

# REGIONAL TIMES

Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



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## Govt Racing To Restore PIA's UK Flights

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Saturday that they are making efforts to resume flights to and from the United Kingdom as soon as possible as the aviation services between the two countries remain suspended for over four years.

"We have made every effort, even we changed the laws as per the latest requirements of the Aviation Authority of UK to solve the issue of resumption of PIA flights," the deputy prime minister, who is currently visiting Britain, said while addressing the Pakistani diaspora there.

PIA flights to Europe and the UK were suspended after the European Union's Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) revoked the national carrier's authorisation to fly to the bloc in 2020 in the aftermath of a fake pilot licence scandal in Pakistan.

The issue resulted in the grounding of 262 of Pakistan's 860 pilots, including 141 of PIA's 434, whose licences were termed "dubious" by the then aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan.



The deputy prime minister, while addressing the event, said that an "irresponsible statement" of a minister from the former minister of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led government grounded all aircraft of the country in Europe, UK and the Western world.

He said the government was taking two more actions on privatisation of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport.

Dar went on to say that the process was moving on the fast track, hoping that it might be completed by the middle of October.

He pointed out that Pakistan attached high importance to the long-standing

partnership with the UK and the real pivot of the bilateral relationship was Pakistani diaspora.

Later, while addressing the press conference in London, the deputy PM further said that discussions on the resumption of PIA flight operations were held with the British authorities while talks with the European Union were also underway.

"We are determined to comply with the international standards in the aviation sector. All our efforts are being made for the resumption of services," he added. It may be noted that Deputy PM Dar had held meetings with UK officials including his British counterpart Angela Rayner, on the sidelines of his visit.—RT/Agency

## Govt In Talks To Slash Power Tariffs Amid Soaring Costs

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government led by the PML-N is renegotiating contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) to rein in "unsustainable" electricity tariffs, Energy Minister Awaiz Leghari said as households and businesses buckle under soaring energy costs.

Rising power tariffs have stirred social unrest and shuttered industries in the \$350 billion economy, which has contracted twice in recent years as inflation hit record highs.

"The existing price structure of power in this country is not sustainable," Awaiz Leghari, the federal minister heading Power Division, told Reuters in an interview on Friday.



He said discussions were underway between power producers and the government because "there is a clear understanding on both sides that the status quo can't be maintained."

Leghari stressed that all stakeholders would have to "give in to a certain point" — though without compromising completely on business sustainability — and this would have to be done "as soon as possible".

Faced with chronic shortages a decade ago, Pakistan approved dozens of private projects by the IPPs, financed mostly by foreign lenders. The incentivised deals included high guaranteed returns and commitments to even pay for unused

power.

However, a sustained economic crisis has slashed power consumption, leaving the country with excess capacity that it needs to pay for.

Short of funds, the government has built those fixed costs and capacity payments into consumer bills, sparking protests by domestic users and industrial associations.

Four sources in the power sector told Reuters changes to contracts demanded included slashing guaranteed returns, capping dollar rates and moving away from paying for unused power. The sources requested anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Energy sector viability was the focus of a critical staff level

pact in May with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$7 billion bailout. The IMF's staff report stressed the need to revisit power deals. Pakistan has already initiated talks on reprofiling power sector debt owed to China as well as negotiations on structural reforms, but progress has been slow. Pakistan has also committed to stop power sector subsidies. Leghari said current rates were not affordable for domestic or commercial consumers and this was hurting growth because power prices were no longer regionally competitive, putting critical exports at a disadvantage. He said the aim was to bring tariffs down to 9 US cents per unit for commercial users from about 28 cents currently.—RT/Agency

## Qureshi Vows Loyalty To Imran, Won't Consider Exit

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice-Chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has stated that he is committed to Imran Khan and would not consider leaving the party.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi appeared before the court during the hearing of the May 9 vandalism cases at the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore.

He mentioned that he was not even in Punjab when the cases were filed and was arrested 14 months later. Upon his release, he was immediately re-arrested in connection with the May 9 cases.

Qureshi said that as Imran Khan's deputy, he could not even think of abandoning the party.

He criticised the authorities for fearing his presence into the public. He alleged that the sudden rise in number of cases, allegedly 55 cases, against him was an attempt to intimidate him, despite his 40 years in politics without a single case.

He questioned why arguments were not being presented in court by the prosecution, and accused the authorities of intentionally delaying the process. He urged the court to pass judgment if they believed he was guilty.

In an informal conversation with journalists after the court session, Qureshi called on PTI's ideological workers to attend the upcoming rally. He reminded that despite numerous challenges, the nation made correct decisions on Feb 8.

When asked about the proposed judicial package and increasing the number of judges, Qureshi criticised the bills as attempts to undermine parliament. He suggested that the details of the bills should be presented in front of the public.

Regarding the silence of PTI President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Qureshi explained that they were together in Adiala Jail and confirmed that Elahi was indeed unwell.

In response to queries about his alleged connections to attend the Establishment, Qureshi questioned why he would be in jail if he was associated with them.

He criticised the internal party campaign against him and challenged anyone to ask Imran Khan who else stood with him from the core cabinet other than himself.—RT/Agency



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Saturday sought acquittal from the £190 million case after the Supreme Court's verdict in the NAB amendments case.

During the hearing today at the accountability court in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, the PTI founder filed a petition seeking acquittal in the case that accused both Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer.

The former prime minister's lawyer told the court that the £190 million case is no longer valid after the verdict as all the cabinet decisions are protected in NAB amendments.



"The question that arises here is whether the accountability court has jurisdiction in this case or not after the NAB amendments," the NAB prosecutor said.

He further said if the court has jurisdiction in the case, then the "acquittal plea can be heard."

At this, the PTI founder's advocate said they have not

challenged the jurisdiction of the court. He added that it is the discretion of the court to decide its jurisdiction.

The accountability court then adjourned the hearing on Khan's acquittal plea till September 10.

The PTI founder filed the plea after Supreme Court's decision on Friday accepting intra-court appeals filed

against the September 15, 2023, majority judgement striking down the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999.

The amendments — National Accountability (Second Amendment) Act 2022 — were passed in a joint sitting of the parliament in April 2022 during the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government which came into power after ousting ex-premier Khan via a no-trust move in 2022. It modified sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 25 and 26 of the NAB laws, however, nine out of 10 amendments were declared "null and void" by the CJP Bandial-bench on the PTI founder's petition filed in June 2022.—RT/Agency

## NEPRA Greenlights Rs1.74 Per Unit Hike For Sept-Nov

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved an additional charge of Rs1.743 per unit for the next three months starting in September 2024, allowing distribution companies and K-Electric to recover Rs423 billion through quarterly adjustments for the fourth quarter (April-June) of fiscal year 2023-24.

This will affect customers of both state-owned distribution companies and K-Electric, adding to the financial burden on households already grappling with rising energy costs.

At the heart of this recovery lies a hefty Rs21.253 billion, or nearly half of the total amount, earmarked for capacity charges — payments that go to independent power producers (IPPs) to ensure generation capacity is maintained, regardless of how much electricity is consumed. An additional Rs7.368 billion is being re-couped in system usage charges and market operator fees, Rs11.23 billion as impact of transmission and distribution (T&D) losses, and Rs3.5 billion for variable operation and maintenance charges.

Notably, the imposition of



an 18% GST on the total recovery amount would further inflate the burden by Rs7.78 billion, raising the total to Rs51 billion to be collected from consumers.

On August 26, Nepra held a public hearing, led by Nepra Chairman Waseem Mukhtar. Electricity distribution companies (Discos) in a petition had submitted that adjustments were largely result of lack of sales as com-

pared to the projections during the instant quarter.

However, Nepra observed that certain Discos, such as Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO), failed to draw energy as per its demand, and opted to carry out loadshedding in its service area. While this reduced their share of capacity charges from overall pool, it also contributed to lower sales. These companies had sought for Rs1.9/unit additional collection. The CPPA, as an agent of the Discos, engaged in local and international legal proceedings had requested to allow Rs51 million on account of legal charges in the instant quarterly adjustment, but the authority turned it down. The authority noted that since such costs are included in Market Operation Fee (MOF), and for it the au-

thority had already approved Rs500 million on account of legal charges as part of CPPA MOF for the FY 2023-24. The CPPA, in its plant-wise data, also included an amount of Rs72.23 million on account of Kot Addu Power Company (KAPCO) charges on account of tax differential for the period from July 1 to October 24, 2022. But the authority did not consider the amount claimed for Kapco. The authority also adjusted an amount of Rs73.18 million charged by the CPPA-G to Discos on account of PPB fee as part of PMLTC invoice for January 2024.

The matter of PPB is under consideration of the authority through separate proceedings; therefore, the matter would be decided once those proceedings were concluded.—RT/Agency

## Security Forces Foil FC HQ Attack, Kill 4 Terrorists

RAWALPINDI: The security forces thwarted a deadly attack on a Frontier Corps Headquarters, killing a group of four suicide bombers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mohmand district, the military's media wing said on Saturday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the armed militants were wiped out in early hours of Friday as they tried to attack the FC HQ.

"The attempt to enter the camp was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, and resolutely the khawarij, all four suicide bombers, were sent to hell before they could cause the intended damage," it said.

The ISPR said sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

"Pakistan security forces stand valiant, with the sheer



determination and resolve, to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," the military's media wing said.

On the other hand, five terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Surkhay refugee camp in Pishin district.

Addressing a ceremony

held at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, in connection with the Defence Day, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism. On this occasion, he pledged to continue the ongoing operation against Fimral-Khawarij until their complete eradication. "All our armed forces and law enforcing agencies will continue their operation for which there is a national consensus," he said.—RT/Agency

## Two Terrorists Eliminated In Balochistan Operation: ISPR



KALAT: Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by security forces in Balochistan's Kalat district on reported presence of terrorists last night, the military confirmed on Saturday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated that troops surrounded and engaged the terrorists' position, neutralising both. "Weapons, ammunition,

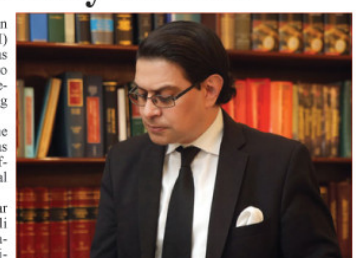
and explosives were recovered from the terrorists, who were involved in numerous attacks on security forces and civilians," the ISPR said. A sanitisation operation is ongoing to clear the area of any remaining threats. "Pakistan's security forces, alongside the nation, are committed to thwarting any attempts to destabilise peace, stability, and progress in Balochistan," the military added.—RT/Agency

## PTI Names Salman Akram Raja As New Secretary General

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has made significant changes to the party structure, media reported on Saturday citing sources.

According to sources, the former prime minister has separated parliamentary affairs from party's political matters.

Opposition Leader Omar Ayub and Senator Shibli Faraz will lead the parliamentary team, while political responsibilities will be look over by Salman Akram Raja who has been appointed secretary general of PTI.



A think tank will be formed under the leadership of Raouf Hasan who will oversee the issuance of a white paper on government performance and electoral matters.

The notification of new appointments would be issued after Islamabad rally, they say.—RT/Agency



# THE HEARTLAND

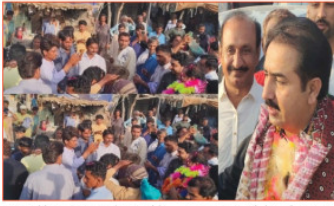


LARKANA: Students of the EHSAS Education Centre are delivering speeches and taking out a rally to celebrate the Defence Day of Pakistan.—RT

## PPP's Sardar Aijaz Khan Khuhro commits to resolving Khairpur's civic issues

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Khairpur General Secretary Sardar Aijaz Khan Khuhro stated that Khairpur district is a stronghold of the PPP. He emphasized that he will lead the party workers together, as they are the real strength of the party. He expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him by the party's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and Adi Faryal Talpur, and vowed to fulfill his responsibilities diligently. Upon his first visit to cities such as Ranipur, Nageria, Gambat, Korondi, and Sobhero after becoming the PPP General Secretary of Khairpur district, he was warmly wel-



He assured that the organizational structure of Khairpur district and the issues faced by workers would be resolved in collaboration with District President Nawab Khan Wassan. Khuhro referred to Wassan as his brother and expressed confidence that they would work together to address the concerns of party workers.

## MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani demands better facilities for patients suffering from cancer

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani, a central leader of the Pakistan People's Party, has expressed concern about the difficulties faced by cancer patients in accessing treatment due to the high cost of medicines. She noted that while some treatment is provided in government hospitals, essential medicines are often not available. Dr. Shah Jilani emphasized the need for price control on drugs and legislation to ensure that even poor patients ben-



efit. She also highlighted the responsibility of the government to provide accessible healthcare services to the public, stressing that a healthy society depends on taking care of the people's health.

## Pakistan's future lies in the hands of young generation: Lala Abdul Ghaffar Shaikh

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The President of Khairpur Traders' Association and notable of Shaikh community, Haji Lala Abdul Ghaffar Shaikh has stated that the future of the country lies in the hands of the younger generation. He emphasized that youth should move forward with a positive mindset for the well-being of the country, the nation, and future generations. Lala Ghaffar Shaikh highlighted that success in politics comes to those who have a genuine sense of empathy and service towards ordinary people. He encouraged setting up organizations in villages and cities to



serve humanity. Regarding the climate change, he advised that in the future, Sindh will experience extreme heat, and therefore, individuals should take responsibility by planting trees in their surroundings to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures. In response to a question, he said that corruption and therefore, individuals will only end when everyone demonstrates honesty and integrity.

## Newlyweds demand protection in MPK



MIRPURKHAS: Lal Bux Rind from Mirpurkhas has married Ghazala, a girl from Kotri on their freewill. The couple shared with journalists that their relationship began with phone conversations that eventually blossomed into love. They decided to marry each other with mutual consent and happiness. On this occasion, Ghazala Solangi clarified to the media that she left her home in Kotri with just three outfits and that no one coerced or abducted her. She requested that if any accusations are made against them, they should be considered false. The couple has strongly appealed to the Mirpurkhas district administration to ensure their safety and protection.

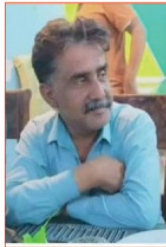
## Minor girl struck by a stray bullet during Jagirani-Solangi clash in Pir Jo Goth



PIR JO GOTH: A minor girl named Masooma Solangi, resident of village Atta Muhammad Solangi sustained injuries after being hit by a stray bullet during an ongoing Jagirani-Solangi clash. The injured girl was rushed to a local area hospital. The firing between both rival groups was continued till the filing of this news, while the Jirga to settle the clash has been set on September 10th.

## Senior RT Correspondent Muhammad Hanif Panhwar passes away

MEHAR: The senior reporter of Daily Regional Times in Mehar, Muhammad Hanif Panhwar passed away after suffering from a prolonged illness. The sudden death of the RT Correspondent has spread a shockwave amongst his colleagues. The body of the deceased was laid to rest at his family's ancestral graveyard after performing his funeral prayers which were attended by journalists, civil society leaders, area notables and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life. The Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Daily Regional Times Kazi Sajjad Akbar Abbasi, Editor Nazim Hus-



sain Abro extended condolences to the bereaved family of Late Muhammad Hanif Panhwar, who remained an honest reporter of Daily Regional Times since its foundation.—RT

-Can you believe this?

## BISP Centres not functional in Shaheed Benazirabad division

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: In the towns of Shaheed Benazirabad Division, including Nawabshah, Sanghar, Shahdadpur, Tando Adam, Khipro, Jam Nawaz Ali, Daur, Sakrand, Moro, Naushahro Feroze, Bhiriya City, Kandiaro, Qazi Ahmed, and Daultapur, the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Jazz Cash centers have been non-functional for the past five days. Due to mismanagement, thousands of women have been forced to wander in frustration. It has also been revealed that Jazz Cash devices are being operated outside of the desig-

nated centers, contrary to official claims by the administration and Jazz Cash representatives. At these centers, women receiving the BISP stipend of 10,500 rupees have been struggling as the Jazz Cash system has been down for five days. Many women from nearby areas have gathered in large numbers, only to face disappointment. The slow processing speed of the system has further increased the crowd, adding to the chaos. The affected women have also reported the presence of an agent mafia, where they are being charged cuts ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 rupees. Furthermore, the Jazz Cash

centers are set up in open spaces, lacking basic amenities such as drinking water, restrooms, and privacy screens. Women are forced to sit on the ground, enduring extreme heat and discomfort. Sources have also indicated that in several towns, Jazz Cash devices have been moved outside the centers, where women are being charged extra fees. Women at these centers have voiced their frustration, complaining about the lack of facilities and the harsh conditions due to the heat. They also pointed out the blatant cuts of up to 2,000 rupees, further adding to their hardships.

## 80 children with clubfoot undergo surgeries at DHQ Hospital Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A significant gift for the people of Dadu, the mega project of the 135-bed DHQ Hospital has commenced. A free camp for the operation of children with clubfoot was organized. This achievement is attributed to the relentless efforts of Pakistan People's Party CEC member and former Senior Minister of Education Pir Mazharul Haq and MPA Pir Mujeeb Haq. The hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi, is diligently serving the people of Dadu, ensuring all health services are provided. Shafiq Haider Mastoi stated that foreign doctors successfully performed surgeries on children with clubfoot. An invitation was extended to Pir Mazharul Haq to visit the DHQ hospital in Dadu, and with efforts from Barrister Pir Mujibul Haq MPA Dadu, a camp was es-



established on August 16 to help children stand on their feet. Approximately 400 children from various districts of Sindh attended the camp, with 100 children admitted for treatment. From September 4, 80 children underwent surgeries performed free of charge by surgeons Dr. Shahzad Shah Musavi from Australia and Dr. Amjad Ali Arai from England. More surgeries are planned, and all children will eventually receive treatment. MPA Pir Mujeeb Haq expressed gratitude to the hardworking team, including Shafiq Musavi and the doctors who performed successful surgeries. The entire team and staff were honored with Sindh cultural caps and shawls, and operation certificates were also awarded to the staff of the DHQ hospital in Dadu, including Civil Surgeon Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi, and staff members such as Imdad Hussain Dawach, Shahmir Khan Chelwan, Nazir Ahmed Qamrani, Muhammad Aslam, and Tahir Hussain Laghari.

## Thul's civil society demands arrest of Sajid Dashti's killers

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, a protest and sit-in were held demanding justice for the murder of Sajid Dashti, a young man who was killed two and a half months ago. Protesters also condemned the continuous threats being received by the family of the deceased. According to reports, the protest took place at Rabbar Chowk, where the family and residents gathered, carrying placards and chanting slogans as they marched through various streets of the city. The sit-in caused a disruption of traffic in the scorching heat. Speaking to the media, the protesters, including the victim's father, Muhammad Umar Dashti, Bajjo Dashti, Mumtaz Dashti, Shaikat Dashti, Ashgar Dashti, Raja Waseem Dashti, Sher Dashti, JSQM leader Comrade Liaquat Ali Sarki, and Alam Dashti, said



that Sajid Ali Dashti was brutally tortured and murdered, and his body along with his mobile phone and other belongings were found at the residence of the Burro family. The police investigation has already identified members of the Burro family as the culprits, and they have been arrested. The protesters, who described themselves as law-abiding citizens and businessmen, expressed their deep sorrow, stating that despite the ruthless killing of their young son on Eid day, the accused party continues to issue threats against them. They claimed that Burro community man is involved in the murder, and some members of the community are also facilitating the killers. The protesters demanded that the Inspector General of Sindh, the DIG Larkana, and the SSP Jacobabad take immediate action to arrest both the killers of Sajid Dashti and their accomplices who are issuing threats. They also called for legal action and protection for the family, warning that failure to do so would result in further protests.

## DC Badin Yasir Bhatti reviews arrangements for Jashn-e-Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH)

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The celebration of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH) will be observed with great enthusiasm, religious devotion, and respect. All arrangements have been completed, and security will be provided for the processions and gatherings. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, while presiding over a meeting with district scholars in Durbar Hall. He further mentioned that the life of the Prophet (PBUH) is an exemplary model for us, and the birth of our beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) has made this month sacred for all of us. The Commissioner of Badin assured the scholars that their legitimate concerns would be addressed. He directed local government, municipal committees, and town committees to ensure the cleanliness



of the procession routes, promptly drain any rainwater from the roads, and light key intersections in the city during this event. SSP Sheeraz Nazir mentioned that all security arrangements have been finalized. Addressing the scholars, he emphasized that during speeches and processions, care must be taken not to offend anyone. He reiterated that all processions and gatherings, whether small or large, are of equal importance and will be provided full security, with a comprehensive plan in place for this. Among those present at the meeting were Commissioner Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dalpat, District Education Officer (Secondary) Ahmad Khan Zainur, District Education Officer (Primary) Ayesha Bhatti, ADHO Dr. Waseem Khawaja, District Manager PPHI Badin A. Major Retd Nasir Ali, District Manager PPHI Badin Dr. Razia Ujjan, Assistant Commissioners from all talukas, officers from relevant departments, and respected scholars of the district.

## SALU VC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousif Khushk inaugurates Finance Automation Module

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, marked a remarkable milestone with the inauguration of the Finance Automation Module, under the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Meritorious Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousif Khushk. Dr. Khushk, inaugurated the Finance Automation Module. This state-of-the-art system is set to revolutionize financial monitoring at the university, enabling real-time data analysis and management. During the inauguration ceremony, the Vice Chancellor Dr. Khushk emphasized that this innovative module will enhance the accuracy and transparency of financial operations. It is more than just an operational tool-it will provide important insights for informed decision-making, ensuring a strong financial future for the university. This breakthrough reflects the university's commitment to embracing modern technologies to modernize processes, reduce administrative burdens, and optimize financial performance. Dr. Khushk lauded the strategic vision and financial expertise of Director of Finance, Shujaat Ali, acknowledging



his pivotal role in reshaping the financial landscape at SALU. He also commended the dedication of the university's I.T. Manager, Syed Muneer Shah Rashdi, whose exceptional efforts and expertise are instrumental in the successful implementation of this cutting-edge Finance Automation Module. This transformative achievement marks a new era in Financial Management at Shah Abdul Latif University, reinforcing the institution's commitment to innovation, excellence, and accountability. A large gathering attended the inauguration ceremony, including members of the Finance Automation Module, including the Deans, faculty members, university officers, employees, a large number of civil society and journalists.



# REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL



# SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## DPO Asad Rehman leads operations against drug dealers in Layyah

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



Layyah Asad Rehman, the crackdown, which began in February, has seen 20,342 raids across the province, leading to the arrest of

23,822 drug dealers and the registration of 23,247 cases. Over 15,000 kilograms of hashish, 304 kilograms of heroin, 411 kilograms of opium, 111 kilograms of ice, and more than 1.7 million liters of alcohol have been seized. DPO Asad Rehman has ordered further acceleration of special operations against drug dealers and smugglers, emphasizing targeted operations against the buying, selling, and online supply of modern drugs.

