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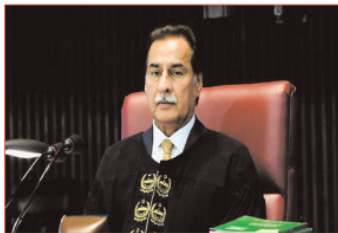
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## NA Speaker Calls for Immediate Release of PTI Legislators

ISLAMABAD: A day after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers were chased within the Parliament's premises, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday reprimanded the Islamabad Inspector General (IG) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, demanding their immediate release. "You cannot arrest anyone from the Parliament House or lodges. These parliamentarians should be released immediately," said the speaker. Sadiq's directive comes in the wake of the arrests of PTI lawmakers followed by a fiery speech delivered by the party's leader Ali Muhammad Khan on the floor of the lower house today. Sadiq added that he is "very saddened" by this incident and also watched the



footage of PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat's arrest. "What way was it to arrest a parliamentarian?" the speaker questioned IG Rizvi. The speaker maintained he won't remain silent on arrests of lawmakers and will act. "Whatever happened in the Parliament will have to be protested. I have ordered all the videos," he said, summoning the leadership of all political parties in the chamber. Sadiq stressed that the matter is to be looked into with seriousness. "I will file a case against those involved in yesterday's incident." In the next move, the speaker immediately summoned IG Islamabad, DIG operations and senior superintendent of police (SSP) operations.—RT/Agency

## PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Released From Police Custody After Islamabad Power Show

ISLAMABAD: Police on Tuesday released Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan a day after he was arrested over violation of newly-implemented rules regarding public gathering in Islamabad. The PTI chief was also discharged from a case registered against him in the Sangani police station. He told media that the police took him into custody and interrogated about some cases. Police told him that there was no case registered against him, he said. A day earlier, police arrested PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar outside Parliament House. Earlier, PTI's firebrand leader Sher Afzal Marwat was also taken into custody.

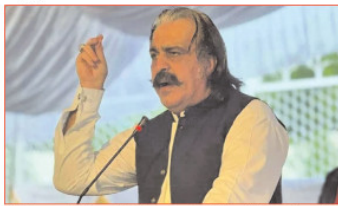


A scuffle was also witnessed between the police officials and Marwat's guards after which one of the guards of the PTI leader was also taken into custody.

After the arrest of Marwat, PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen was also detained from his office. Talking to media outside the judicial complex, the PTI chairman condemned the crackdown launched against the PTI leaders following the Sept 8 public gathering in the federal capital. He said some masked men entered Parliament House to arrest the PTI lawmakers, saying it would be remembered as a "black day in democracy." Khan said he and Sher Afzal Marwat came out of parliament to get arrested, adding, "Our MNAs were illegally arrested." He lamented over registration of cases against the PTI leaders for failing to end the rally on time, saying if it was organised in a marriage hall, "If a party representing 70 percent of public is not given space, extremists will become stronger," he said, adding that sanctity of the assembly was violated on Monday. Barrister Gohar said the PTI would oppose any legislation regarding the judiciary.—RT/Agency

## KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur Reemerges In Peshawar After Being Out Of Contact

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has reached Peshawar after being "missing" for hours in the wake of the crackdown against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership over alleged violation of law in relation to the party's rally in Islamabad, sources told media on Tuesday. The development was confirmed by PTI's member National Assembly (MNA) Shahid Khattak with sources saying that the CM was "busy in various meetings" in the federal capital after the party's power show. The former ruling party maintained that Gandapur held a long meeting with government officials over the law and order situation in the province and that he couldn't be reached due to mobile phone jammers at the location of the said meeting. The update comes after the Imran Khan-founded party had raised concerns about the possible arrest of the province's chief executive as he couldn't be contacted for over eight hours. A day earlier, KP CM's



Adviser on Information Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif claimed that the federal government might have taken him into custody as he was not in contact since 6pm Monday. Expressing his doubts, the PTI leader urged the federal government to inform them about the whereabouts of the missing CM. Saif's concerns came as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launched a fresh crackdown against the PTI leadership for violating Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and arrested party Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, lawmaker Sher Afzal Marwat from outside the Parliament House. Other party leaders who have been arrested include Zain Qureshi, Sheikh Waqas Akram, Naseem-ur-Rehman, Zubair Khan, Shoaib Shaheen and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza. Raza Police have filed cases against several leaders of the Imran-founded party under the newly-enacted law, at the Noon Village and Sangani police stations. At least 28 local leaders including Seemabia Tahir and Raja Basharat were also nominated in the cases. The first information report (FIR) stated that charged PTI workers attacked police teams with batons and pelted them with stones when officers tried to stop them from violating the Islamabad rally's route.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Army Kills 16 Afghan Taliban In Response To Cross-Border Attack



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Army gave befitting response to the unprovoked aggression from Afghanistan on the border between two neighbouring countries, killing 16 Afghan Taliban and injuring 27 others. Since the morning of September 7, the Afghan Taliban resorted to unprovoked firing with large weapons at Pakistani check posts from Plosin, and the firing continued until the evening of September 8 and 9. The Pakistan Army effectively retaliated to the firing and inflicted heavy losses on the Afghan Taliban. Reports said 16 Afghan Taliban including two commanders have been killed and 27 injured so far in the retaliatory action. Two Afghan Taliban tanks were also destroyed in the action. A day earlier, security forces responded effectively and killed eight Afghan Taliban, including key commanders Khalil and Jan Muhammad. In addition to terrorist attacks, the Afghan Taliban's aggression on the international border is now openly visible.—RT/Agency

## Bill To Increase Supreme Court Judges Presented In National Assembly

ISLAMABAD: An amendment bill to the Supreme Court Act of 1997 has been presented in the National Assembly. The bill proposes increasing the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 17 to 23. According to sources, the bill was introduced by government member of the National Assembly, Daniyal Chaudhry. The amendment aims to address the backlog of cases by increasing the number of judges.



The bill states that increasing the number of judges will ensure timely hearings and decisions. It also highlights the need for experts in various fields, including cybercrime, environmental law, and international trade, to make informed decisions. The amendment proposes that increasing the number of judges will reduce undue pressure on any single judge. The government did not object to the bill; however, opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai raised concerns about the bill and pointed out a quorum issue in the assembly. Nonetheless, a count of the members confirmed that the quorum was met. The Information Minister supported sending the bill to a committee for further processing, and it has been referred to the relevant committee. Earlier this month, an amendment bill aimed at increasing the number of judges in the Supreme Court of Pakistan was introduced in the Senate by Senator Abdul Qadir during a session chaired by Chairman Yousaf Raza Gillani. The proposed bill seeks to raise the number of Supreme Court judges from 17 to 23. Senator Qadir argued that the growing backlog of cases is a significant issue, attributing it to the shortage of judges. He highlighted that delays in case scheduling, especially in tax-related cases involving substantial amounts, are forcing the country to seek financial assistance from abroad. The bill has sparked controversy. Opposition members expressed concerns that the amendment could be a strategic move by the PML-N government to alter the balance of power within the judiciary. PTI Senator Ali Zafar criticised the bill, suggesting that it aims to manipulate the judiciary, while Senator Saifullah Abro accused the government of having ulterior motives related to recent Supreme Court decisions. The timing of the bill is also notable. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa is set to retire on October 25, and there are reports that the PML-N government desires to extend his tenure for the continuity of the current judicial system. However, CJP Isa stated he was not interested in a person-specific extension, although he may remain if parliament extends the retirement age for all superior court judges by three years. Political and legal commentators have expressed skepticism about the bill. Critics, including senior lawyer Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan and JUI-F legal expert Kamran Murtaza, suggest that the increase in judges could be an attempt to influence the Supreme Court's composition for political gain. They argued that the primary issues affecting the judiciary were systemic delays and a high volume of cases, rather than the number of judges.—RT/Agency

## ₹190 Million Case: Hearing On Imran And Bushra's Acquittal Pleas Postponed To September 12



RAWALPINDI: The hearing on the acquittal pleas filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and wife Bushra Bibi in the ₹190m case was adjourned on Tuesday by the accountability court till September 12. The ex-prime minister and former first lady were presented before the court during the hearing today at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail conducted by accountability court Judge Nasir Javed Rana. Khan on Saturday had filed a plea seeking acquittal in the ₹190 million case under the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments case wherein the court accepted the intra-court appeals filed against last year's verdict which struck down the changes made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). The couple is accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer. Last week, the court had reserved verdict on Bushra's acquittal plea in the said case. During the hearing today, Khan and Bushra's lawyers were not able to appear before the court owing to their commitments in the Lahore High Court (LHC) due to which reference's last witness Mian Umer Nadeem couldn't be cross-examined. Furthermore, assistant counsel Faisal Chaudhry's request seeking adjournment of the hearing was opposed by the NAB's prosecution team. The anti-graft body's prosecutor said that Khan and Bushra's counsel were using delay tactics in the case as they have been given 16 opportunities to cross-examine the last witness in the reference. Noting that 12 affidavits have been submitted by the defence lawyers in this reference, the NAB prosecutor said that since counsels Barrister Ali Zafar and Chaudhry were present at the moment, they should cross-examine the witness.—RT/Agency

## Finance Minister Reaffirms Commitment to Power Sector Reform

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector to improve its efficiency and service delivery. The reforms included reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees to bring in more efficiency in the boards and improve overall service delivery. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric, Mark Skelton, which among others was attended by Javed Kureishi, Member Board of Directors KE, Mubasher H. Sheikh, Member Board of Directors KE, Moonis Ali, CEO KE, Imran Qureshi, Chief Regulatory Affairs KE, M. Aamir Ghaziani, CFO KE and senior officials of the Finance Division. The meeting was convened to exchange views around K-Electric's plans for



catering to growing energy demands of Karachi and the company's transition to renewables to ensure affordable and sustainable energy for the residents of port city. The KE team briefed the Minister regarding its plans to include renewable in its generation mix, with a view to lowering down the cost of electricity for Karachi. They also apprised the Minister of other initiatives being taken by KE for improved service delivery to residents of Karachi. He reiterated the government's resolve to ensure private sector participation in all government-owned discos and gencons and mentioned the start of process of privatizing of three discos in line with the Prime Minister's vision to enable and facilitate the private sector to lead the economy. The Minister also lauded the initiatives taken by K-Electric for further investment and expansion of its energy and distribution operations, and assured full support for its efforts to transition to renewables and production of cheaper and affordable energy through the use of domestic resources.—RT/Agency

