content.

Starting December 1, the PTA will initiate a nationwide crackdown on unregistered VPNs.

A successful trial of VPN blocking has already been conducted, and a second trial is planned in the coming days to ensure readiness for the full-scale shutdown, as per sources.—RT/Agency

SC Judge Highlights Pakistan Judiciary's Alarming Global Reputation

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has expressed annoyance over global bodies' rankings of Pakistan's judiciary, which place it extremely low.

"I do not know where these numbers emerge from. Some place our judiciary on 120 while others on 150," he said during a hearing conducted by the constitutional bench over litigants' lack of access to the apex court.

World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index for the year 2024 shows Pakistan's global ranking at number 129 out of a total of 142 countries assessed, which is a slight improvement from the previous year.

Justice Mandokhail is part of the constitutional bench led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan — formed under the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Apart from Justices Khan and Mandokhail, the bench includes five other members — Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

Multiple pleas were heard by the constitutional bench today, which included a lack of petitioners' access to SC and government employees



who were not assigned duties. A petition was also heard against declaring the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) as a parliamentary party.

The SC heard a petition regarding the lack of access for litigants to the country's highest court.

During the proceedings, the petitioner argued that 90% of litigants are unable to approach the Supreme Court, highlighting the challenges faced by the public in seeking justice.

Responding to the claim, Justice Mandokhail remarked that the petitioner's arguments were being heard directly, questioning what further access was required.

Justice Mandokhail also expressed annoyance, stating that such petitions undermine the institution itself.

Referring to international rankings, he noted that while some claim Pakistan's judi-

ary ranks 120th globally and others 150th, it remains unclear where these figures originate.

After deliberation, the constitutional bench ultimately dismissed the petition.

Moving on, the seven-member bench heard a petition challenging the declaration of the SIC as a parliamentary party.

The petitioner argued that the petition had been submitted within the prescribed time frame; however, now, a review plea was currently pending.

The petitioner also requested the court to consider this matter in connection with other relevant cases.

In response, Justice Mandokhail questioned the petitioner's intent, asking why they were seeking an unconstitutional action from the court.—RT/Agency

Justice Ayesha Excluded From Military Trial Appeal Bench

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's three-member constitutional committee has removed Justice Ayesha Malik from the seven-member constitutional bench hearing intra-court appeals related to military court trials of May 9 suspects.

The third meeting of the constitutional committee, chaired by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, was held with Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Muhammad Ali Mazhar also in attendance, media reported.

Minutes from the meeting have been released. During the meeting, the scheduling of cases related to civilian trials in military courts was reviewed.

According to the minutes, Justice Ayesha Malik had already heard the May 9 military courts case. Consequently, the appeal against the decision remains pending before a seven-member intra-court appeal bench, which will now hear the case.

The matter concerning military courts has been referred to the Judicial Commission, which will nominate the seventh member for the bench.



The meeting decided to establish a separate bench for constitutional cases and to implement green tagging for categorising such cases.

It was also decided that under Article 186-A, the Supreme Court has the authority to transfer cases from one High Court to another.

Furthermore, the constitutional bench judges will hear five chamber appeals daily, and to manage the growing workload, the nominated constitutional judges will seek the assistance of civil judges. The responsibility for the procedures and regulations of the constitutional bench has been assigned to the Registrar. Based on the

advice of Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, the Registrar of the Supreme Court will establish the rules and regulations for categorising such cases.

The Constitutional Bench Committee has requested the assistance of a civil judge to reduce the workload. Until the rules are finalised, all urgent hearing requests will be presented to the Constitutional Bench Committee. The Supreme Court may refer cases with substantial constitutional and legal questions to the Constitutional Bench. The judges' committee has decided to establish a separate branch within the Supreme Court for the Constitutional Bench.—RT/Agency

Siddiqui Updates PM On Senate Parliamentary Party's Milestones



ISLAMABAD: Senior PML-N leader and chairman of Senate's standing committee on Foreign Affairs Irfan Siddiqui on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Irfan Siddiqui briefed the prime minister regarding the performance of parliamentary party in the Senate.

The PML-N leader also lauded the prime minister on achieving the major economic targets.

"The senators of PML-N are playing a great role in the upper house of parliament under the leadership of Irfan Siddiqui," said the prime minister.

Shehbaz Sharif directed

Irfan Siddiqui to remain in touch with other political parties as well in the upper house of the parliament.

He hoped that the Senate's standing committee on Foreign Affairs would guide the government on key issues related to diplomacy.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui expressed skepticism about the PTI founder's 13th "final call" for a revolution, predicting it will likely to meet the same fate as his previous 12 such attempts since his ouster following a no-confidence vote.

He said that the PTI's four-year tenure was the worst period in Pakistan's history.—RT/Agency