GUJRANWALA: Under the supervision of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the "Drug-Free Punjab" campaign is in full swing, with the Layyah Police actively participating. On a single day, 299 raids were conducted on drug dealers' locations, resulting in the arrest of 116 suspects and the registration of 115 cases. A large quantity of drugs was seized, including 62 kilograms of hashish, 1 kilogram of heroin, and 1,345 liters of alcohol. According to DPO

## DC Muhammad Naeem Sindhu reviews Rabi-ul-Awwal arrangements

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOB TEK SINGH: A district peace committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu and District Officer Ibadat Nisar to maintain religious harmony and law and order during Rabi-ul-Awwal.

The meeting was attended by scholars from various schools of thought and other relevant officials. It was decided that during Rabi-ul-Awwal, scholars, the administration, and the police will ensure full cooperation to maintain law and order. All events and programs related to Rabi-ul-Awwal will be communicated to the administration and police

in advance, and sectarian or inflammatory statements will be avoided. District Officer Ibadat Nisar requested scholars to identify elements that might create unrest or provoke hostility during Rabi-ul-Awwal, assuring that the administration and police will take decisive action against them.

## Gujrat Police arrest two drug dealers

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar



Station Inspector Liaqat Hussain, along with the police team, conducted operations against drug dealers. They arrested two drug dealers and registered cases against them. The recovered substances include 1160 grams of heroin from the accused Nathil Masih from Jehlum and 1121 grams of heroin from the accused Suleman Saeed, also from Jehlum. The investigation is ongoing.

GUJRANWALA: DPO Mustansar Atta Bajwa has congratulated SHO Kharian, Inspector Liaqat Hussain Gujjar, for his successful crackdown on drug dealers in Gujranwala without any discrimination. The Gujrat Police launched a major operation against drug dealers and criminals, resulting in the arrest of two drug dealers and one criminal. According to details, following the instructions of DPO Gujrat Mustansar Atta Bajwa, and under the supervision of DSP Kharian, SHO of Saddar Kharian police

## Missing 10-year-old TTS boy found dead in a gunny bag

By Abid Mehmood Ch



terday when the child's body was found in a gunny bag in a field. The ruthless killer had also set fire to the body to destroy evidence. The rescue team transferred Sohail's body to the Tehsil Headquarter Hospital in Gojra. The Saddar Police collected evidence through a forensic team and handed over the body to the family after necessary procedures. An investigation is ongoing. The news of the tragic death has devastated the child's parents, and the entire village is in mourning.

TOBA TEK SINGH: In village Chak Number-372 JB, Bojjan, Wali, laborer, Muhammad Yousaf Ansari's ten-year-old son, Sohail alias Sheru, went out to get fodder from the house five days ago and mysteriously disappeared. When he did not return home, his parents became worried and searched extensively. Following a report by Sohail's father, Muhammad Yousaf, the Saddar Police registered a case of abduction against unknown suspects. The police also detained a villager, Malik

## Case Registered Against Three Suspects For Alleged Rape Of A Schoolteacher In Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH: Kot Addu city police have registered a case against a man and his two accomplices for allegedly raping a woman schoolteacher, depriving her of Rs5 million on the pretext of arranging US visas for her and her family, and demanding more money by blackmailing the victim.

She alleged in the first information report (FIR), filed under sections 292 and 376 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), that she became friends with 'J' on a social media platform. She said the prime suspect promised to arrange US visas for her and her family members and received Rs5 million from her on the same pretext. She said she met the suspect two years back in Multan and another unidentified man on the complaint of the schoolteacher of a government school.

The suspect also raped her many times later and made objectionable videos. The complainant said the suspect and his accomplice started blackmailing her, demanding more money and threatening to upload her videos on social media, if she did not pay them more money. She demanded the arrest of the suspects and recovery of the amount. Station House Officer (SHO) Nasir Abbasi said that a case was registered against the suspects nominated in the FIR, and they would be arrested soon.—RT/Agency

## FIA Recovers Rs 39 Billion In Operation Targeting Power Theft And Overbilling

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore Zone has released its annual performance report for the Anti-Corruption Circle, media reported.

During the current year, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle registered 277 cases and 157 inquiries. A total of 177 accused, including absconders, were arrested, according to an FIA spokesperson. The circle conducted raids on various premises, including those involved in overbilling, power theft, fake medicines, and land grabbing, resulting in the recovery of Rs 39 billion and the arrest of several high-profile individuals. Notable arrests included the LESCO Project Director, three XENs, and a commercial assistant who caused a loss of Rs 82 crore to the national exchequer.

Additionally, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle recovered 101 acres and 71 kanals of land worth Rs 8 billion from the Auqaf Department and retrieved approximately Rs 3 crore from tenants. The circle also took action against fake and substandard medicines, registering 11 cases and sealing three medicine factories and medicinal stores.—RT/Agency

## KP Government Reapproaches PHC For Judicial Commission On May 9 Incidents



PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had again written a letter to the Peshawar High Court (PHC) requesting it to form a judicial commission to probe the May 9 incident.

Minister of Law Advocate Aftab Alam had verified the decision on writing a letter to the court, according to sources. The letter had been written under Pakistan Tribunal of Inquiry Ordinance 1969 through the Department of Home and will be received to court in a few days for formation of commission. It was requested in the

letter to appoint a retired or on-service judge of the PHC as head of the commission. An action plan for commission formation was devised on government level when the PHC recused itself to probe the May 9 mayhem. After consultation of experts with cabinet and CM, it had been decided to move the PHC again for judicial commission formation. As per sources, the government self-probe on the May 9 matter will create legal complexities.—RT/Agency

## Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Calls For Reduced Political Tensions



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, has volunteered to reduce political tensions. In this regard, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain held important meetings in Islamabad with the heads of political parties, members of parliament, senior journalists, and government officials.

Shujaat Hussain met with former President Wasim Sajjad, Mushahid Hussain Syed, and Mohammad Ali Durani. He was accompanied by former Federal Minister Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain, Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and party spokesperson Mustafa Malik. The discussions focused on the current political situation in the country. Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain also extended his condolences and offered prayers for the mother of senior journalist Amir Ilyas Rana and the brother of Mohsin Baig who passed away recently. Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain emphasized that politicians must set aside personal interests and biases in favor of national interests. He urged national leaders to step forward for political and economic stability.

He noted that members of parliament also have a responsibility to develop a national agenda to address issues.—RT/Agency

## Two Domestic Workers Hospitalized Following Alleged Employer Abuse In Lahore



LAHORE: In a heartbreaking incident, two housemaids, a mother and her teenage daughter, became victims of alleged torture by a female employer they worked for in Lahore. According to the police, the accused gravely hurt the maids in her house situated in a residential society near the airport.

The incident came to light when locals informed the authorities about the young housemaid's deteriorating condition. The police said she was visibly injured and bruised. The accused was immediately arrested and the victims were shifted to a hospital. In her statement to the police, one of the housemaids revealed that the employer used to thrash her up with a stick and force her to drink hot water. The police registered a case against the accused, launching an investigation into the horrific incident. This is not the first time an incident involving minor maids has been reported in the country. In August last year, Pir Asad Shah Jeelani, a member of the influential Pir of Ranapur, was arrested by the Khanpur Police for allegedly torturing his 10-year-old maid Fatima Furro to death.

The issue came to light after video clips of Fatima's body being severely tortured marks went viral on social media. In the video, the seriously injured girl was seen struggling to sit up on her bed before collapsing. Nearly a month before that incident, a 14-year-old domestic worker Rizwana, was hospitalized in critical condition in Islamabad after her employer, a judge's wife, subjected her to brutal torture. Rizwana, in her statement to the police at the time, claimed that the woman beat her with sticks, iron rods, and other blunt objects. The harrowing incident sparked condemnation across the country with several human rights activists taking to the streets, raising their voices for the rights of children, particularly young girls working as domestic helps.—RT/Agency

## BISP To Abolish Franchise System Amid Corruption Claims

ISLAMABAD: The authorities have decided to abolish the franchise system of the BISP after disclosure of massive corruption, citing sources media reported on Saturday. After corruption complaints Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rubina Khalid has decided to abolish the franchise system to distribute monetary support to poor and needy people. Sources said that the BISP has inked agreements with six banks for distribution of monetary assistance among beneficiaries. "The monetary support money will be distributed with the online wallet account," according to sources. "Under the new arrangement the BISP card holders' remuneration will be transferred to the bank account," sources said. Chairperson BISP Rubina Khalid during her secret visits of franchise centres was acquainted with complaints of the women card holders of the BISP. The women members of the social safety net had complained about corruption. "Now all beneficiaries the BISP programmes will receive direct transfer of payments that will end corrupt practices," sources added. President Asif Ali Zardari had approved the appointment of a senior leader of the PPP Rubina Khalid as Chairperson of the BISP in May this year. After assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the social safety network programme was launched after her name in 2008. BISP is considered as the largest and most systematic social protection initiative to be launched in Pakistan to give monetary support to poor and needy people.—RT/Agency

## CTD: 33 Suspected Terrorists Nabbed In Intelligence-Driven Operations Across Punjab

LAHORE: The Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Saturday it had arrested 33 suspected terrorists in 475 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted across the province in the past month. The counterterrorism efforts come amid heightened security concerns across the country. Pakistan experienced an increase in terrorist attacks as a total of 59 terrorist attacks occurred countrywide in August compared to 38 attacks in the previous month, according to a digital database maintained by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based think-tank. In a press release issued today, the Punjab CTD said it had interrogated 475 suspects during the IBOs and seized various items, including explosives, weapons and banned texts. "During these IBOs, 33 suspects belonging to defunct organisations were arrested," the statement said. The CTD detailed that the groups included Fitna Al Khawarij (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan), Daish (also known as the militant Islamic State group), Al-Qaida, Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Zainebiyoun Brigade and others. It added that the IBOs were conducted in various Punjab districts to "effectively counter the menace of terrorism" and "to avert any upward incident". According to a list provided by the CTD of the 33 netted suspects, eight of them - the highest number - had been arrested from Lahore. Three suspects were taken into custody from Bahawalpur while two each were arrested from Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Attock, Nankana Sahib and Bahawalnagar. The department also arrested one suspect each from Gujranwala, Mianwali, Jhang, Khushab, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Narawal, Sahiwal and Bhakkar. As many as 32 first information reports were registered against the suspects - from August 4 to September 3 - under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (ATA), including Sections 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism), 8 (prohibition of acts intended or likely to stir up sectarian hatred) and 11 (membership, support and meetings relating to a prohibited organisation). The CTD press release added that the raid teams recovered almost five kilograms of explosives, two hand grenades, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 26 detonators, 73 feet of safety fuse wire and four 30-borj pistols with 19 rounds of ammunition. Additionally, the raid teams seized 17 pamphlets, seven magazines and 15 books from banned organisations, as well as 121 other pamphlets, 156 stickers, four receipt books, two mobile phones and Rs99,660 in cash. Separately, the Punjab CTD said it conducted 3,674 combing operations this week with the help of local police/law enforcement agencies (LEAs)—RT/Agency

## Two Dead, Six Women Injured In Car Accident Due To Speeding In Killa Saifullah



KILLA SAIFULLAH: A speeding car overturned near the town of Muslim Bagh town in Balochistan province's Killa Saifullah district, killing a father and his daughter and injuring six women. The victims, all from the same family, were traveling from Quetta to Zhob when the accident occurred, according to authorities. The deceased have been identified as Juma Khan, a minerals inspector, and his daughter. Six women, all relatives of the victims, were injured in the crash, with two in critical condition. The injured were transported to a trauma center in Quetta. Local Levies forces conducted rescue efforts, and private vehicles transported the wounded to the hospital. Officials confirmed that speeding of the vehicle caused the accident.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Airports To Implement Paperless System With ERP Technology

ISLAMABAD: In a positive development, the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) has decided to transition all operations to an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, abolishing the use of paper entirely. The decision aligns with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directives to digitize government institutions and improve efficiency. The PAA's ERP system, soon to be fully functional, will streamline processes, enhance data management, and promote a sustainable working environment. The PM's e-office initiative aims to increase transparency and efficiency within the government. All government officers are required to conduct file work through the e-office system, with the PM Office staff already completing their training. A progress report on the e-office implementation is expected within the next two weeks. Last month, PM Shehbaz Sharif instructed the Ministry of Information Technology and other relevant departments to implement the e-office system in all government offices.—RT/Agency

# METRO KARACHI

## Sindh Government Schools Face Ongoing Textbook Shortages

KARACHI: Despite passing two months since the academic year began, the students of public schools in Sindh still waiting to receive books from government, media reported on Saturday. A petition has been filed in the Sindh High Court against the educational department regarding the non-receipt of textbooks in government schools. The petition was filed against the Chairman Sindh Textbook Board along with Education Secretary, as well as directors of primary and secondary education. According to the lawyer representing the case, most schools in Sindh still waiting to receive textbooks from the education department.—RT/Agency





## Imprudent Financial Priorities

The Sindh government's decision to allocate a staggering Rs 2 billion for the purchase of 138 luxury SUVs for Assistant Commissioners is not only a poor judgment of priorities but a glaring mismanagement of public funds. At a time when Pakistan faces immense economic challenges, with millions struggling to make ends meet, the justification for such an extravagant expenditure is indefensible.