## SIC's Sahibzada Hamid Raza Arrested Amidst Crackdown On Top PTI Leadership

ISLAMABAD: Police stormed the parliament on Tuesday, arresting several prominent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Sahibzada Hamid Raza, head of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). A day after PTI ventured into a legal minefield to stage its rally in the capital, the government wasted no time on Monday to arrest its leaders for flouting the last-gasp laws hastily enacted ahead of the highly anticipated event—widely seen as a test of embattled party's political muscle. Sources revealed that the lights inside the National Assembly (NA) were turned off before officers in plain clothes entered the building. The arrests started rolling in, with Islamabad police arresting PTI leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, and Advocate Shoaib Shaheen outside the parliament. Masked officers reportedly took Hamid Raza into



custody from inside the parliament building. In addition to the political leaders, two security personnel stationed outside the Parliament Service Centre were also detained. Confirming the arrests, Islamabad police spokesperson Jawad Taqi said more detentions were on the horizon as PTI's Omar Ayub Khan and Zartaj Gul Wazir were also in the crosshairs. Further, Omar Ayub Khan alleged on X that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was being held "incommunicado by the federal government/establishment after being invited for a cup of tea." He claimed Gandapur's security staff was untraceable, and his phones were off. "This is the state of affairs in Pakistan today," he lamented, criticising the arrest of PTI leaders and alleging that the arrests were a reaction to their peaceful protest on September 8.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Principal Prof. Samina Naz Abro is seen in a group photo with students and other teachers participating in a Qirat & Naat Competition at the Begum Nusrat Bhutto Government Girls Degree College.— Photo by Nadeem Soomro

## SSP Zafar Siddique Chhanga reviews law and order situation in Jamshoro



JAMSHORO: SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga conducted sudden inspections at various checkpoints and reviewed security arrangements in Jamshoro on Tuesday. SSP Jamshoro patrolled the main highways entering and exiting the district to verify police presence. All SDPOs and SHO in the district have been instructed to patrol within their respective jurisdictions to ensure peace and order. SSP Jamshoro issued strict directives to police personnel to remain vigilant at their duty points and to perform their duties with diligence and integrity to protect public safety. Restoring and maintaining peace and order in the district is considered a primary duty, and any negligence will not be tolerated.



LARKANA: Principal Prof. Samina Naz Abro is presenting a gift to the student participants of a Qirat & Naat Competition at the Begum Nusrat Bhutto Government Girls Degree College.—Photo by Nadeem Soomro.

## HESCO Chief Muhammad Roshan Otho chairs meeting of Hyderabad, Larkana Operation Circles

HYDERABAD: HESCO Chief Muhammad Roshan Otho chaired a meeting at the HESCO Conference Hall with the officers of the Hyderabad and Larkana Operation Circles to review their performance. He directed that all officers must achieve 100% recovery of dues, and any officer failing to do so will be dismissed from their job. Additionally, the economic loss caused to the organization by any officer will be recovered from them. All officers were instructed to work as a team with dedication, ensuring HESCO's reputation and progress. The CEO emphasized the complete eradication of electricity theft and instructed that under the watchman system, each officer and employee should ensure better monitoring and customer-friendly service in their respective areas. He issued clear instructions for daily operations from 11 AM to 1 PM to address consumer issues promptly. Officers were advised to handle consumers politely, listen to their electricity-related issues attentively, and take immediate steps to resolve them. Safety protocols must be followed, and actions against electricity thieves must be expedited. Electricity theft is considered a major threat, and its eradication is a top priority. New electricity connections should be provided efficiently, and any billing issues should be addressed at any sub-division customer service center or complaint center. Consumers can also print duplicate bills from the HESCO website, www.hesco.gov.pk, to ensure timely payment. HESCO operates as a commercial entity that cannot function without bill payments. Anyone involved in electricity theft will not be spared, even if they are HESCO employees. Legal action will be taken according to the prevailing laws. The HESCO Chief appealed to consumers to pay all dues promptly to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. He stated that electricity theft is both a legal and moral crime, and offenders can be subject to FIR registration, fines, and detention. During the meeting, the HESCO Chief was accompanied by Chief Operating Officer Zulfikar Memon, Chief Commercial Officer Nisar Memon, SE Hyderabad Circle Rashid Ahmed Ansari, SE Larkana Gulzar Ahmed Dasti, Director CME&DO Ejaz Ahmed Sheikh, Director Commercial Zaki Mukhtar, Manager Computer Nadeem Ali Khushk, Deputy Director (FCC) Ambar Shah, PSO Faheem Allah Memon, Liaison Officer Amir Naveed Memon, Deputy Director (PR) Muhammad Sadiq Kabir, along with all DDs (Technical), DCM, XENS, Revenue Officers, SDOs, and other officers.

## Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon reviews ongoing anti-polio campaign

HYDERABAD: The Divisional Commissioner of Hyderabad, Bilal Ahmed Memon, paid a surprise visit to review the activities of the ongoing anti-polio campaign in the district. He was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad, Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, and other relevant officials. He directed the staff to play their full role in achieving 100% results from the campaign and assured that the administration would provide all necessary support. Additionally, all Assistant Commissioners are actively supervising the polio campaign in their respective jurisdictions to prevent the virus in the polio drops, which strengthen the immunity of children up to the age of 5.

## PPP's Haji Sohail Akhtar Abbasi chairs party workers' convention in Naushehro

NAUSHEHRO FEROEZE: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) district workers' convention was held at Sarhal House Naushehro Feroze, under the leadership of District President Haji Sohail Akhtar Abbasi and General Secretary Masroor Ahmed Rajpar. A large number of district officials and workers participated in the convention. On this occasion, the workers and officials presented their issues before the District President. Haji Sohail Akhtar Abbasi and General Secretary Masroor Ahmed Rajpar assured the workers and officials that their legitimate problems would be resolved promptly. Prominent attendees included Farooq Bhambhro, Khalid Masood Channa, Sardar Bhalay Rakhio, Akbar Samo, Ghazanfar Rajpar, Abdul Memon, Pir Khalid Saifullah, Kamran Tagar, Lala Taufeeq Chandio, Dr. Kashif Mustafa Memon and many other officials and workers.

## SALU holds US Fulbright awareness seminars

KHAIRPUR: The Students Societies Center and Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) in collaboration with the Zoology Department organized awareness seminars on US Fulbright programs for students and faculty members on the directives of honorable Vice Chancellor Meritorious Prof Dr Muhammad Yousuf Khushk. Prof Dr Javed Ahmed Ujan, US Fulbright Alumni (University of Florida, Batch 2022-23, served as the resource person. The session began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Ali Raza Lashari, In-charge Students Societies Center. Dr. Javed provided comprehensive information on the UGRAD Semester Exchange program, emphasizing its benefits for 3rd and 4th-semester students. He encouraged students to apply, sharing his own experiences and insights. During the Q&A session, Sarfaraz Ahmad Korejo, US Fellow Alumni, shared his personal experiences, further enlightening the audience. In her concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Sameena Rajper, Director ORIC, praised the resource person's presentation and emphasized the importance of such sessions in securing prestigious USAID scholarships. She commended the efforts of the organizers and participants.

## Orientation meeting for protection of rights of women and minorities held at The University of Larkano

LARKANA: The orientation meeting regarding project "Protection of Rights of Women and Minorities in Northern Sindh" was held at The University of Larkano. An orientation meeting regarding launching of project was held at The University of Larkano chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohammad Usman Keerio. Fozia Hanif Manager Programs and Prof. Dr. Taj Muhammad Lashari Academic Advisor (BSWA) briefed the salient features of the project. They apprised the Vice Chancellor about the project that, BSWA in collaboration with the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Government of Sindh and in collaboration with the cooperation of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), is implementing the project on the "Protection of Rights of Women and Minorities in Northern Sindh" which provides a viable platform to have debate, Dialogue discourse and develop strategies for the implementation of the WPS agenda in Sindh which requires concrete measures at social and political levels that would challenge existing gender stereotypes and pave the way for greater participation among women in the peace building and peace process. This project aimed at engaging academic institutions in building community resilience against extremist tendencies and climate change impact through innovative and creative strategies that offer alternative narratives and opportunities to change academic discourse with a focus on women, peace, and security issues in Northern Sindh, particularly. The academic institutions will be made part of the Consortium in the first phase including; Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University (BNBWU) Sukkur, Aroor University of Art, Architecture, Design & Heritage, Rohri, The Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur and The University of Larkano. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between The University of Larkano and BSWA signed by Dr. Muhammad Usman Keerio and Khadim Hussain Mirani Executive Director of BSWA, as part of academic linkage, capacity building of youth, seminars and trainings and workshops.

## JJANP highlights gaps in Juvenile Justice System, calls for urgent government action

SUKKUR: The Conveners of Juvenile Justice Advocacy Network Pakistan- JJANP through a press release urged the government to make sure that juveniles who get in conflict with law be given due rights as embodied in 2018 Act and UN Convention on Rights of Child in lines with Article 37 of the same. JJANP will aim for voicing against rampant violence against children across Pakistan. The conveners of JJANP are of the view that the practice of the death penalty and life imprisonment should be abolished for juveniles allegedly and/or convicted of heinous offences including terrorism or blasphemous. Moreover, the investigation of criminal cases should be made fair and transparent in accordance with Criminal Code of Procedure so to make sure that the juveniles without any shadow of doubt are declared as juveniles, if any material evidence on the age of the arrested person discloses him less 18-year of age. This procedure has to be adopted by the police and law enforcing agencies as warranted Section 8 of the Act 2018. The JJANP emphasis on making Juvenile Justice Committees active and functional across Pakistan to resolve cases of children in conflict with minor laws. Since the implementation of Juvenile Justice Act 2018, Juvenile Justice Committees have not been activated across Punjab and Sindh till date. Children found to be involved in minor breaches of penal law will be dealt with through the non-punitive sanctions set out in the Diversion Act 2018. Lastly, the press release highlighted that JJANP will hold its inaugural meeting in the month of September.

## Thieves steal ceiling fans, electric motor from government girls school in Tando Adam

TANDO ADAM: In response to the theft at the Government Makhdoom Noah Girls Elementary Secondary School in Tando Adam, the school's female teachers and students, led by Headmistress Amina Sharif, Farhana Sehto, Taluka Education Officer Ali Muhammad Bhanoon, and President of PTA Tando Adam, Lakha Dina Khaskheli, organized a protest on MA Jinnah Road. During the protest, they expressed their grievances to journalists, stating that the previous night, unknown thieves stole four ceiling fans, an iron grill, and a water motor from the school. They highlighted that thefts at the school have become a common occurrence at night. They also pointed out that there is no janitor or watchman assigned to the school, which has led to repeated thefts. They further added that despite filing an FIR, the Tando Adam police have been unable to arrest the culprits. The protesters warned that if the thefts at government schools are not stopped and the stolen items are not recovered, they would soon shut down all the schools in the taluka and stage a protest outside the police station along with teachers and students. They urged the higher authorities to arrest the culprits and recover the stolen items to ensure justice is served.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Primary Teachers' Association are protesting in favor of their demands outside the Larkana Press Club.—RT

## Public Notice

I, Shafiq Ahmed, son of Tufail Ahmed, am the CEO of Dragon Company Services Private Limited. My brothers, Abdul Majeed (son of Tufail Ahmed) and Abdul Hamid (son of Tufail Ahmed), and my nephew Tariq Majeed (son of Abdul Majeed) each have their own separate businesses and live separately. We have no association with Shakeel Ahmed son of Tufail Ahmed and he has no claim on any of our properties. It is hereby notified to the public that Shakeel Ahmed son of Tufail Ahmed does not hold any directorship in Dragon Security Services Private Limited, nor has he ever been involved in any capacity with this company. Therefore, if anyone engages in any business transactions with him, he will be personally responsible for it and no one should contact us regarding any transactions. From: Shafiq Ahmed, son of Tufail Ahmed, Dragon Company Services Private Limited, Karachi

## New office-bearers of JSQM Thul elected

THUL: In the elections for the Jeay Sindh Quami Mahaz (JSQM) Taluka Thul, Wasim Qureshi was elected as the President. According to the report, the elections were conducted under the supervision of the district body, with participants including President Lashari as General Secretary, Comrade Jaffar Shamam Soomro, Waheed Rabi, Ali Raza Sindh, Abid Sindh, Sattar Memon and others. Dado Qureshi was elected as the Finance Secretary. The meeting was attended by senior JSQM leaders Ustad Gulmeer Shahzad Bhatti, Jameel Laghari, and Ustad Saun izullah Sarki.

# NATIONAL

## Salman Akram Raja Advocates For Unimpeded Progress Of Democratic Processes

PESHAWAR: PTI leader Salman Akram Raja highlighted Monday's shameful incident outside Parliament, where the sanctity of the institution was violated.

Addressing a press conference along with other party leadership, the PTI leader called for the release of CCTV footage of May 9 incidents, stating that attacks on the constitutional system are being made to conceal the truth.



He warned that a group believes they control Pakistan's destiny, and cautioned that the system cannot work if constitutional amendments are made under threats and intimidation.

He questioned how easily a rally could be easily stopped and suggested that the arrests of PTI MNAs are being used as a distraction for other motives. "Why are we now behind Bangladesh and Nepal?" he asked.

Raja said that Pakistan's democratic process and constitution should be allowed to progress freely.

He pointed out that certain individuals are exerting control over the democratic process.

Raja clarified that Gandapur's statement about coming with drums and music, if rally permission wasn't granted, was never intended to disrespect women.

Raja concluded by stating that only through democracy and adherence to the constitution can people receive their rights, adding that in the past, every voice has been suppressed by certain forces.—RT/Agency

Addressing remarks made by CM Ali Amin Gandapur

at a political rally, Raja clarified that Gandapur's statement about coming with drums and music, if rally permission wasn't granted, was never intended to disrespect women.

Raja expressed regret for any offense caused, saying, "We apologize. We plead, let Pakistan be free."

## President Commends AQ Khan Hospital Trust's Contributions And Offers Continued Support

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and healthcare to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.



The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the Trustees including Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Gulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed the

president about the role of the hospital in providing medical services to the people. She also apprised the president about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust.

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Dr. Dina Khan briefed the president about the role of the hospital in providing medical services to the people.

He commended the work of AQ Khan Hospital Trust and appreciated the generous donations by the people for the noble cause of providing much-needed free health services to the underprivileged.—RT/Agency

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## PTA Reassures That VPNs Remain Accessible In The Country

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) on Tuesday dispelled rumours and clarified that virtual private networks (VPNs) in the country were not being blocked.

block VPNs, it is clarified in the country since February 19.

A report by Top10VPN, an independent VPN review website, stated that the demand for proxy networks increased by 131 per cent on Feb 19, two days after X was blocked.

quashing media reports about PTA planning to block VPNs in the country, the authority issued a statement clarifying there was no truth to such rumours.

However, it encourages users to register their internet protocol (IP) addresses for using VPNs.

VPNs are widely used around the world to access content that may be inaccessible or blocked for internet users in their home country. They are also used by users to maintain privacy.

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## PPP Senators File Attention Notice Regarding Amendments To IRSA Act



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senators have called the Senate's attention towards the proposed amendments to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Act of 1992.

In a calling attention notice submitted to the Senate, Senators Sherry Rehman, Zameer Hussain Ghumro, Jam Saifullah, and Sarmad Ali highlighted the proposed changes to IRSA Act. They

said it was viewed as an attack on provincial rights.

Senator Sherry Rehman expressed concern over attempts made during the caretaker government, stating that the bill was returned by the president. She concluded by rejecting the proposed amendments in IRSA Act, noting that the Sindh assembly had already passed a resolution against the change.—RT/Agency

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## Azma Bokhari Labels KP House As A Training Ground For Terrorists



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Tuesday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House had turned into a breeding ground for terrorists.

Speaking to reporters outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), Bokhari said that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur's tone and tenor was that of terrorists during his speech at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sangani public gathering on Sept 8, adding that Gandapur's anti-state was unacceptable.

"We don't want any battle between provinces. Punjab has always played big brother's role. We will not let KP CM house turn into a shelter for terrorists. The people running the KP House will have to clear their position," she added.

She blamed PTI founder Imran Khan for uttering below the belt remarks about his political opponents, which she said, was followed by all PTI leaders and workers.

She ruled out any possibility for the PTI to hold a public gathering in Punjab, informing that Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz would look into the matter of the PTI's public rally herself.—RT/Agency

She ruled out any possibility for the PTI to hold a public gathering in Punjab, informing that Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz would look into the matter of the PTI's public rally herself.—RT/Agency

## FIA Detains Individual For Exploiting Hundreds Of Children, Explicit Footage Confiscated

ISLAMABAD: A man accused of sexually exploiting young children has been arrested, with hundreds of explicit videos uncovered during the operation.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Crime Circle Abbottabad conducted the raid, leading to the seizure of 497 indecent videos from the suspect.

The suspect, identified as Muhammad Miskeen, was found to be involved in the creation and distribution of explicit content featuring minors.

He had been teaching religious education to children and using this position to exploit them. The arrest is part of an ongoing crackdown against cyber crimes under the directives of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

According to the FIA spokesperson, the suspect was also involved in sharing

the illegal videos online.

During the raid, law enforcement officials recovered four mobile phones, a laptop, a CPU, and an internet device from his possession.

The investigation is continuing, and further details are expected to emerge.

Authorities are emphasising that the operation aligns with global efforts and reflects a broader effort to combat child exploitation.—RT/Agency

## Mustafa Kamal Criticizes Recent Parliamentary Proceedings

ISLAMABAD: "I could not endorse what happened in the Parliament last night," MQM's Mustafa Kamal said on Tuesday while speaking at the floor of the National Assembly.

He said the result of madness is madness from other side. "Those having power, have to understand it," he said.

"The PTI must keep its popularity with it instead of using it to abuse others," Mustafa Kamal said.

"No one here has been an angel, each have their own separate histories," he further said.

He advised the government as well as the opposition to apply brakes and create consensus for the sake of the country.—RT/Agency

He advised the government as well as the opposition to apply brakes and create consensus for the sake of the country.—RT/Agency

# SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## Cricket tournament organized under Khelta Punjab Program held in Toba Tek Singh



By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of Khelta Punjab (Sports-Driven Punjab), sports activities are ongoing in District Toba Tek Singh. The first All Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Cricket Cup was held at the sports stadium, with the Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Naeem Sindhui, as the chief guest. The first All Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Cricket Club Tournament

saw participation from officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syed Jameel Haider Shah, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Ali Sameer, Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir, Assistant Commissioner Adnan Saqib, and Sports Officer Muhammad Jameel, along with a large number of district officials and spectators. Eight teams from across Punjab participated in the tournament. The final match was played between Jhang

Laghari Cricket Club and the team from Multan. The chief guest, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhui, personally tossed the coin for the final match and even stepped into the field to bat. The winning team was awarded a cash prize of 200,000 rupees, while the runner-up team received 100,000 rupees. The teams that lost in the semi-finals were each awarded 50,000 rupees.