This move has rightly been suspended by the Sindh High Court following a petition by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, who highlighted the absurdity of spending such a

large amount on vehicles when the public is in dire need of essential services like healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. The



court's intervention is a much-needed check on the provincial government's actions, which seem increasingly out of touch with the needs of the common man.

The Rs 2 billion earmarked for these vehicles could be far better utilized in areas that directly improve the lives of Sindh's citizens. For in-

stance, investing in education and vocational training would equip young people with the skills they need to secure employment, thereby fostering long-term economic growth. Similarly, improving healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas, is critical for ensuring basic human dignity for all citizens, not just the privileged few.

Ultimately, this decision by the Sindh government reflects a troubling disconnect between its priorities and the actual needs of the public. The court's suspension is a step in the right direction, but the government must reevaluate its spending choices and focus on projects that lead to real, sustainable development for the province.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Armed men kidnap 4-year-old Kashmir boy from outside his home

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: In a troubling escalation of crime, the district has become notorious for abductions. Recently, armed motorbike riders abducted a young child in broad daylight. The incident occurred in the Bakhth Ali Muhalla area within the jurisdiction of the Guddu Police Station, where a 4-year-old innocent boy, Muhammad Ali Pathan, was kidnapped. The child was playing outside



his home when unidentified armed individuals forcibly took him away. Eyewit-

nesses and the police have confirmed the abduction. The child's relatives, along with Guddu police, are currently searching towards the riverine areas in pursuit of the abductors, but no updates have been received so far. Police sources indicate that this is not the first time such incidents have occurred within the Guddu Police Station's jurisdiction, as there have been multiple abductions of innocent children in the area before.

## NA's Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah holds an open katchery in Mehrabpur

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, MNA Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, addressed public issues during an open katchery at Syed House in Mehrabpur. He issued immediate instructions to act on several requests made by individuals and mentioned that some issues would be resolved through contact with relevant officials. Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah stated that the intention is to resolve every person's legitimate issue and that efforts are being made in



this regard. He added that it is the responsibility of elected representatives to resolve both national and local issues, and they will not reduce their efforts, as the manifesto of the Pakistan People's Party also emphasizes serving

the people. On this occasion, Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah appointed separate representatives to address the grievances and political issues brought by individuals from different communities.

## Larkana's Islah al-Fuqra celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In Larkana, the organization "Islah al-Fuqra" held a grand rally in celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's (SAWW) finality of Prophethood and the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). The rally commenced from the historic Jamia Masjid al-Hussaini, located near the Old Bus Stand, and was led by prominent figures including Pir Syed Attaullah Shah Bukhari from the renowned Hussainabad Qambar Sharif shrine, along with his sons Syed Allama Nasrullah Shah Bukhari, Syed Allama Sanaullah Shah Bukhari, and the district president of the organization Syed Muhammad Mutahir Shah. The rally saw a significant turnout,

including notable attendees such as Maulvi Muhammad Ali Jat, Muhammad Bux Jatoti, Maulvi Saddam Hussain, Syed Irfan Shah, Syed Mobeen Shah Bukhari, Maulvi Muhammad Shaikat Hussaini, Abdul Jabbar Bhutto, Hafiz Sajjad Ali Tagar, Faqir Gulshir Hussaini, Faqir Muharram Shaikh, Barkat Lashari, Siraj Ahmed Abbasi, Faqir Mushtaq Ahmed Khuhro, Mansoor Khokhar, Zafar Mangrio, and Naimat Hulo. The rally marched through different parts of the city, concluded at the main Jinnah Park square. Addressing the gathering, Pir Syed Allama Nasrullah Shah Bukhari, seeking prosperity, development, and security for the country and the Islamic world.

September 7 is a significant day in the nation's history. On this day, the Qadianis were declared a non-Muslim minority, thus safeguarding the faith and beliefs of the Muslim Ummah. They urged the current government not to tamper with the Finality of Prophethood Law, which has been in place for 50 years. They warned that any interference with this law would not be tolerated by the Muslim community in Pakistan, as the belief in the Finality of Prophethood is integral to their faith. The event concluded with special prayers led by the shrine's custodian Pir Syed Attaullah Shah Bukhari, seeking prosperity, development, and security for the country and the Islamic world.

## 10 PTI leaders and workers arrested at Nawabshah Railway Station

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: After the call for a public gathering by the PTI leadership in Islamabad a crackdown has been started against the PTI leaders and workers. In this regard it was learnt that PTI Mirpurkhas' Divisional President Aftab Qureshi along with other male and female workers were arrested by the Police at the Nawabshah Railway Station when they



were departing for Islamabad. A total of 10 women and men were detained, who have been shifted to undisclosed place by the police.

## BISP beneficiaries still not receiving their stipends in Tando Bago



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago, on the fourth consecutive day, poor women from the city and surrounding areas have still not received their stipend payments. Women waiting in front of the center remain silent and helpless. According to reports, hundreds of poor women from Tando Bago and neighboring areas went to the center set up inside the Mono Technical Institute College, the fourth day, to collect their Benazir Income Support Program stipend. However, once again, the

payment was not disbursed by the device mafia at the center. The women reported that they were turned away on the pretext of system errors and lack of cash. They alleged that the agents at the center, instead of serving those in line, were taking 500 to 1500 rupees from women through private agents and giving them their dues, while the poor women who traveled from far away were given various excuses and sent back. The women have demanded that the system at the center be corrected and that the full amount be distributed without deductions.

## Karachi youth drowns in Sehwan's Aral Wah

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: In Aral Wah Head Sehwan, a young poultry trader named Riaz Bengali, a resident of Karachi's Ayub Goth and 20 years old, drowned while venturing into the river with his companions. Despite efforts by rescue teams, the whereabouts of the drowned youth remain unknown. Upon receiving the report, Mukhtiar Kar Sehwan Abdul Hamid Nuhri and local police

arrived at the scene. Local residents and rescue teams informed Mukhtiar Kar Sehwan that the search for the drowned individual is being hampered due to the strong flow of water from Manchar Lake into the river. Mukhtiar Kar Sehwan Abdul Hamid Nuhri stated that he has contacted the irrigation authorities to temporarily close the gates of Aral Wah and has also requested additional rescue teams to assist in locating the missing youth.

## PPP's Advocate Ali Haider Shah vows to further strengthen party's foothold in Shaheed Benazirabad

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The District General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Advocate Syed Ali Haider Shah, said that the trust placed in him by the party leadership, by giving him the organizational responsibility of District Shaheed Benazirabad, will, God willing, be fulfilled with his utmost effort. According to reporter Aqib Raza Siyal, he was speaking to a delegation of the Sakrand Press Club at his office.



He stated that organizational positions are a trust, and running and fulfilling them is a great responsibility. However, with the cooperation of party workers and

efforts will be made to strengthen the organization and prioritize addressing the issues of the workers. The delegation of the Press Club included President Raza Haider Solangi, Mir Jalbani, Ghulam Nabi Mallah, and Qazi Javed Sanai. On this occasion, Elahair Khokhar, Atca Rind, Muhammad Ali Mallah, and Faqir Wazir Laghari were also present.

## Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign in Ghotki

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi has confirmed the presence of the polio virus in the environmental samples from Sukkur, and a case has been reported in Shikarpur. During a media briefing at the Taluka Hospital Ghotki, he emphasized that the only solution to prevent polio is to administer two drops of polio vaccine to children. Accompanying him were Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali and DHO Dr. Rao Aftab. Commissioner Abbasi noted that more than 12 polio cases have been reported in Balochistan,



and many people from there come to Sukkur. As Sukkur is a central district, there is a continuous risk of polio virus spread. Therefore, it is essential for everyone to ensure their children receive polio drops during vaccination campaigns and routine immunization to protect them from dangerous diseases. Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali mentioned that arrangements have been made to vaccinate 477,972 children during the polio campaign from September 9 to September 15. All Assistant Commissioners and relevant medical officers have been instructed to monitor the campaign to ensure that no child misses out on the polio drops.

## Cattle market inaugurated in Dokri

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: The livestock market in Dokri has officially been inaugurated, with a large number of traders and notable individuals participating. Traders from various villages, including Karani, Balhrejji, Vikro, Bagi, Saindad Junejo, Faiz Muhammad Khokhar, Mehrabpur, and Bakhsh Jatoti, brought different types of livestock like cows, goats, and buffaloes for sale at the market. The event started with the recitation of the Quran, and the livestock market was inaugurated by Haji Abdul Hameed Jesar, Chairman of the Dokri Town Committee, along with Sain Badrudin Sario, Chairman of the Town Committee Badah, and Liaquat Ali



the event, the contractor of the market, Hidayatullah Khokhar, and Councilor of Dokri Town Committee, Habibullah Badrudin Sario said that due to the absence of a livestock market in Dokri, traders and citizens had to travel to other cities like Larkana, Nasirabad, Ahmed Khokhar, Muhammad Akram Kalhoro, Seth Nisar Ahmed Bud, Abid Ali Channa, Khudim Zahrani, Yaseen Gadahi, and others.



# SPORTS



## Naqvi confirms England Test series will be held in Pakistan



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday dismissed reports claiming non-availability of the venues for the upcoming three-match Test series against England, saying that the matches will be held in Pakistan.

"No Tests will be played outside [the country]. Multan and Rawalpindi venues are final," the PCB chief said in an interaction with journalists during his visit to oversee the ongoing renovation work being carried out at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Earlier this week, reports emerged that the schedule for next month's three-match series could be altered due to construction work at the country's major stadiums. The matches are scheduled to be held in Multan (Oct 7-11), Karachi (Oct 15-19) and Rawalpindi (Oct 24-28). But reports claimed that the Karachi Test was likely to be moved to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - Pakistan's 'home venue' until cricket returned to the country.

England did not tour Pakistan between 2005 and 2022, owing to security concerns, with the PCB staging matches in the UAE throughout that period. Addressing the reports, Naqvi clarified that the Test series between Pakistan and England will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi. He further shared that the PCB is in contact with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and "there are no issues". —Agency

## Aisamul Haq's Davis Cup participation in doubt after herniated disc diagnosis



ISLAMABAD: Tennis star and President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation, Aisamul Haq, has been diagnosed with a herniated disc.

The Pakistan Davis Cup team departed from Islamabad to Barbados on Saturday, where they will compete against the host team in the Davis Cup tie on September 14.