## GEPCO continues crackdown against power theft

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In line with the Ministry of Energy's directives, a vigorous crackdown against electricity theft is underway throughout the GEPCO region. According to PRO GEPCO Rana Jahangir, in the first ten days of this month alone, a total of 405 individuals involved in electricity theft have been apprehended across the region. These offenders have been fined over Rs. 1 crore 66 lac for stealing more than 4 lac 47 thousand units of electricity. Under the supervision of Chief Executive Engineer Muhammad Ayub, the operation against electricity theft continues intensively. During these initial ten days, 11,361 domestic, 420 commercial, 339 agricultural, and 190 industrial consumers have been identified among the electricity thieves caught so far. Ayoub emphasized that the zero-tolerance policy towards electricity theft, which affects the future of our children, will remain in effect until the last power thief is apprehended. He also appealed to the public to support GEPCO in this ongoing battle against electricity theft. Citizens are encouraged to monitor their surroundings for any signs of electricity theft and report any such activities to GEPCO's helpline 118. By combating electricity theft, the goal is to ensure a cheaper, higher-quality, and uninterrupted electricity supply.

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## RPO Tayyab Hafeez Cheema listens to public complaints in Hafizabad



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: RPO Gujranwala Tayyab Hafeez Cheema conducted an emergency visit to District Hafizabad. Following the open-door policy of the Inspector General of Police Punjab, RPO Cheema visited the DPO Hafizabad office, where he held an open court to address the issues of citizens. RPO Cheema emphasized that citizens should act as the eyes and ears of the police, supporting efforts to eradicate drug trafficking, illegal arms, and other crimes. He personally listened to the problems of the citizens and issued immediate orders to resolve them. RPO Cheema affirmed that every citizen has the right to visit police offices at any time to file a complaint, and that the doors of these offices are open 24/7 for the public. During his visit, RPO Gujranwala also held a detailed meeting with all SHOs, in-charge of organized

crime units, and SDPOs, focusing on crimes against property. He reviewed ongoing investigations in Hafizabad, instructing investigating officers to prioritize and expedite cases of murder, robbery, and kidnapping. RPO Cheema stressed the need for stringent action against drug dealers and emphasized that justice must be delivered promptly. He warned that corruption will not be tolerated.

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## Birth of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is a great blessing: Allama Pir Syed Zaheer Ahmad Hashmi

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The birth of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is a great blessing from Almighty Allah upon the world, and the entire universe is celebrating the joyous occasion of the Prophet's (SAWW) birth in its own way. People all over the world are marking the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with great enthusiasm.



On this occasion, mad (SAWW) and holding gatherings of salutations and blessings are a source of goodness and blessings. A collective prayer was also held for the forgiveness of all the deceased, for their elevated ranks, and for the progress and safety of the country.

These thoughts were expressed by Allama Pir Syed Zaheer Ahmad Hashmi and Sahibzada Ahmad Faiz Golravvi while addressing a gathering held at Jamia Mosque Railway Station in connection with the reception of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that lawlessness continued to rule in hallowed halls of the Parliament in Islamabad.

blamed the government of being utterly undemocratic and behaving like a dictatorial regime.

"This fake government can go to any length of fascism but it will never be able to divert the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) work-

ers' attention from their mission to fight against the tyranny," he added.

He lashed out at the National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq for remaining silent and not doing anything for the safety of the NA members.—RT/Agency

In a statement issued in the first half of the day, Saif

blamed the government of being utterly undemocratic and behaving like a dictatorial regime.

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# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2024



## A CM goes missing

The recent unexplained seven-hour disappearance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur raises grave concerns about the state of governance and security in Pakistan. This episode, marked by Gandapur's sudden absence and subsequent reappearance amid a crackdown on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, is troubling for several reasons.

The fact that the Chief Minister of a province could vanish without explanation reflects an alarming deterioration in both administrative stability and personal safety for high-ranking officials. If the leadership at this level is subject to such unsettling events, it signals a dangerous precedent for the country's political climate. Such incidents undermine the public's trust in the state's ability to maintain order and uphold the rule of law.

The circumstances of Gandapur's disappearance—his phone being out of reach, the activation



of mobile jammers, and the lack of security—suggest a severe lapse in both protocol and protection. These are not trivial concerns; they hint at deeper systemic issues. When a high-profile figure can disappear for hours, it casts doubt on the reliability of security agencies and the effectiveness of crisis management.

This episode fits into a troubling pattern of recent

events that reflect a decline in democratic norms and institutional integrity. The fact that such actions occur amidst a crackdown against political figures further exacerbates the situation, casting a shadow over the fairness of political processes and governance. The gravity of this issue cannot be overstated. If a provincial chief minister can be so easily removed from sight, the integrity of democratic institutions and the future of governance in Pakistan are at stake. Urgent clarity is needed on this matter, not only to address the immediate concerns but to restore confidence in the nation's democratic framework. The implications of such incidents are profound, and they demand a thorough investigation to prevent further erosion of trust and stability in Pakistan's political landscape.

# THE HEARTLAND



## All Sindh Primary Teachers' Association rallies against Sindh Education Minister

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The All Sindh Primary Teachers Association (APTA) has demanded the removal of Provincial Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, accusing him of destroying the education system in Sindh. The protestors claim that the minister has used derogatory language against teachers in the Sindh Assembly, thus insulting their dignity. They challenge the Provincial Education Minister to conduct interviews with teachers directly or resign from politics. The District President of APTAS, Muhammad Juman Jarwar, along with District General Secretary Muhammad Iqbal Bhutto, and other leaders including Muhammad Urs Umrani, President of Taluka Jhando Marri, Muhammad Khan Kalro, Muharam Laghari, Haji Muhammad Shafi Lund



Baloch, Hamid Khasakheili, Ghulam Sarwar Bozdar, Abdul Razaq Shah, Amir Malik, Ghulam Rasool, Shahid Bhatti, Irfan Khanzada, and others, expressed their concerns during a rally. The rally, which began from the Government Primary School and ended at Liaquat Gate, highlighted the severe issues faced in the education sector. Speakers criticized the minister for rampant corruption, lack of books in educational institutions, absence of furniture in schools, and inadequate facilities such as washrooms. APTAS vowed to defend the dignity of teachers on all fronts and declared that any form of humiliation towards teachers is unacceptable. They urged PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take notice of the remarks of Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah and take steps to save education in Sindh.

## District President of PPP Khairpur Nawab Khan Wassan felicitated



By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) City Khairpur leader Chaudhry Mukhtar Nawab Khan Wassan at Wassan House on his appointment as the District President. He further stated that the appointment of Nawab Khan Wassan has sparked a wave of happiness among PPP workers across District. He praised Haji Nawab Khan Wassan as a loyal, courageous, and dedicated leader who has always

stood by the party workers through thick and thin. Chaudhry Mukhtar Nawab Khan Wassan at Wassan House on his appointment as the District President. He further stated that the appointment of Nawab Khan Wassan has sparked a wave of happiness among PPP workers across District. He praised Haji Nawab Khan Wassan as a loyal, courageous, and dedicated leader who has always

## NTS test passed candidates march for their joining orders

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The candidates who passed the NTS test in 2013 have started a pedestrian march from Dadu to Nawabshah, where they plan to stage a sit-in protest. The protest was led by central leaders including Habib Sindh, Lal Bakhsh Sehto, Gulsher Solangi, Khair Muhammad Khoso, Khalid Saifullah, Imran Ali Ghad, Zulfiqar Abbasi, Hafizullah, and district Dadu leaders like Javed Laghari, Mashooq Jatoti, Mazhar Mangi, Muneer Panhwar, Ali Anwar Lashari, Nisar Somro, Imran Panhwar, Abdullah Samoon, Amjad Solangi, and Javed Dasti. The protest was attended by teachers, students, intellectuals, and various concerned



parties. Protesters carried banners and placards, and chanted slogans as the rally made its way to the Press Club in Dadu. Speaking to the media, the leaders expressed their frustration, stating that despite passing the NTS test with marks ranging from 60 to 97, they have yet to be appointed to teaching positions. They demanded their rights be acknowledged, emphasizing that they had qualified based on merit and should be granted the jobs they are entitled to.

## Martyrdom day of Hazrat Imam Hassan al-Askari (AS) observed in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The procession of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hassan al-Askari (AS) and the appearance of 18 symbolic coffins of the martyrs of Karbala from the Banu Hashim tribe was taken out from Al-Mehdi House, Rahib Fakir Muhalla, under the leadership of caravan leader Agha Ghulam Shabbir Haidari, Mudabbir Mehdi Haidari, Ali Mehdi Haidari, and Mujtaba Mehdi Haidari. Thousands of people from both the city and other areas participated in the procession. Prior to the departure of the symbolic coffins, the entire Rahib Muhalla and the procession routes were decorated with red lights. Zohair Hassan Jaffari and Tasawar Abbas Tishna recited elegies that moved even the most stoic of hearts to tears. Before the procession of the 18 coffins of the Banu Hashim tribe, the symbolic coffin of Imam Hassan al-Askari (AS) was brought out. Afterward, the procession proceeded along



its designated route and Wilayat Ali (AS), Sindh ended at Bait al-Mahdi Tando Allahyar. Speaking to the media, caravan leader Mudabbir Mehdi Haidari said that the route of today's procession was kept special.

## Primary teachers protest against Sindh Education Minister in Jacobabad



By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, the Primary Teachers' Association (PTA) held a protest rally led by former Central President Intizar Chahgari, Abdul Jabbar Khoso, Abdul Ghafoor Saki, Zahoor Ahmed Waqan, Javed Ahmed, Nabi Soomro and others. The protest was against the lack of basic facilities in schools, unresolved issues faced by teachers, and the indifference of the

Provincial Minister of Education. Teachers organized the rally, marching through various city streets and chanting slogans against the Provincial Minister of Education. The demonstrators staged a sit-in in front of the press club. During the protest, the leaders addressed the crowd, criticizing Provincial Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah. They highlighted the shortage of furniture and textbooks in government schools and the lack of basic facilities, which they argued is negatively affecting education. The leaders accused the Provincial Minister of being engaged in conspiracies against teachers instead of addressing the needs of schools. They declared that any injustice towards teachers would not be tolerated and demanded the provision of essential facilities in schools. They warned that if their demands were not met, teachers across Sindh would stage severe protests.

## Maulana Sharif Saeedi vows never to compromise on Khatm-e-Nabuwat



By Shahid Majeed

JHUDDO: In a media interaction at Madrasa Arabia Tahir-ul-Uloom in Jhudo, the well-known religious figure and Central Provincial Vice Nazim of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Maulana Sharif Saeedi, stated that the government should keep an eye on the activities of Qadianis and ensure they adhere to the Constitution of Pakistan. He emphasized that the use of Islamic symbols by Qadianis should be legally and constitutionally prevented and urged not to play with the sentiments of lovers of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). Maulana Saeedi called on the Chief Justice to render a decision before the 12th of Rabi' al-Awwal and fulfill his res-

ponsibilities. He stated that followers of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) can endure many things but cannot tolerate the disrespect of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). He called for stopping the Qadianis' conspiracies against Islam and Pakistan. A provincial-level conference titled Tajdar-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwat is being organized in Jhudo, with central Ahle Sunnat leaders including Maulana Mufti Jan Muhammad Naemi set to participate. Other scholars such as Maulana Ziaullah Shah, Maulana Zameer Hussain Shah, Hazrat Noor Muhammad Shah, Maulana Faiz Muhammad Sikandari, and others will also be present.

## PPP Shaheed Benazirabad's Muhammad Salim Zardari visits Garhi Khuda Bux

By Farooq Junjo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Shaheed Benazirabad, Muhammad Salim Zardari, along with hundreds of workers, visited Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto. They offered Fataha and laid floral wreaths at the graves of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Mur-taza Bhutto, and Shaheed Shah Nawaz Bhutto. Accompanying him were District General Secretary Syed Ali Haider Shah, Information Secretary Rashid Chandio, PPP Taluka President Abdul Nabi Jamali, Mir Muhammad Siyal, Haji Allah Bux Lakho, Khan Bahadur Bhatti, Abdul Rasool Brohi, Noor Nawaz Zardari, Syed Atif Zaidi, Muhammad Hayat Kakepoto, Noor Ahmed

Lakho, Muhammad Yaqoob Arain, Akhtar Rand, Mairaj Gopang, Asad Zardari, Farhan Ali Laghari, Sultan Rand, Nargis Tanwari, Syed Asif Shah, Faqir Ashiq Hussain Gorchani, Rais Bahar Khan Marri, Tayyab Jatoti, Ghulam Shabbir Chandio, Zardari Sehto, Hameed Zardari and many other workers. Earlier, Muhammad Salim Zardari also visited the shrine of Hafiz Ali Murad Zardari near Moro.

## New office-bearers of Sindh People's Labor Federation announced

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: Chairman of the Sindh People's Labor Federation, Lal Bux Kalhoro, has announced and issued a notification regarding the new body of the federation for Sindh after the approval of the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and central leadership. According to the details, Muhammad Azam Rajput was named as the Se-

nior Vice Chairman, Saqlain Ali Kalhoro as President, Ghulam Hussain Mughal as Senior Vice President, Abdul Razaq Samoon as Vice President, Ghulam Shabbir Mallah as General Secretary, Ali Akbar Brohi as Deputy General Secretary. Advocate Yousaf Khuharo as Coordination Secretary, Imtiaz Hingoro as Information Secretary and Abdul Karim Qureshi was named as the Office Secretary. Chairman Lal Bux Kalhoro congratulated the elected body and expressed that in accordance with the vision of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and the desires of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the newly elected body will play an active role in ensuring the welfare and prosperity of the workers of Sindh through labor struggles.

# SPORTS



## England unveil 17-member squad for Test series in Pakistan



ENGLAND: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Tuesday unveiled a 17-member squad for the upcoming three-match Test series against Pakistan in October which are part of the World Test Championship.

Durham's Brydon Carse and Essex's Jordan Cox are the only uncapped players while spinners Rehan Ahmed and Jack Leach return to the Test set-up.

Eight players from the squad - Rehan Ahmed, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, and Ben Stokes - return to Pakistan following the 3-0 Test series victory in 2022.

Rehan, who made his Test debut in Karachi during the last Pakistan tour in December 2022, will be aiming to add to his four Test caps.

Following his Test debut at The Oval this week, Leicestershire seamer Josh Hull is included in the squad for his first senior tour with England.

Kent opener Crawley returns to the squad after missing out since the West Indies series in July. The 26-year-old, who fractured his right little finger at Edgbaston in July, is making significant progress in his recovery to earn selection.

Stokes is also included as he continues his recovery from a hamstring tear that kept him out of the recent Test series victory against Sri Lanka.—Agency

## South Korea hold Pakistan to a draw in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

HULNBUR CITY: South Korea came from behind to hold Pakistan for a draw in the fourth match of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy here in Inner Mongolia, China.



Pakistan's second fixture in the ongoing tournament also ended in a 2-2 draw as they failed to defend their narrow one-goal lead in the final quarter.

South Korea opened the scoring in the dying minutes of the second quarter, courtesy of Hyun Jigwang. Their lead remained intact until the third quarter and it appeared that Pakistan were closing in on their first defeat in the ongoing tournament.

The national team, however, made an astounding comeback as Shahid Hanan scored back-to-back last-minute goals to give the Green Shirts what appeared

to be a decisive lead.

But just a few seconds before the final whistle, South Korea equalized through Kim Sunghyun and denied Pakistan a victory.

Pakistan tasted the same fortune in their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy opener against Malaysia.

They started their campaign with a 2-2 draw despite dominating the majority of the match.

wards victory with a 2-1 lead, however, Aiman Rozemi's late goal helped Malaysia level the scores in the dying minutes of the game.

Meanwhile, in other Monday fixtures of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, India outclassed Japan 5-1 while China crushed Malaysia 2-0.

The ongoing tournament is the 8th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011, 2016 and 2023.

The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain.

Defending champions India won the prestigious tournament last year by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final.—Agency

## Martinez refutes claims of 'dependence' on Ronaldo after win over Scotland

After a poor performance from Cristiano Ronaldo's national team at Euro 2024 and the squad's struggle to score during their UEFA Nations League clash with Scotland, people are now debating the team's over-reliance on the Portuguese football legend to win a match.



According to Goal, despite Ronaldo's recent form being questioned, his stand-out performance in the Nations League has reaffirmed his prowess.

The 39-year-old Al Nassr striker, who missed out on many goals during this year's European Championship, was benched by the team's 51-year-old manager, Roberto Martinez, for the Nations League match against Scotland on Sunday.

However, the five-time Ballon d'Or award winner impressed critics when he scored the winning goal against Scotland in the dying minutes of the match.

He had even managed to score during Portugal's opening match against Croatia.

Ronaldo's performance in the Nations League so far has led Martinez to face criticism for the squad's struggle to score goals this year, leading to concerns about the dependence on the team's captain to get favourable results.

However, the former Belgium coach has vehemently denied the suggestions.

Speaking to the media persons, Martinez said, "Dependence? He's an incredible player. There's no dependence. He's an asset. In front of goal, he's very important. His intelligence in opening up spaces is important. Talking about dependence is not something I value."

Martinez will be very pleased with Portugal's start to the Nations League group stages with two wins in two games as the September international period comes to an end.

Portugal will be in action again next month when they take on Poland and Scotland.—Agency

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## PCB indefinitely postpones National Men's U19 Championship and Cup

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday, announced to indefinitely postpone the National Men's U19 Championship and Cup.



The cricketing body, in a brief statement, shared that the National Men's U19 Championship, scheduled to begin today and the National Men's U19 Cup, supposed to start on September 14, have been postponed due to "unavoidable circumstances".

The National U19 Championship, due to start today and Cup, due to start on 14 September, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The new

schedule of both the tournaments will be shared in due course," stated PCB.

The two tournaments were supposed to run simultaneously. Each round of the three-day games was to be followed by the One-Day

three-day final from 6-9 November. Venues of the final were to be announced in due course.

The 18 regional teams would have been equally divided into three groups with the matches to be played on a single-league basis till 12 October.

The next phase would have included one-day matches between three group toppers on a single-league from 16-22 October, followed by three-day matches between the group toppers again on a single-league basis from 25 October to 9 November.—Agency

## Incumbent Tayyab Ikram eyes second term as International Hockey Federation president



LAHORE: Incumbent International Hockey Federation (FIH) President Tayyab Ikram is poised to be re-elected unopposed at the 49th FIH Congress, set to take place in Muscat, Oman on November 9.

Born in Lahore, Ikram faced no competition, as no candidates submitted nominations by the deadline.

The official announcement will be made on November 9 during the FIH Congress in Muscat.

This marks Ikram's second consecutive term as FIH President. He is currently serving in the role, having first been elected in 2022 after India's Narinder Batra resigned.

Ikram won the 2022 election by defeating Belgium's Marc Coudron, securing 79 votes to Coudron's 47. His unchallenged re-election highlights his significant contributions to international hockey.

The lack of opposition reflects the wide acknowledgment of Ikram's services to the sport.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) had confirmed the nominations received by the deadline of 31

## 'We will never come here again': Afghanistan cricket team criticises Indian venue

NOIDA: The Afghanistan national cricket team has voiced its dissatisfaction with the facilities at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium in India's Greater Noida state, following a rain-hit one-off Test match against New Zealand.



The opening day on September 9 was washed out due to a wet outfield and persistent rain, and the match continued to be halted on the second day for the same reasons.

Despite prior efforts to ensure readiness, the team raised issues regarding the stadium's facilities over what they see as mismanagement and inadequate amenities at the venue.

Reports indicate that the team has formally announced they will not return to this stadium for future matches.

A source within the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed that future games will be relocated to Lucknow, citing the lack of basic facilities as the primary reason.

"There are no facilities. We will never come here again. Our preference will be Lucknow," an ACB official stated, adding that even the training facilities were sub-

standard.

A team of approximately 20-25 ground staff, including 15 outsourced workers, struggled with the challenging conditions, hindered by insufficient resources.

Despite having five super soppers on hand (two automatic and three manual), the drying process remained slow and ineffective.