Aisam-ul-Haq was scheduled to join the team as a player, but due to his herniated disc, he is unable to travel with them. His chances of participating in the Davis Cup tie are now uncertain.

The eight-member Pakistani team traveling to Barbados includes three officials. The team comprises Aqeel Khan, Muhammad Shoab, Yusuf Khalil, and Ahmad Qureshi.

The officials are Hamid Haq (captain), Muhammad Khalid (coach), Colonel (ret'd) Ziauddin Tufail (manager secretary), and Muhammad Shahid (physio). He is now the elected chief of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), replacing outgoing-president politician Salim Saifullah. Aisam's tenure will be for four years till 2028. —Agency

## Face of the Day



Name: Ahmed Khan  
Location: Karachi  
About me: I love taking selfies and posting them on social media

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

## PCB 'Connection Camp' to decide Pakistan team's future

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will hold a "Connection Camp" - a meeting-cum-workshop of the board's top brass - that will design the Pakistan cricket's future course of actions, sources told media on Saturday.

The sources said Pakistan white ball head coach Gary Kirsten, red ball head coach Jason Gillespie, heads of high performance centres, senior cricketers, senior board officials as well as international and domestic directors will attend the camp meeting presided by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

The meeting is expected to come about on September 22.

Decisions about fate of the team would be taken in light of the recommendations made in the Connection Camp, the sources added.

It should be noted that Kirsten had gone to his homeland after submitting a report to the PCB in July, whereas, Gillespie went back to Australia after the Bangladesh Test series fiasco.

The sources said the coaches of red ball and white ball cricket would hold a separate meeting among themselves.

Moreover, they said, ideas will be exchanged about replacing captains of the shorter and longer formats of the game as there are fair chances of replacement of the skipper for the white ball format. On the other hand, Test skipper Shan Masood's captaincy will also be discussed.

A day ago, sources had told media that wicket-keeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan has emerged as the hot candidate for the post of captain, though initially for the white ball cricket only.

Sources said that the PCB's snubbing Babar Azam from captaincy in the Champions One-Day Cup was an indication that he might not stay the national squad's captain in the longer run.

There was a fair chance of appointment of a new captain in place of the star batsman later this year, the sources said, adding that the appointment of new skipper for one-day international and T20 formats was likely ahead of the Australia tour, slated for November.

The sources said Rizwan's name was likely to be discussed for the lead role. If agreed upon, the wicket-keeper might be appointed as captain for all the three formats in the future, they maintained. —Agency



Playing their first match after a disappointing Copa America defeat to Uruguay in the quarter-final, Brazil had another lacklustre performance, dominating possession but failing to create clear chances throughout the match.

Brazil misplaced too many passes and struggled to lift the struggling five-time World Cup champions to rock solid defensive block.

Ecuador were relentless while applying a physically aggressive pressure high with three hardworking forwards, making the locals uncomfortable when putting the ball in play. —Agency

## Brazil secures narrow victory over Ecuador with Rodrygo's goal



Brazil got back to winning ways in the South American World Cup qualifiers by a drab 1-0 victory over Ecuador thanks to first-half goal by Real Madrid forward Rodrygo.

After its first streak of losses in three successive World Cup qualifiers, Brazil did just enough to earn the win that lifted the struggling five-time World Cup champions to fourth in the standings with 10 points.

They are eight points behind leaders Argentina and only two points over Ecuador in sixth, the last spot guaranteed a berth at the 2026 finals.

## Italy stages a comeback to defeat France 3-1 in a thrilling victory



Italy fell behind just 12 seconds into the match but staged a comeback to defeat France 3-1 in a captivating Nations League A Group 2 opener.

Bradley Barcola struck early, scoring in the first minute by exploiting a lapse from Giovanni Di Lorenzo and curling the ball past Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Italy equalized after 30 minutes when Federico Dimarco volleyed in a clever back-heel pass from Sandro Tonali, with the teams heading into the break level following an exciting first half.

Five minutes after the interval and France were rocked again with Davide Frattesi putting Italy ahead, and Giacomo Raspadori gave the visitors the breathing space they needed in the 74th minute to silence the Parc des Princes crowd.

Both sides came into the game looking for redemption after failing to impress at Euro 2024, but it was Italy who earned the much-needed victory.

It was a terrible start for the visitors with Di Lorenzo taking far too long over a back-pass and Barcola pounced to score his first international goal.

A frantic start to the game gave Italy the chance to level five minutes later but Frattesi hammered a close range header off the crossbar.

Donnarumma pulled off saves from Kylian Mbappe and Michael Olise, making his debut, before Italy found the equaliser, with Tonali's assist just as impressive as the strike which found the net.

Tonali, back in the side after serving a 10-month ban for breaching betting rules, played a beautiful one-two with Dimarco who continued his run into the box and struck a sweet left-footed volley beyond the reach of Euro 2024, but it was Italy who earned the much-needed victory.

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## England's pacer Mark Wood ruled out of upcoming Pakistan series

KARACHI: England fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the upcoming series against Pakistan due to an elbow injury which has also ruled him out from the remainder of the year.

According to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Wood's injury will not only keep him out of the Pakistan tour but will also sideline him from the series against New Zealand.

The ECB statement said that Wood sustained the elbow injury during the series against the West Indies, although he continued to play in the subsequent Test match against Sri Lanka.

He had noticed increasing stiffness and discomfort in his elbow during the Test series against the West Indies earlier in the summer.

He played a full part in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford man-



aging the discomfort whilst he was bowling, during that Test match, Wood also sustained a right thigh injury, which is being managed and from which he is recovering well.

Medical scans have confirmed that Wood has a bone stress injury of the right elbow injury," the ECB said.

According to the ECB, Mark Wood will miss England's upcoming winter Test tours of Pakistan in October and New Zealand in December and he aims to return to full fitness by early 2025, in time for England's white-ball tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan, scheduled to begin in February 2025.

The ECB further stated that Wood's injury is being monitored by specialists and that his rehabilitation programme will need complete rest and medical care to ensure he regains full fitness and returns to the team. —Agency

## Fritz defeats Tiafoe to book US Open final clash with Sinner

NEW YORK: Taylor Fritz fought back to defeat compatriot Frances Tiafoe at the US Open, becoming the first American man to reach a Grand Slam final in 15 years.

Fritz, the world number 12, won 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and will take on top-ranked Jannik Sinner for the title on Sunday.

"He overwhelmed me at the start and I was freaking out a little," said 26-year-old Fritz after securing victory with a 16th ace.

"I just told myself to stay in it, hold serve and apply scoreboard pressure. I did all I could to stay in it. If I hadn't have done that, I'd regret it forever. In the final, I will come out and give it everything."

Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner earlier became the first Italian man to make the US Open final with a 7-5, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 win over Britain's Jack Draper.

Andy Roddick was the last American to make a men's singles final at the Slams at Wimbledon in 2009. He was also the last man from the country to capture a Slam title when he won the 2003 US Open.

Tiafoe went into Friday's match trailing 6-1 in his head-to-head record against his compatriot.

However, he boasted the more impressive Grand Slam credentials, playing in his second US Open semi-final in his last three appearances.

Taylor Fritz was in unknown territory, having fallen at the quarter-final stage at the Slams on four occasions.

Tiafoe used that greater experience to hit back from 3-0 in the first set to clinch the opener.

Fritz, who had reached the semi-final by defeating fourth-ranked Alexander Zverev in the previous round, was unable to convert a set point in the 10th game of the second set.

He succeeded at the next time of asking to level the match before handing the initiative straight back when Tiafoe broke for 1-0 in the third and held the advantage to retake the lead.

In a match where there were few rallies and little real drama, Fritz levelled again in the 10th game when Tiafoe dumped a lazy drop shot into the net. —Agency



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# REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Really happy' Lady Gaga cheers on Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan and more



Lady Gaga expressed love for her contemporary pop stars.

The 38-year-old Born This Way singer sat down for a conversation with Vogue where she expressed how passionately she admires performers like Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Chappell Roan and Charli XCX.

"I mean, I really love them. I go on the internet and, like, cry. And I love Taylor Swift too," she stated and then proceeded to add Keshia to the long list as well.

"I watch it all, and I'm like, 'Yup. Go! Just go,'" Gaga gushed as the outlet reported that she could become audibly rather emotional when discussing the younger singers' careers.

The A Star Is Born actress reportedly grabbed a tissue to gather herself, continuing, "I'm not only cheering them on, I want them to know that my heart is in it with them. And I want them all to feel really happy."

Her particular expression of love for Swift came particularly after the Lover crooner rushed to the Paparazzi singer's defense after Gaga posted a video shutting down pregnancy rumors.

## Shakira settles tax fraud case for protection of her sons



Shakira gets caught in second tax fraud case in Spain nearly 10 months after she was ordered to stand trial in a \$13.9 million tax evasion case.

On July 20, a Spanish court located in the town of Espolades de Llobregat near Barcelona, Spain, said that it has started a new investigation against Shakira.

According to InTouch Weekly, the recent investigation was linked to alleged fraud on personal income tax and wealth tax in 2018.

As per the publication, the second case was opened after the Barcelona Economic Crimes Prosecutor issued a complaint that Shakira allegedly defrauded the Tax Agency.

Additionally, the prosecutor's office filed a complaint for two alleged tax crimes.

In September 2024, Shakira decided to settle the \$15 million fraud case for the sake of her two sons as Shakira said in a statement to El Mundo, "I did it to protect my children and to get on with my life, not out of cowardice or guilt."

As per the outlet, the Waka Waka singer's first fraud case was determined based on where she lived from 2012 to 2014.

In this regard, the prosecutors in Barcelona claimed that Shakira spent more than half of that period in Spain and argued that she should have paid taxes in the country.

Furthermore, she allegedly owes 14.5 million euros, which is \$13.9 million, in taxes on income earned between those years.

It is worth mentioning that Shakira previously rejected a settlement offer in the case in July 2022, which would have let them settle the case out of court.

As per the outlet, the singer chose to cut a plea deal with the Spanish government just one day before her trial was set to start on November 21. She agreed to pay \$7.6 million and received a three-year suspended sentence.



# THE HEARTLAND



## Allama Muhammad Baqir Chandio lauds role of valiant armed forces of the country

By Dildar Ali

TANDO ADAM: Renowned scholar of Shia community, Allama Muhammad Baqir Chandio has emphasized that the sacrifices and services rendered for the defense of Pakistan's security and independence are invaluable. These efforts are crucial for overcoming both internal and external crises, allowing Pakistan's forces to defend the nation and safeguard national security effectively. In his



message on Defense Day, Allama Chandio stated that, in the current situation, the primary responsibility of the rulers is to protect the borders

by prioritizing national security and unity. He called on the leadership to focus on resolving the country's crises and ensuring national cohesion. He stressed that efforts should be made to provide peace and tranquility to the people and to protect their fundamental rights. Furthermore, he urged individuals to foster unity, setting aside tribal, linguistic, group, and personal differences, and to pledge to serve the nation as their foremost priority.