The stadium's infrastructure has come under scrutiny, particularly due to the absence of an efficient drainage system. While rain delays are common in cricket, most modern venues are equipped to handle such disruptions quickly.

This marks a setback for Afghanistan's 10th Test match in their history, where they hoped to build on their recent success in shorter formats, including a win over New Zealand in the T20 World Cup.—Agency

## Champions One-Day Cup: Saud relishes Sarfaraz's presence as player, mentor for Dolphins



LAHORE: The Dolphins' captain Saud Shafeel is set to lead the team in the forthcoming Champions One-Day Cup held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad scheduled from September 12 to 22.

Speaking to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Digital, the 29-year-old talked about the impact Sarfaraz Ahmed would have as a mentor and player of the Dolphins in the tournament.

"Having Sarfaraz Ahmed in the team as a player and mentor is a massive boost for us. His insights and leadership on and off the field will help young players to develop their game," Saud said.

Reflecting on the experienced players in the squad, Saud said, "We have a well-balanced side going into the Champions One-Day Cup,"

Saud told PCB Digital, adding, "The focus is on maintaining a strong combination of experienced players and young talent. This tournament provides an opportunity to the players to prove their mettle and impress the selectors to get selected in the national team. Talking about the importance of the inaugural edition of the tournament, Pakistan's Test vice-captain highlighted the impact of this tournament on the domestic cricket in Pakistan. Continuing with his statement, the left-handed batter further stated that, "It gives players a big stage to showcase their skills, especially in the 50-over format, which is vital with the upcoming international fixtures.—Agency

## Face of the Day



Name: Hashir Khan  
Location: Karachi  
About me: Taking selfies is a way of life for me!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

## REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

### Jennifer Lopez, Matt Damon are just 'good friends'



Jennifer Lopez and Matt Damon are just "good friends" and nothing more.

On September 6, during the afterparty of the movie Unstoppable premiere, the two were spotted holding hands while engaging in a "deep conversation" at EPOCH Bar & Kitchen Terrace at The Ritz-Carlton.

"Jen and Matt began talking and had a long, deep conversation," the premiere amid his ongoing divorce battle with Jennifer.

For the unversed, the filmmaker and Matt have been friends for over 40 years.

### Selena Gomez finally addresses engagement rumors with a staunch clapback



Selena Gomez, the sensational singer and actress, recently got candid about her personal identity after marriage.

The 32-year-old Gomez is currently dating Benny Blanco and shared that she had no plans to change her surname after marriage amid ongoing rumors of engagement with

himself. I always want to be myself."

Gomez also unveiled that she and her boyfriend "always make sure we're protecting what we have, but there's no rules."

In her latest Vanity Fair cover story, the hitmaker emphasized retaining her name by saying, "I'm not changing my name no matter what. I am Selena Gomez. That's it."

She also confessed that she wanted to be herself and did not want her lover to change as well. "I want him to always be

himself. I always want to be myself."

Gomez also unveiled that she and her boyfriend "always make sure we're protecting what we have, but there's no rules."

Sticking to her stance of "being herself," she explained that her name had always been her identity, and she had used it since her debut in the industry about two decades ago. Moreover, it is pertinent to mention that Gomez filled in the same outfit earlier on her relationship with Blanche and admitted that she was "over the moon" and "never been loved this way."

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## Journalist Aijaz Ali Sangrah injured in NWM hit & run

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Former President of Nawab Wali Muhammad Press Club, Aijaz Ali Sangrah, along with two students, was severely injured after being hit by a car driven by influential Akhtar Bhand. In a statement, injured journalist Aijaz Ali Sangrah said that he had been repeatedly threatened by this person for his journalistic activities, and today, a deliberate car collision was used to launch an assassination attempt on him. Meanwhile, in front of the Nawab Wali Muhammad Press Club, WC organization's central leader Zulfikar Khaskheli, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Secretary for Information (Shaheed Benazirabad) Yousif Rind, President of Nawab



Wali Muhammad Press Club Zafar Ali Chandio, President of Qazi Ahmed Press Club Raja Sajid Umar, Wali Muhammad Johio, General Secretary of Qazi Ahmed Muhammad Press Club, where the attack on Aijaz Ali Sangrah was strongly condemned. The authorities were urged to arrest the culprit as soon as possible.

## Ismaili Khawaja Graveyard in Tando Bago still inundated with rainwater



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: After heavy rains the rainwater is still inundating the Ismaili Khawaja Graveyard in Tando Bago's Ward No-8 due to which people have expressed concern over the

performance of the local authorities. The notables of Ismaili Khawaja community while talking to the media demanded of the higher authorities to take steps to ensure cleanliness in the city and drain out rainwater from the graveyard.

## TMK youths demand justice after being tortured by Samo community people

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In an alleged attack in People's Colony, two young men, Basit Ali Bhatti and Aron Kumar, were severely injured by two women and three men. The attack resulted in their clothes being torn apart. The injured youths obtained a treatment letter from the police and received

first aid at the government hospital. Following the attack, the injured youths and local residents staged a protest in front of the press club, demanding action against the perpetrators. During the protest, the injured, Aron Kumar and Basit Bhatti, stated that they were attacked without any justification by two women, Ms. Ghulam Fatima Samo, Ms.

Khushi Samo, along with Raja Samo, Muharam Samo and Amoon Samo. They expressed frustration that the police had not yet arrested the attackers, prompting their protest. They called for the immediate arrest of the assailants and the registration of an FIR against them. They warned that if their demands were not met, they would escalate their protest.

## Sanghar Students Council conducts assessment tests for MDCAT

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADPUR: In Shahdapur, a self-assessment test was conducted for students seeking admission to medical colleges and universities in Sindh. The test was organized by the Sanghar Students Council, led by Chairman Muzaffar Lakho, President Sadaqat Rajput, and members Rahmatullah Qureshi, Rana Uzair, Junaid Rajput, Syed Tasbil Mehdi and Rao Ali Ashad. The purpose of the self-assessment test was to prepare students from the 9th and 10th grades for the actual MDCAT (Medical and Dental College Admission Test), helping them build confidence and achieve success. During the event, the Sanghar Students Council team and prominent local educators, including Sir Sohail Lakho, Sir Ayaz, and senior educators, as well as President Mehdi Hassan



Panahwar and Syed Qurban Ali, Director of SIMS, discussed their objectives with the media.

## JUI-F delegation calls on SSP Jamshoro

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: A delegation from JUI-F Taluka Kotri led by Ameer Maulana Abdul Samad Raisani, had an introductory meeting with SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique and DPO Incharge Jaleel Abbasi. During the meeting, they expressed their concerns regarding issues faced by the citizens and JUI-F ac-

tivists, as well as the overall peace and order in the Taluka. The SSP assured them of his commitment to resolving these issues. The delegation comprised the members including Maulana Abdul Samad Raisani, Maulana Sibghatullah Bazzi, Qari Ghulam Rasool Hashmi, Sikandar Khaskheli, Anwar Buledi and Jahangir Khan.

## Elderly woman injured in Tando Adam road accident dies

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: At Khudaabad Phatak in Tando Adam, an elderly woman named Naziran Sochi, who was injured four days ago in an accident involving a Mazda vehicle, passed away in a Hyderabad Hospital, unable to bear the pain of her injuries. The deceased woman's body was brought to her home in Tando Adam. On this occasion, the relatives of the deceased expressed their grievances to the media, stating that the Tando Adam B-Section po-

lice had initially arrested the accused but allegedly released them after receiving a hefty bribe. They further mentioned that after the woman's death, they went to B-Section police station to file a case, but the police refused to register the case or re-arrest the culprits. They have demanded the higher authorities to immediately arrest the Mazda driver and other responsible individuals, file a case, and ensure justice is served. Otherwise, they have warned of staging a protest in front of the police station.

## Govt Arts and Commerce College celebrates Latif Day

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: At the Government Arts and Commerce College in Larkana, a grand event celebrating the life and works of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA) was held in the college auditorium. The ceremony was presided over by the Regional Director of Colleges Larkana, Professor Altaf Hussain Abro. Special guests included Deputy Director FIA Liaquat Ali Hulo, Additional Director Professor Aijaz Ali Jamali, Professor Abdul Wahid Channa, Professor Nafees Akhtar Ansari, Professor Shamsuddin Sario, Professor Sadora Solangi, Profes-



or Muhammad Atiq Soomro, and Professor Malhar Sindhi. During the event, students of the college delivered speeches and presentations on the poetry and life of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA). They also performed tableaux and musical performances. There was an interesting competition among students to recite verses of Shah Latif, and a tableau depicting the seven heroes of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA) was performed by the college's female students.

## Pahel Pakistan holds seminar on human rights awareness in Ranipur

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: A seminar to raise awareness about human rights among youth was held at a local hotel in Ranipur by the social organization Pahel Pakistan. The seminar was chaired by renowned lawyer Advocate Manzoor Hussain Larik, Advocate Zulfikar Channa, Coordinator Ghadifar Solangi, Deputy Coordinator Shahzain, and Riaz Hussain Manglo. During the seminar, the leaders stated that they are very pleased to see human rights organizations working in underde-



veloped areas and small towns. Pahel Pakistan, which is active in various regions, has held its first seminar in Ranipur to raise awareness among youth about human rights. The seminar also reviewed human rights included in the 1973 Constitution.

## Talhar notable Naveed Ali Khawaja passes away

TALHAR: Naveed Ali Khawaja, an employee of the Town Committee Tando Allahyar, passed away yesterday at the age

of 45. He also served as the caretaker of the central Imambargah and led mourning processions. His burial took place in the Gul Shah Cemetery. A large number of political and social leaders attended his funeral prayer.—RT

## Education Dept, NCHD observe World Literacy Day in Larkana



By Saleem Soomro

LAKANA: Education Department Sindh and National Commission for Human Development Larkana organized a rally on the occasion of World Literacy Day from Government PV Boys Primary School in which District Education Officer Primary Anees-ur-Rehman Jalbani, Assistant Director Literacy NCHD Sada Mirani, Ashfaq Shaikh, Focal Person Volunteer Community Development (VCD) Mumtaz Abro, Field Officer Shiraz Fice Senior Assistant Director Masood Soomro, Head Teacher Yasir Liadqat Dahar other education officials and children participated on this occasion.

Pakistan has increased to more than two and a half million, which is a matter of concern. The participants emphasized that the Sindh Education Department and the National Commission for Human Development Pakistan will do their best to enroll out of school children aged 5 to 16 years in schools using existing resources in the Supervision of Director Operation Humaira Hashmi and Provincial Coordinator Universal Primary Education Sajjad Memon. DO of Fice Senior Assistant Director Masood Soomro, Head Teacher Yasir Liadqat Dahar other education officials and children participated on this occasion.

## AC Shaista Jabeen reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) in Tando Jam

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A meeting was held at the Tando Jam office with the focal person Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput, Ahl-e-Sunnat leader Pir Mehtab Ali Siddiqui and Assistant Commissioner of Hyderabad Taluka Shaista Jabeen to review arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi ? on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal. The Assistant Commissioner Shaista Jabeen also met with Pir Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput that, as in

the celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ? would include thorough cleaning of city streets, bus stops, and major squares. Full security arrangements would be made, and they would maintain contact with Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput. Additionally, an announcement was made about promoting peace and interfaith harmony. Assistant Commissioner Shaista Jabeen also met with Pir Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput that, as in

previous years, this year Sunnat President of Tando Jam. On this occasion, Pir Abdul Saeed Saifi presented a traditional Ajrak gift to the Assistant Commissioner and Mukhtiar Kar Taluka Imran Khokhar. The event saw participation from various figures including CMO Tando Jam Shahjahan Panahwar, Khalifa Nazir Ali Naqshbandi Saifi, Hafiz Yasin Naqshbandi Saifi, TMC Faisal Memon, and other respected Ulama of Ahl-e-Sunnat Tando Jam.

## BISP beneficiaries facing illegal deductions from their stipends in Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: In recent days, thousands of women from low-income backgrounds have been gathering at the Chuna Factory and Device Center to receive funds from the Benazir Income Support Program. However, device mafia agents have been involved in embezzling money by deducting amounts of 1500, 1000, and 500 rupees from the payments due to poor women. Due to the large

number of women, they are being blackmailed and deductions are being made from their payments. Women at the device center have accused that agents are using their identification cards and fingerprints to check funds and are using excuses to deny payments to many. Those who do not offer bribes are also being sent back. Women have reported that police officers stationed at the centre's entrance are harassing large crowds of women, causing them dis-

stress. Many women have fainted due to severe heat, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Local elected representatives, including Commissioner Mirpurkhas, DC Mirpurkhas, DIG Mirpurkhas, and SSP Mirpurkhas, have been urged to take notice. They are asked to ensure that the funds from the Benazir Income Support Program are distributed without any deductions to poor families in the region, and to ensure the protection and dignity of the women.

## Oath taking ceremony of SGA, BMC held in Qazi Ahmed

By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

QAZI AHMED: The oath taking ceremony for the newly elected body of the Sindh Graduates Association (SGA) Qazi Ahmed branch and the BMC members took place at the Raees Ali Nawaz Khan Unar Public Library, Qazi Ahmed. The President of the SGA Qazi Ahmed branch, Aijaz Ali Chandio, welcomed all distinguished guests and ex-

pressed his gratitude. The event also saw the presence of notable figures including Muhammad Ramzan Lashari, Abdullah M. Ghamro, Farooq Ahmed Bhatti, Syed Saeed Lakho, Mubeen Chandio, Muhammad Yaseen Chando, Muhammad Hashim Unar, Muhammad Yasin, Abdul Sattar Chandio, Maqsood Ahmed Dahri and others. The newly elected office-bearers include President

Aijaz Chandio, Vice President Shah Nawaz Dahri, General Secretary Mumtaz Ali Memon, Joint Secretary Muhammad Bachal Mahar, Finance Secretary Zulfikar Ali Abbasi, Information Secretary Mohammad Essa Mahar, BMC Members Hakim Ali Otho, Naimatullah Bhurtto, Muhammad Yousif Bhan, Inayat Lakho, Gul Muneer Otho, Muhammad Rafiq Mallah, and Ghulam Qadir Baladi.

## Bheel community protests after teachers expel their children from Jhol school

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: In the village of Muhammad Khan Chanar, Bheel, Pratap, son of Keval, Teerat, son of Prem, Hemto, reports, two teachers named, Zaid Chanar and Javed Chanar, removed the students from the school for belonging to the Bheel community. The stu-

dents affected include Shivam Sundar, son of Narayan, son of Soomro Bheel, Prap, son of Keval, Teerat, son of Prem, Hemto, reports, two teachers named, Zaid Chanar and Javed Chanar, removed the students from the school for belonging to the Bheel community. The stu-

Teacher Zaid Chanar responded that these allegations are false, and clarified that the Bheel students are residents of the nearby village, Moosa Makrani. He explained that the school was previously closed in Moosa Makrani and has now reopened, and he advised the students to enroll there. He denied any other issues or wrongdoing.

## ADC-II Sono Khan Chandio reviews ongoing anti-polio campaign in Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: On the instructions of Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmad Ugali, Additional Commissioner-II Sono Khan Chandio visited various transit and fixed points to review the

ongoing anti-polio campaign. Details indicate that Additional Commissioner-II Sono Khan Chandio inspected the performance of polio teams at key locations, including the bus terminal, Khan Naka, and Tando Adam Naka, to assess their effectiveness in the campaign. He

emphasized that the effort to eradicate polio can protect children from lifelong disability. To ensure there are no lapses in the campaign, teams comprised of revenue officers are closely monitoring the performance of polio teams and the overall execution of the campaign.

# METRO KARACHI



## GDA And Opposition Reject Proposed IRSA Amendments, Call For Presidential Zardari's Resignation



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) and other Sindh opposition parties have rejected the proposed amendments to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Act, demanding the resignation of President Asif Ali Zardari. They condemned the amendments as unconstitutional, describing them as part of a conspiracy to deprive Sindh of its rightful water resources. The opposition vowed to block the implementation of these changes.

At a joint press conference, GDA leaders Dr. Safdar Abbasi, Sardar Abdul Rahim, Liaqat Ali Jatoi, Syed Zain Shah, and others, alongside representatives from PTI, Jamaat-e-Islami, and other political groups, announced protests across Sindh on September 19. They urged the

public to participate in the demonstrations against the "anti-Sindh" decisions made by the Presidential House. Dr. Safdar Abbasi warned that the proposed amendments would destroy the Indus River system and water distribution agreements. He reiterated that the 1991 Water Accord, which governs water sharing between provinces, is the framework under which IRSA operates, and any changes should be managed by the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Syed Zain Shah stressed that tampering with the water system could lead to catastrophic consequences, warning that if water is not released into the sea, cities like Karachi, Hyderabad, and Tando Muhammad Khan could be severely impacted. He demanded the resignation of Presi-

dent Zardari and urged the Sindh Assembly to do the same if these concerns are not addressed. Former Chief Minister Liaqat Jatoi criticized the lack of consultation with Sindh stakeholders on the IRSA amendments and highlighted the ongoing water scarcity in Badin, which has left millions of acres of land uncultivated. He emphasized the importance of ensuring Sindh's fair share of water, calling the amendments detrimental to the province's agriculture and economy.

Opposition leaders across the political spectrum voiced their opposition, uniting in their call for a mass mobilization on September 19 to protect Sindh's water rights and resist the IRSA amendments.

## Sharjeel Condemns Use Of Offensive Language Against Women, Journalists

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has strongly criticized the use of offensive language towards women and threats against journalists in a recent speech by a provincial chief minister. He condemned the remarks against state institutions, pointing out that such behavior not only reflects poorly on the individual but also on the party's leadership and the mindset they promote.

Speaking in the Sindh Assembly, Memon highlighted the detrimental impact of this political party, stating that its history has stained Pakistan's politics, turning differences into personal enmity. "In the past, political disagreements never crossed into hostility. But



this party's leadership has cultivated an environment where abusive language is rewarded with higher positions," Memon remarked. He contrasted the legacy of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which has produced respected leaders such as Aftab Shaban Mirani, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Syed Abdullah Shah, and Syed Murad Ali Shah,

with the leadership of the PTI, mentioning figures like Usman Buzdar and Ali Amin Gandapur. Memon criticized the PTI's leadership for promoting individuals who engage in derogatory behavior, reflecting the mindset of the party. Sharjeel Memon further rebuked former Prime Minister Imran Khan, referencing a controversial statement in

which Khan blamed a rape victim's attire for the crime. He expressed disbelief that a leader responsible for the welfare of 240 million people could make such a claim. Memon questioned Khan's judgment, calling his comments shameful. He went on to point out the hypocrisy within PTI ranks, where some members support Gandapur's statements, while others, like PTI's Barrister Gohar and Umar Ayub, have publicly apologized to journalists. Memon noted that while Khan has spent less than a year in jail, PPP leaders like President Asif Ali Zardari and Shabeed Benazir Bhutto endured far greater hardships without undermining the nation's institutions. Memon also criticized

## Dharejo Takes Action Against Unsafe Disposal Of Industrial Waste



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, has taken notice of the unsafe disposal of industrial waste in drains and other areas, directing factory owners to adopt safer practices for waste disposal.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Minister Dharejo expressed concern over the impact of improper waste disposal, noting that it not only worsens environmental pollution but also poses serious health risks. He further instructed the Managing Director of SITE to ensure that all factories comply with safe waste disposal standards. The minister warned that strict legal action would be taken against those found engaging in unsafe disposal practices.—RT

## Aviation Ministry Gathers Data For Potential Outsourcing Of Pakistan's Major Airports

KARACHI: The Ministry of Aviation has begun preparations to explore the possibility of outsourcing operations at Pakistan's three major airports—Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, media sources reported on Tuesday.