## MQM-Pakistan celebrates Defence Day in Mirpurkhas

By Younic Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Defense Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by MQM Pakistan's Mirpurkhas District. A special prayer function was organized at the district office to mark the occasion. District In-Charge Khalid Tabasum, along with Joint District In-Charges Afaq Ahmed Khan and Saleem Memon, addressed the gathering. They highlighted the significance of September 6 in the history of

national pride and honor, paying tribute to the martyrs' eternal sacrifices. They emphasized that the day represents the unwavering determination and courage of the nation, with Pakistan's armed forces being a source of pride. The speakers recalled that on September 6, 1965, during the battle of right versus wrong, the bravery of the Afaq Ahmed Khan and Saleem Memon, addressed the gathering. They highlighted the significance of September 6 in the history of

## Kotri's Amro community demands justice against extortionists

By Shaikh Sindhvi

KOTRI: Social leader Ghulam Sarwar Amro, resident of Amro village near Jamshoro Station, held a press conference at the District Press Club Kotri along with his son Zafar Amro. He alleged that some criminal elements, including Tariq, Ghulam Muhammad, Babar, and Sabir, have been contin-

uously extorting money from him. He stated that a month ago, when he refused to pay extortion money, these individuals attacked his son and nephew with knives, causing injuries. A case has been registered regarding the incident. Ghulam Sarwar Amro claimed that the accused are now using various tactics to harass and intimidate him. He mentioned that recently, they fabricated a false accusation against him, which he believes should be investigated. He further expressed concern for his and his children's safety and has appealed to the DIG Hyderabad, SSP Jamshoro, and other authorities to ensure justice. He warned that if justice is not served, he will be forced to protest.

## Defence Day celebrated in Luari Sharif with national zeal

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A special ceremony was organized on the occasion of September 6th Defense Day by Pir of Luari Sharif Hazrat Qibla Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi participated in the ceremony held in Luari Sharif. In the ceremony, the Holy Quran was recited for

the martyrs of the Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives in the wars of 1965 and 1971 and special prayers were offered for the prosperity and security of our beloved country and the Pakistan Army. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi said that today this ceremony was organized by Pir of Luari Sharif Hazrat Qibla Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi. In this event, the Holy Quran was recited to honor the martyrs of Pakistan Army and prayers were requested for the prosperity of Pakistan Army and Pakistan. Along with the soldiers of Dargah Alia Luari Sharif, the soldiers of the devotees also fought shoulder to shoulder with the Pak Army on the border and defeated the enemy.

## Talhar Police recover seven stolen motorcycles

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: In Badin, the police have made significant progress in recovering stolen vehicles. Over the past month, they have recovered seven motorcycles stolen from various areas of the city of Talhar and have arrested a suspect, Rajib Mallah. A case has been filed against him. During a press conference at the Talhar police station, DSP Shehzad Soomro, SHO Manzoor Jamal, and Allah Bachayo Khaskheli briefed the media about the operation. They reported that, following strict



instructions from SSP Badin, the police formed a team that successfully tracked down the suspects. While one suspect, Illahi Bux, remains at large, efforts are underway to apprehend him soon. The police are committed to maintaining law and order and recovering stolen motorcycles, with the support of the community being crucial for restoring peace in the city.

## ADC-I Kashif Raza Mangi chairs meeting of Badin's NGOs

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting was held with the representatives of NGOs and INGOs in Darbar Hall, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, Kashif Raza Mangi. During the meeting, he acknowledged the support of NGOs and INGOs, stating that they have consistently aided the people during challeng-

ing times, alongside the district administration. He noted that this year's monsoon rains were heavier than usual, severely affecting both urban and rural areas. The district administration is currently gathering data to assess the losses and organize relief efforts. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate and ensure that immediate relief reaches the affected people. He urged the representatives to submit a copy of their action plans to the Deputy Commissioner's office so that aid can be distributed according to the needs of the people. The Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the top priority in relief efforts is the drainage of rainwater from affected areas, particularly in schools and hospitals.

## Mayor Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) in Shaheed Benazirabad

By Farooq Junejo



BE-NAZIRABAD: A meeting was held in the Municipal Corporation's meeting hall under the chairmanship of Mayor of Shaheed Benazirabad, Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, and the Municipal Commissioner, Haji Abdul Razzaq Shaikh, to prepare for the Rabi-ul-Awwal celebrations. A large number of scholars participated in the meeting. Also present were Superintendent Engineer Manthar Bhangwar, Superintendent Engineer Muhammad Yasin Bhangwar, Accounts Officer Akhtar Rind, Assistant Accounts Officer Javed Ali Zardari, Engineer Maqsood Arain and other officials.

## GGHS Jhudo holds an informative educational seminar

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: At the Government Girls High School in Jhudo, an educational seminar was organized under the leadership of Headmistress Naeed Talpur. The event was attended by several distinguished guests including DEO Mirpurkhas Tahir Saleem, Chairman of Jhudo Mir Kamran Talpur, Vice Chairman Zafar Arain, Taluka Education Officer Narayan Das, Abdul Aziz Qambrani, Principal of Government Boys Higher Sec-

## Tando Allahyar Police arrest two, recover 6 motorcycles



ondary School Shaukat Shaikh Majeed, and other respected individuals. During the seminar, the school's students presented various tableaux, showcasing the hard work and capabilities of the school staff. DEO Tahir Saleem briefed attendees about the enrollment drive in Saleem, Chairman of Jhudo Mir Kamran Talpur, Vice Chairman Zafar Arain, Taluka Education Officer Narayan Das, Abdul Aziz Qambrani, Principal of Government Boys Higher Sec-

TANDO ALLAHYAR: DSP City Usman Laghari, along with SHO Section Afzal Magri, briefed the media and reported that the Section Police, acting on a tip-off, conducted an operation near Tando Soomro Link Road. During the operation, they arrested two suspects involved in a motorcycle theft gang, recovering six stolen motorcycles. The arrested individuals, Kashif Abbasi and

## Umerkot's BISP beneficiaries decry non-issuance of their stipends

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In the Pithoro Tehsil, the distribution of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) funds has yet to begin, leaving many deserving women in distress. Hundreds of women from far-off areas have arrived at the Income Support Center to receive their payments, only to find the services halted. The women expressed their frustration, saying, "we traveled long distances and paid fares to reach the center, but we didn't receive the installment. Two centers were established

## NWM's civil society blocks national highway against ongoing genocide in Palestine

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In protest against genocide of Palestinians during the ongoing war by Israel and the killing of innocent children, people from various communities have blocked the National Highway at the Government Khooh Stop near Nawab Wali Muhammad. According to details, under the leadership of Sardar Abdul Latif Kaloi, Sarwar Kaloi, Hafiz Muhammad Ameen Rahu, Lal Bakhsh Brohi, Siyano Junejo, and other prominent leaders, a one-hour sit-in was held on the National Highway, effectively blocking both sides of the highway.



During the protest, the leadership spoke to the media, expressing their grief over Israel's continued oppression of Palestinians and the tragic killing of innocent children in hospitals. They criticized human rights organizations and international courts for their silence on Israel's actions. The protestors stated that their demonstration is against Israel's ongoing atrocities, and demanded an end to the conflict with Palestinians, who they consider their Muslim brothers. They warned that if the violence does not cease, their protest will continue.

## Syed Asif Ali Shah Sabzwari-led delegation visits Kohistan's ancient sites

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: The President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Jamshoro District, Syed Asif Ali Shah Sabzwari, along with Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Syed Shahzad Haider Shah, Chairman Municipal Committee Sehwan, Syed Zeeshan Ali Shah, Syed Moazzam Ali Shah, PPP Taluka Thana Bula Khan President Comrade Bhagwan Das Kohistani, Information Secretary Imritaz Manghar, and Sameer Khaskheli, visited ancient sites in Kohistan. The historical sites they visited included the historic graveyards of Jam Lohar, Bhonsli, Miri Batti, and the shrine of Ratan Nath. Syed Asif Ali Shah



emphasized that these are historic sites which need preservation efforts. He mentioned that steps will soon be taken to protect these sites in collaboration with Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and Minister of Culture and Archaeology Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah. He expressed regret that a daily wage worker assigned to these sites has not received their salary for the past five months and mentioned that he will discuss this issue with Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah to ensure that payments are made soon. Afterward, Syed Asif Ali Shah also extended condolences over the death of the father of former UC Tong Nazim Muhammad Bux Lahrani.

## Unidentified people block drainage pipeline holes with cement in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Tando Muhammad Khan, an attempt was made to block the drainage pipeline holes with cement blocks in the heavily populated area of Soomra Muhalla, which is adjacent to Municipal Chairman Syed Shahnawaz Shah stated that a year ago, similar sabotage had resulted in 100 feet of

removed the cement blocks from the gutter line holes, thwarting the sabotage attempt. However, due to the cement blocks, the gutter water overflowed again, and efforts to drain it using pipeline motors began. The water drainage was not completed until late at night. Municipal Chairman Syed Shahnawaz Shah stated that a year ago, similar sabotage had resulted in 100 feet of damage to the gutter line in the Soomra Muhalla drainage scheme. Heavy machinery was used to repair the damage, and new pipelines were installed. This recent attempt at sabotage, which was unsuccessful, is now under investigation by municipal authorities. If clear evidence of the sabotage is found, immediate action will be taken, and an FIR will be filed.

## TEA announces to make Thar's Malhanpur Vena a model village

By Ahraf Kunbhar

MITHI: The Thar Education Alliance has decided to make the village of Malhanpur Vena a model village in terms of education. A meeting was held with the teachers of six schools in the village to bring all out-of-school children into the schools, provide technical training, and ensure all facilities are available in the

schools. The decision to transform Malhanpur Vena, a village in Tharparkar, into an educational model village was made by the Thar Education Alliance. In this regard, the Chief Executive Officer of the Thar Education Alliance, Partab Shivani, held a meeting with the teachers of the six schools at Malhanpur Vena High School. During the meeting, suggestions were taken from the teachers on how to bring all out-of-school children back to the classrooms. Speaking on the occasion, Partab Shivani said that Malhanpur Vena will be the first village in Sindh where it has been decided to provide both academic and technical education to all children. He added that the support of the entire village has been secured to ensure the success of this initiative.

## Pakistan Blacklists Over 40 Technical Institutes: BEOE

ISLAMABAD: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) had blacklisted around 40 technical trade centers across the country due to the complaints and involvement in fraud cases with innocent citizens. An official source revealed that the main function of this department is to control and regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance, 1979, and promote the Emigration of Pakistani Citizens. It is also the responsibility to look after the emigrants' interests and welfare and advise the Federal Government on emigration policies and procedures. Monitoring and supervision of Overseas Employment Promoters through 7 Protectorates of Emigrants Offices and Processing of Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences, he added. BEOE also provides the platform for pre-departure briefing to Emigrants and mandatory insurance coverage to Pakistani workers abroad. Memorandum of Understanding with Foreign Countries for Export of Manpower and Management of State Life Emigrants Insurance Fund (SLEIF) were the main functions of this department. He said that BEOE has advised the foreign job-seekers to only reach out to the valid Overseas Employment Promoters to avert any loss of time, money, and their energies.—RT/Agency



# METRO KARACHI



## Karachi Bus Terminal Relocation To Continue Despite Opposition: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that despite the provision of a free shuttle service to the new bus terminal in Karachi, some bus operators have filed cases against the action on false and fabricated grounds.

Some operators are resisting legal action or pursuing personal interests, attempting to pressure public office holders, he added.

In a statement, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said that the transfer of terminals will be ensured under all circumstances, pressure is being exerted, but the work will continue regardless.

He stated that the purpose of shifting the terminals outside the city of Karachi is to eliminate illegal bus stands from city



roads. The transport department is committed to upholding the rule of law and complying with court orders.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the establishment of bus terminals outside the city limits is in accordance with court orders.

All stakeholders should respect and cooperate with the law. The Sindh government is aware of the challenges

posed by transporters and aims to resolve the sufferings of the citizens without adversely affecting the transporters' businesses.

He clarified that negotiations with the transporters will continue, with measures being taken to consider the interests of all stakeholders.

The Transport Department is committed to ensuring smooth and legal transport operations within the capital city of Sindh.—RT

## Electrical Fault Disrupts Power At Civil Hospital; KE Assists In Restoration

KARACHI: A power outage at Civil Hospital was caused by an internal wiring fault, not an issue with the external grid, according to a statement by K-Electric (KE) on Saturday. Although internal wiring falls outside KE's jurisdiction, the utility provider stepped in to assist due to the hospital's critical role in patient care.

Upon the hospital administration's request, KE dispatched a team to help restore power. A KE spokesperson emphasized that while the company offered help on humanitarian grounds,

hospitals and other essential institutions should ensure they have trained electrical staff and conduct regular maintenance to avoid similar incidents in the future.

"While we were able to respond to this, critical institutions like hospitals should be equipped to handle such situations independently for faster resolution," the spokesperson added.

KE's distribution team worked closely with Civil Hospital's staff to resolve the issue, ensuring the quick restoration of power.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Mayor Unveils Rs12.75 Billion Water Supply Initiative For The City

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has announced that the Sindh government has approved the installation of two new water supply lines at a cost of Rs12.75 billion to address the city's water shortage. The project is expected to be completed within a year.

During a media briefing at the Treatment Plant Three on Mauripur Road on Saturday, Wahab highlighted the global water crisis, stating, "Water scarcity is increasing worldwide, and in some countries, recycled water is used for drinking purposes. While this practice is not common in our country, it's time we consider recycling water and making seawater usable."

He added that treated water would be tested in laboratories to assess its suitability for industrial and construction purposes.



Wahab also mentioned that advertisements have been placed for the construction of a fourth treatment plant in Ibrahim Hyderi, which will soon be operational.

Speaking about modernisation efforts, the mayor remarked, "Countries that have made bold, innovative decisions are the ones providing better services to their people. Unfortunately, in our country, progress has stalled, and

decisions are delayed."

In response to a question, Wahab criticised the federal government for not opening the Lyari Expressway, claiming it is "being blackmailed." He also called on the MQM to explain what benefits they have secured for Karachi from the federal government.

The mayor criticised the MQM for protesting outside K-Electric's head office, reminding them that privatisation of the utility occurred during their tenure.

Murtaza Wahab praised the Water Corporation's officers and consultants for their swift action in addressing Karachi's water issues. He stated that efforts are underway to treat river, sea, and sewage water, promising to deliver on the commitments made to resolve the city's water problems.—RT

## SHC Issues Notices To Government And Nepra In Capacity Payments Case

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Saturday issued notices to the federal government

and NEPRA, federal secretary energy, K-Electric and others over capacity charges payment to the IPPs, media reported.

A petition filed in the high court pleaded that the Supreme Court had ordered forensic audit of the independent power producers (IPPs). Instead of compliance of the order of the apex court capacity charges payments being made, petitioner's counsel said.

Petitioner seeks court order for suspension of the capacity payments until the forensic audit being conducted.

Capacity payment refers to the payment made monthly by consumers to the power-producing companies to maintain its capacity to generate electricity, ensuring that additional demand can be met.

Notably, these capacity payments to IPPs are made in US dollars, not in Pakistani rupees.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Government of Pakistan estimated capacity payments

to IPPs amounting to Rs 2,091 billion for the current fiscal year.

The escalating electricity costs in Pakistan are largely attributed to capacity charges, with 22 government-owned companies accounting for a substantial 48% of these charges.

In the past three months alone, these companies have received a staggering Rs169.36 billion in capacity charges, according to sources. This financial allocation continues despite many of these power plants not operating at full capacity.—RT/Agency

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## Stepfather Allegedly Forces Stepdaughter To Present Herself As A Male For Work

KARACHI: In a disturbing case from Orangi Town, a 19-year-old girl named Quratul Ain has accused her stepfather, Shah Hussain, of forcing her to change her identity and work as a boy. According to media reports, Quratul Ain claims her stepfather, who married her mother in March 2023, has been compelling her to labor under a false identity.

In addition to the forced labor, the girl has also alleged that her step-

father fraudulently transferred her mother's property into his own name. Both Quratul Ain and her mother have reportedly been held captive by Hussain, restricting their freedom and forcing the girl to work against her will.

The local community has confirmed that Quratul Ain has been seen working under the guise of a boy. Police have yet to receive a formal complaint from the affected family.—RT/Agency

## ASEAN Day Bowling Tournament Fosters Unity And Friendship

KARACHI: In celebration of ASEAN Day on 8th August, the Consulate General of Malaysia in Karachi organized the 2nd ASEAN Friendship Bowling Tournament, bringing together participants from ASEAN consulates and the Trade Office. Held on 7th September 2024 at Royal Rodale, DHA, Karachi, the event aimed to foster camaraderie and strengthen bonds among ASEAN nations.

The tournament, featuring teams from the Consulate General of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, promoted cultural exchange and goodwill. Participants showcased their bowling

skills while celebrating shared values and traditions.

Consul General Herman Hardynata Ahmad emphasized the event's role in reinforcing ASEAN's "unity in diversity," reflecting the organization's vision of peace, stability, and prosperity. The tournament provided a platform for cross-cultural interaction, building lasting friendships among member states.

The Consulate General of Malaysia extended its gratitude to all participants and sponsors, expressing hope for future tournaments to further enhance ASEAN unity.—RT



## Danish Aman Elected Unopposed As Chairman Of Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA-SZ)

KARACHI: Mr. Danish Aman has been elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Pakistan Tanners Association, Southern Zone (PTA-SZ), for the upcoming term. His election was confirmed during the association's recent meeting, where members expressed confidence in his leadership abilities.

Mr. Aman, a prominent figure in the tanning industry, is set to lead PTA-SZ with a focus on addressing industry challenges,



promoting sustainable practices, and enhancing Pakistan's position in the global leather

market. He thanked the members for their trust and assured his commitment to advancing the interests of the association and its members.

The Pakistan Tanners Association plays a crucial role in representing the leather sector in the country, with a focus on policy advocacy, exports, and industry development. Mr. Aman's unopposed election reflects the confidence of the members in his vision and leadership for the sector.—RT

## Policeman Wounded During Karachi Raid

KARACHI: A police officer was injured after the accused opened fire at the raiding party in Karachi's Quaidabad area, media reported on Saturday.

Acting on the tip of Hawala Hundi network, the

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) State Bank Circle Team conducted a raid in Quaidabad mobile market area in Karachi along with four police vehicles.

The suspects opened fire at the raiding team of FIA

and police before flee the scene, leaving one police officer injured. The injured policeman was rushed to Jinnah hospital for immediate medical attention, while an FIR has been filed against the suspects.—RT/Agency

## FIA Arrests Two Travelers With Fake Canadian Passports At Karachi Airport

KARACHI: Two passengers attempting to leave the country with fake passports were arrested at Karachi Airport.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) reported that immigration official Muhammad Adnan, who assisted the passengers, was also arrested. The detained individuals, identified as Muhammad Bashir and Rizwan Khan, were on an international flight to Canada. The Canadian passports they presented were found to be fraudulent after a thorough inspection by the Secondary Line Office. The report from the office indicated that the passports lacked several security features. Initial investigations revealed that the suspects acquired the fake

passports for Rs. 10 million each from an agent named Usman from Wazirabad.

The suspects have been transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle in Karachi for further legal proceedings. FIA Director Gen-

eral Ahmad Ishaq praised the team's performance, highlighting the crucial role of modern equipment at the Secondary Line Border Control Offices in preventing human trafficking.—RT/Agency

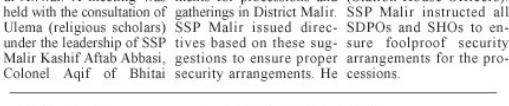


## SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi reviews security arrangements for 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal celebrations

Rangers and SP Malir Saeed Rind to review the security arrangements for processions and gatherings during the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. During the meeting, Ulema provided suggestions regarding the security and arrangements for processions and gatherings in District Malir. SSP Malir issued directives based on these suggestions to ensure proper security arrangements. He

also emphasized the need to further improve the security of the routes for processions on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal. The meeting was attended by SP Malir, all SDPOs (Sub-Divisional Police Officers), and SHOs (Station House Officers). SSP Malir instructed all SDPOs and SHOs to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the processions.

also emphasized the need to further improve the security of the routes for processions on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal. The meeting was attended by SP Malir, all SDPOs (Sub-Divisional Police Officers), and SHOs (Station House Officers). SSP Malir instructed all SDPOs and SHOs to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the processions.



## WB-Supported WASH Program Encourages 'Behavior Change' In Karachi's Informal Settlements

KARACHI: Karachi's informal settlements, such as Soba Nagar in Gulberg Town, continue to grapple with inadequate access to basic utilities, especially water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), leading to severe public health concerns. In response, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP), in partnership with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and funded by the World Bank, has launched an initiative to address these pressing challenges.

The project, which targets Soba Nagar and other underserved areas like Essa Nagri, aims to improve water and sewerage infrastructure while promoting better WASH practices through community engagement. On Friday, a key milestone was reached as residents of Soba Nagar participated in a "Behavior Change" session led by Communication and Advocacy Specialist Kashif Siddiqui.

The session covered critical topics, including the importance of clean water,



proper sanitation, personal hygiene, and waste management. Demonstrations on handwashing techniques, safe water storage, and environmental care were provided, along with discussions on food hygiene and the role of community education. The initiative also emphasized the formation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to ensure long-term local management of WASH issues.

"This session has truly opened our eyes to the power of simple hygiene

practices in preventing illnesses," said resident Rukhsana Jamshed, reflecting on the impact of the project. Local shopkeeper Anwar Ali echoed her sentiments, stating, "We now understand that proactive steps can protect our families' health."

The initiative, with its focus on both immediate needs and sustainable change, marks a significant step towards improving the quality of life in Karachi's informal settlements.—RT

## Thieves steal motorcycle of folksinger Wahid Lashari's son

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In the area of Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase-2, in front of Jamia Masjid Bab-e-Rehmat, a motorcycle belonging to the son of Sindh's folksinger Waheed Lashari, model Honda KPA 0317 CD, was stolen by unknown assailants from the market. In response to the theft, political, social organization leaders, and the artist community have strongly protested. They stated that due to negligence by the Steel Town police, lawlessness has reached new heights. They demand that the IG Sindh, Add IG Karachi, DIG East, and SSP



Malir take notice of the law and order situation in the region.—RT/Agency

## Tigress At Karachi Zoo Dies After Prolonged Illness

KARACHI: In a rather sorrowful development for animal lovers in the port city, a Bengal tigress residing at the Karachi Zoo died last week, media learnt on Saturday. Confirming that the tigress "died a week ago", the zoo administration said that the animal passed away after a prolonged illness. Providing details on the matter, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) officials said the big cat was 30 years old and had passed away due to natural causes. They also added that the Bengal Tigress' average life span is between 18 to 20 years. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Royal Bengal Tigers (Panthera tigris tigris) are found in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and generally live anywhere between 14 to 16 years in the wild.—RT/Agency

## Shutdown of Gas Supply at SMS Tando Adam

SSGC is going to undertake a major job in respect of gas pipeline for which gas shutdown will take place at SMS Tando Adam. The valued customers of Sui Southern Gas Company are hereby informed that gas supply to Industrial / CNG Stations, Commercial and Domestic customers shall remain suspended to the following areas/villages during shutdown as per schedule.

SCHEDULE OF SHUTDOWN			
Date	From	To	Duration
Thursday, 12-09-2024	13:00 pm	19:00 pm	06 Hours

During the shutdown following areas will be affected: Village Mulla Makhan, Village Majeed Dero, Village Sanjar Junejo, Village Gulam Qadir Junejo & enrout Village, Tando Adam City, Village Khuda Bux Khoso, Village Kirar Khoso, Village Mitho Khoso, Village Ali Muhammad Khoso, Village Arbab Chando, Village Mir Hassan Marri, Village Peeral Makorani, Village Muhammad Bux Makorani, Village Chibbar Makorani, Village Alam Baloch, Village Tara Bagh, Village Shoukat Magsi, Village Mir Muhammad Magsi, Village Berani, Jam Nawaz Ali, Village Lal Bux Solangi, Cadet Collage Jam Nawaz Ali, Village Sadiq Wassan, Village Berwari, Nawabad, Village Sher Bahadur & enrout Villages.

SSGC regrets for the inconvenience caused.





"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

—Nelson Mandela

# The REGIONAL TIMES

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 08 2024

## PM Shatters 'Pakistan Isolation' Narrative

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar said on Saturday that the claims of Pakistan being in international isolation have been proven wrong due to the active guidance and tireless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team.

Speaking to the media, Dar highlighted that Pakistan has secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for two years, garnering 182 votes—a significant increase compared to the single-vote majority it achieved 12 years ago. The first congratulatory message was received from David Lammy, the UK Foreign Secretary.

He stated that Pakistan will actively contribute as a non-permanent member during its term and is currently engaged in discussions with permanent member states to



finalize its agenda. Pakistan aims to play a proactive role in addressing global conflicts and plans to strongly advocate for the issues of Palestine, Kashmir, and Islamophobia at the UNSC.

He emphasized that it is the global community's responsibility to implement UN resolutions on international conflicts. He expressed

regret that the UN resolutions on Kashmir remained unimplemented. Similarly, resolutions concerning the Gaza bombings have yielded no results, despite the tragic loss of over 40,000 Palestinian lives. Pakistan will persist in advocating for these issues across all forums, including the OIC, D8, and the UN.

Dar mentioned that he has already taken up the issues of Palestine, Kashmir, and Islamophobia at various forums. Additionally, for the first time, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has appointed a special representative of the Secretary-General specifically to combat Islamophobia. He noted that Pakistan has already sent nine consignments of medical and essential supplies to Palestine. Moreover, Pakistan has decided to continue the education of Palestinian medical students whose studies were interrupted or left incomplete by admitting them to complete their studies in Pakistani medical colleges. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated that efforts are underway to quickly restore flights between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, which will benefit the Pakistani diaspora. "We've updated laws to meet UK Aviation Authority standards to resolve the PIA flight issue," Dar said. He also noted that a previous PTI minister's statement had led to the grounding of Pakistani aircraft in Europe and the UK.

During his UK visit, Dar revealed plans to privatize Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and outsource Islamabad International Airport, aiming for completion by the 10th of next month. He stressed that Pakistan values its partnership with the UK, with the Pakistani diaspora being a key element of this relationship. Discussing his meetings with UK ministers and others, he described his discussion with the British Foreign Secretary as highly positive, with both parties committed to elevating their bilateral strategic relations.—RT/Agency

## PTI Accepts Omar Ayub's Resignation As Secretary General

ISLAMABAD: The resignation of Omar Ayub as the secretary general of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been approved by the party amidst ongoing restructuring and reshuffling within the party.

Omar Ayub, who also serves as the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, submitted his resignation on September 5, citing the overwhelming workload associated with his multiple roles.

He expressed his gratitude for the approval and stated that he will continue to contribute to the party as a dedicated member.

In his resignation statement, Ayub revealed that he had previously resigned on June 22, but that resignation had not been accepted.



He attributed the decision to step down to the demanding nature of his responsibilities, which included managing party affairs, attending court hearings, and handling constitutional matters.

Party sources indicate that Salman Akram Raja has been appointed as the new secretary general, taking over Ayub's former role.

The PTI founder has also restructured the party's administrative functions, with Omar Ayub and Senator Shibli Faraz leading parliamentary affairs, while Raouf Hassan will head the party's think tank. The restructuring aims to streamline the party's operations and delegate responsibilities more effectively.—RT/Agency

## President Signs 'Peaceful Assembly' Bill Into Law

ISLAMABAD: Following approval from both houses of the parliament, President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday gave assent to 'Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024'.

With the approval by the president, the bill has turned into law and ready to be implemented.

Under the new law, Islamabad DC would grant permission for rallies. In case of rejection, an appeal could be made to the Chief Commissioner.

The bill aimed to regulate public gatherings to ensure they do not disrupt public order.

After the passage of the bill in NA with a majority vote on Friday, Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said the



purpose of the bill was to maintain peace during public assemblies and processions.

He dismissed the opposition's concerns, noting that the increasing number of demonstrations in the federal capital had caused significant inconvenience to citizens.

Tarar added that, "the 'Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024' is an effort to ensure that the public space is not disturbed by public gatherings.

He rejected the notion of the opposition and said the federal capital was seemingly "under siege" and the growing number of processions had made the lives of citizens miserable.—RT/Agency

## Hafiz Naeem Demands Immediate Removal Of Electricity Taxes



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman has called for the removal of taxes on electricity bills.

Speaking to the media in Lahore, Rehman demanded that the 36 types of taxes imposed on electricity bills be abolished.

He criticised the Punjab government's relief of Rs14 as insufficient. On the other hand, he argued that such

relief should be implemented nationwide.

Rehman also mentioned that the recent shutter-down strike organized by his party was successful. He further said that they planned to hold more strikes and seek legal remedies if necessary. Additionally, he claimed that the ongoing terrorism in the country had links to India and the United States.—RT/Agency

## PTI's Power Show To Fight For Judiciary Independence: Barrister Gohar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said that the Sept 8 rally would be for the independence of judiciary.

In his statement issued on Saturday, he said that tomorrow's rally would be historical and it would break all previous records.

"It will not be a long march, but a peaceful public gathering," said Barrister Gohar.

He added that the PTI founder is facing jail just for the independence of his people.

According to Barrister Gohar, all the allies of PTI will also be present in the Islamabad rally.

He also thanked the administration for granting permission to hold rally in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also abuzz



with preparations for PTI's public gathering in Islamabad on Sunday.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will lead caravans from his province for the PTI public gathering in the capital.

According to sources, Swabi has been selected for a gathering where all leaders and workers of Peshawar division will converge.

Caravans from Charsadda, Peshawar, Nowshera and Khyber will be welcomed in Swabi.

CM Gandapur has issued directions to MNAs and MPAs to arrange vehicles for workers commuting to Islamabad.

MNA from Bannu Maulana Nasim has decorated the buses for commuting workers and supporters of the PTI.

Pictures of PTI founder Imran Khan and other party leaders have been displayed.—RT/Agency

## PM Praises PAF's Sacrifice And Professionalism

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday paid tribute to the Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) unwavering sacrifices and professional excellence on the occasion of Air Force Day.

He commended the bravery and valor of PAF personnel, who despite being outnumbered, thwarted the enemy's malicious intentions with their courage.

"On September 7, 1965, the PAF's Shaheens created history of courage, bravery and courage," the prime minister said in a message.

He particularly mentioned the heroics of MM Alam, who downed five enemy aircraft within a

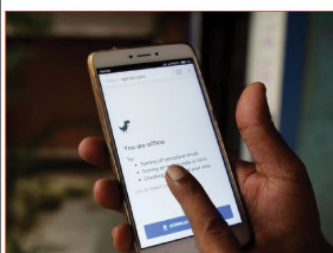


minute, shattering their pride.

Meanwhile, the prime minister, in a post on his official X timeline, saluted the courageous air warriors and their families on Air Force Day.

"Pakistan takes pride in the courage, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by its Air Force." He said their exceptional service and prowess ensured that "our skies are safe and their determination and valor contributes to a stronger Pakistan".—RT/Agency

## Govt Stays Silent On Election Day Mobile, Internet Blackout



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Interior has declined to provide reasons for shutting down mobile and internet services on February 8, the day of Pakistan's general elections, citing national security concerns.

According to media, a request was filed with the Pakistan Information Commission to learn why the services were disrupted during the election. In response, the ministry classified the information under the Right to Information Act, saying it could not be released due to national security.

The Information Commission granted the Interior Ministry an exemption from sharing the information.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) stated that it follows federal government directives, and the services were shut down on Election Day under orders from the ministry.

The commission has yet to issue a detailed ruling, while the Ministry of Information made no remarks on the classification. The Interior Ministry maintained that disclosing the details would compromise national security.—RT/Agency

## Huawei To Train 300,000 Young Pakistanis In Tech Skills

ISLAMABAD: Huawei, the world's leading provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, is going to train 300,000 young Pakistanis in ICT.

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood, visited Huawei's Islamabad office on Saturday to discuss the modalities of an extensive training program aimed at equipping 300,000 young Pakistanis with advanced skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), according to a press statement.

The meeting, which followed crucial technical discussions held on September 4th and 5th, marked a pivotal step in integrating Huawei's advanced training resources into Pakistan's educational framework. The initiative is guided by the directives of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, seeks to enhance technical education by leveraging Huawei's global expertise and cutting-edge training materials.

This strategic partnership is expected to substantially elevate the quality and reach of technical education throughout Pakistan, fostering skill development and innovation.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) will act as the implementation partner under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme.

The collaboration builds upon the foundation established during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Huawei's office in China, underscoring the commitment to advancing Pakistan's technical education landscape.

On his visit to the Huawei headquarters he had invited the company to invest in Pakistan's taxation, and e-governance sectors besides enhancing its presence in Pakistan's Safe City projects. On his arrival at the headquarters, Huawei Chairman Liang Hua welcomed him and followed the playing of national anthems and his visit



of the Exhibition Center. The chairman briefed the prime minister about Huawei's operations worldwide, particularly in Pakistan, and expressed keen interest in investing in country's different sectors. He was also briefed about different sectors including e-governance, digital banking, telecommunication and artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is on a five-day visit to China, appreciated the innovative operations of Huawei and urged the company to increase its investment in Pakistan. The prime minister, who later held a bilateral meeting with Chairman Liang Hua along with his delegation, appreciated the Safe City projects executed by Huawei in Pakistan and invited the company to invest in the projects particularly in the cities where CPEC projects were being executed.—RT/Agency

## Sindh, Centre Clash Over Development Fund Allocation

ISLAMABAD: The federal and Sindh governments are at odds over the allocation provincial development funds, ARY News reported.

According to sources, the Ministry of Finance has written a letter to the Sindh government, stating that Rs 9 billion 97 crore has been released to all provinces as development funds.

In the current financial year, Sindh has received the highest amount of Rs 5 billion 58 crore, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has received the lowest amount of only Rs 39 crore. Balochistan has received over Rs 3 billion, while Punjab has received Rs 90 crore as development funds, sources added.

Despite receiving the highest amount of development funds, the Sindh government is complaining about the release of funds.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had given instructions



to the Ministry of Finance and Planning to release the development funds.

Later, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah wrote a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the non-release of development funds. Moreover, the Ministry of Finance assured Sindh that funds will be released under the Annual Development Plan. Due to low revenue, 15% of development funds will be released during the first quarter of the current financial year, while 40% will be released during the last quarter. Its important

to note here that the federal government allocated Rs 78 billion for various development projects in Sindh under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the current financial year. According to the PSDP document, Rs 1.14 billion already released for different projects in the first two months of the current financial year.

The document stated that Rs 1 billion allocated for the Sindh Coastal Highway, while Rs 1.6 billion for the Stone Pitching Northern Dadu Canal project.—RT/Agency

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ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaulah, said on Saturday that the Prime Minister's first priority is to establish peace in Balochistan and provide relief to the people.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the plans were executed rapidly for the development of Balochistan,

## Peace In Balochistan Remains Top Priority



and matters were being resolved on a pre-arty basis.

He said that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), being a pro-democratic party, believes in dialogue and consultation.

The PML-N leadership offered dialogue and consultations for the betterment of Pakistan several times, he added.

Shehbaz Sharif, in the past, offered a charter of economy to bring the country out of an economic quagmire, he further added.

He said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on the other hand, was always involved in undemocratic activities, they chose the way of anarchy against the principles of democracy.—RT/Agency