According to insiders, the ministry has requested updated information on passenger traffic and flight operations from the past two years at these airports. In addition to operational data, detailed reports on revenue generation and existing contracts linked to airport operations have also been sought by the ministry. Officials have been di-



rected to promptly submit service level agreements with private companies that currently manage various services at these airports. While discussions regarding the outsourcing of these airports have been ongoing, sources indicate that Islamabad Airport is the initial focus of this initiative. The move aims to boost foreign exchange earnings by involving the private sector in managing key infrastructure.—RT/Agency

## Construction of terminal for heavy vehicles demanded along the Northern Bypass

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Chairman of All Pakistan Goods Transport Workers Union, Najeebullah Khan Khilji, revealed in a conversation with the Regional Times reporter that the Sindh government had allocated more than 400 acres of land on the Northern Bypass for oil tankers, heavy trucks, and other loading vehicles. However, the designated terminal has not been developed, and construction work is still incomplete, leaving hundreds of transporters

stranded. Najeebullah Khan Khilji further stated that due to the absence of the terminal, transporters who had settled on the Green Belt along the Super Highway are facing difficulties. He added that despite meeting with representatives of the Sindh government, provincial ministers, and important personalities, no significant action has been taken yet. The absence of the terminal has led to a situation where transporters on the Green Belt feel insecure and constantly fear potential

threats from criminals. He urged President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi, Chairman of Sohrab Goth Town Lala Abdul Rahim, and others to address the concerns of the transporters and expedite the completion of the terminal on Northern Bypass so that transporters can operate safely.

## Pipri's civil society decries their city's social decline

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The protest in the Pipri area highlighted serious concerns about the state of the community. The demonstrators criticized the local police and administration for failing to address major issues like drug trafficking, gambling, land grabbing, and overall social decline. They emphasized the lack of basic amenities and the deteriorating condition of community facilities, includ-



ing the community center and cemeteries. The protesters demanded urgent action from the authori-

ties to eliminate these social issues and improve the living conditions in the area.

## Manghopir Town Chairman Oversees Preparations For 12th Rabi'ul-Awwal Celebrations

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: In preparation for the upcoming 12th Rabi'ul-Awwal celebrations, Manghopir Town Municipal Corporation Chairman, Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, conducted an emergency visit to inspect cleaning efforts for procession routes and mosque surroundings in Manghopir.



Brohi highlighted the significance of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH) as the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and shared details of preparations to ensure smooth processions. He mentioned that a meeting had been held with Rangers officers, who assured full security for the event. The chairman outlined ongoing efforts, including cleaning streets around mosques, installing streetlights, and leveling roads damaged by recent rains along procession routes. He also assured that necessary carpeting and paving work would be completed promptly.

## Sindh Government Bans Sale Of Items Linked To Drug Consumption

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: The Sindh government has imposed a ban on the sale of items associated with drug use, following directives from Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hasan Nispi, issued a notification enforcing the prohibition. As per the notification,

Section 144 has been applied to the sale of items such as wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, and ceramic pipes, along with roach clips, bonges, marijuana pipes, and related paraphernalia. Station House Officers (SHOs) have been authorized to file cases against violators under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon described the ban as a critical move in Sindh's ongoing battle against drug abuse. He stressed the need to curtail the availability of tools used for drug consumption, vowing to implement strict measures to safeguard the public, particularly the youth, from the dangers of drugs.

## SFA Cracks Down On Food Safety Violations Across Karachi, Hyderabad, And Other Areas



KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has launched an extensive crackdown on food hygiene violations, targeting key areas including Karachi, Thatta, Hyderabad, and Kotri, officials revealed on Tuesday.

As part of the operation, fines exceeding Rs800,000 were imposed on various establishments for failing to meet hygiene and food safety standards.

SFA Director General Muzammil Halipoto stated that he personally led inspections to ensure strict compliance. During a raid in Kotri's industrial zone, an oil company faced a hefty Rs500,000 fine for severe food safety violations.

Further inspections at a university cafeteria in Jamshoro uncovered adulterated milk and unsanitary conditions, leading to a Rs50,000 fine and corrective measures being ordered. In Kotri's site area, a processing plant for fennel and fenugreek was temporarily shut down and fined Rs200,000 for severe sanitary lapses.

In Hyderabad, notices were issued to six hospitals, including Aga Khan and Civil Hospital, with directives to improve their cafeteria hygiene.

Meanwhile, in Karachi, a section of a private food street on the superhighway was sealed and penalized for poor cleanliness. A local dairy company also had samples collected for lab testing.

Raids in Thatta targeted ice factories, resulting in fines for violating SFA standards, while six tea stalls in Kotri were fined Rs100,000 for using adulterated milk. Halipoto reiterated the authority's commitment to enforcing food safety regulations and safeguarding pub-

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND

## Hyderabad man appeals for recovery of his missing son

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: 4 days ago in the limits of Sakhi Pir Police Station, a heavy police force reportedly raided a house in Liaquat Colony and took 22-year-old Hafiz Abdullah into custody after which he went missing. This information was revealed by

Hafiz Abdullah's father, son into custody. Despite a shereb vendor named repeatedly visiting various police stations, he has not been able to find any information about his whereabouts. Hafiz Muhammad Saleem has appealed to IG Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, to disclose the charges if his son is involved in any case, and to reveal his son's whereabouts. Their house and took his

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION PRE-QUALIFICATION OF EVENT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LEATHER CITY FOR TEXPO 2024 OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 IN HALL 6 OF KARACHI EXPO CENTER Tender ID No. TDAP-01(12)/2024-TLD-TEXPO 2024 The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan invites documents from Event Management firms to provide end-to-end solutions for planning, designing and construction of Leather City at TEXPO 2024 Event in Hall 6 of Expo Center Karachi 23-25 Oct 2024. 1. Bidding documents containing terms and conditions, method of procurement, the procedure for submission of pre-qualification etc. are available for the interested bidders on EPADS portal (https://eprocure.gov.pk). The interested firms may submit the documents with a non-refundable tender fee of PKR. 10,000/- in shape of pay order / demand draft in name of "TDAP Karachi". In case, it is submitted online, the same fee will be charged. 2. Interested firms/vendors are also directed to provide valid proof and documents showing registration of the firms/vendors with FBR for GST, and NTN in relevant category. The firms/vendors must be active for sales tax and income tax. 3. Sealed Envelopes, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents must be uploaded on EPADS and must also reach, even ones mailed through courier, at the office of the Assistant Director (TEXPO 2024) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan at the address given below on or 26 th September 2024 at 2:00 pm. The pre-qualification documents will be opened on the same day at 2:30 pm. The bids not uploaded on EPADS will be disqualified. 4. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, alter or modify the pre-qualification criterion and to annul the bidding process at any time in accordance with Public Procurement Rules without assigning any reason. Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Khan Assistant Director (TEXPO 2024), Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), 5 th floor, block A, FTC Building, Karachi. 0316-4116428

Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt and dance like no one is watching.  
—Randall G Leighton

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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 2024

## PTI Vows To Persist After Arrests Of Party Leaders For Rally Violations

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has vowed to continue its anti-government movement a day after several of its leaders were arrested from Parliament House in late night police crackdown.

"There should be no misunderstanding as people have stood up," said PTI leader Salman Akram Raja while addressing a press conference in Peshawar on Tuesday.

PTI leaders including Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Azam Swati, and Salman Akram Raja were also present at the presser held after the conclusion of the former ruling party's core committee meeting.

"Some people are influencing the country's political and democratic process," alleged Raja, adding that they would not back off and let anyone suppress the voice of



Pakistanis.

Defending the PTI leaders' speeches in the Islamabad rally, the lawyer-politician was of the view that political power show has a different environment.

The opposition party strongly condemned the lawmakers' arrests, including the detention of some MNAs from the parliament, in a police crackdown on its leadership in Islamabad launched on alleged violations of the

public gathering law's violations.

At the beginning of the press conference, journalists protested over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Aftab Khan Khattak's remarks against the newsman during his explosive speech in the PTI's Islamabad power show two days ago.

Journalists questioned why the KP chief executive was absent from the press conference for whom Omar

had assured that he would render an apology for his indecent remarks. Raja replied that CM Gandapur departed for an assembly session.

Addressing the press conference, Ayub, who is also the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, slammed the coalition government for using all tactics to stop his party's Islamabad public gathering.

He went on to say that the ruling parties in the coalition government levelled false allegations against the Islamabad-founded party and jailed its leaders.

Condemning the arrests of the PTI leaders in a police crackdown yesterday, Ayub termed September 9 a "black day" and claimed that "masked whisked away several party leaders" besides arresting MNA Sher Afzal Marwat and Shoaib Shaheen.

PTI senior leader Asad

Qaiser, in the press conference, announced that his party will fight for its rights on the streets besides continuing its legal battle in the courts. He demanded the release of PTI founder Imran Khan and other party inmates.

The former National Assembly speaker also demanded free elections in the country and termed the incumbent government "illegitimate".

He suggested that contempt of court cases should be filed against the Islamabad police chief and commissioner as they placed obstacles along the rally in the federal capital.

Earlier today, the former ruling party convened its core committee's session at the CM House, Peshawar, which central leaders, including KP CM Gandapur attended.—RT/Agency

## Indian Minister To Skip Pakistan Visit, Will Attend SCO Meeting Virtually

ISLAMABAD: The Indian trade minister will virtually attend the upcoming meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) officials hosted by Pakistan, being familiar with the development said here on Tuesday.

The SCO trade ministers meeting will be held in Islamabad on Thursday, according to officials.

Pakistan invited India along with other SCO members for the meeting. India, according to sources, confirmed its participation online, meaning its trade minister will not travel to Pakistan.

This may serve as a template for India to attend other SCO meetings including the summit of heads of governments meeting to be held in Islamabad in October.

Pakistan already sent an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the meeting. It is expected that India, like the trade ministers meeting, will join the October 15 and 16 hurdle through online.

India is unlikely to attend the SCO meeting in person but other member countries are expected to send their high-powered delegations. China already confirmed that its prime minister would undertake a visit to Islamabad for the SCO meeting as well as bilateral visit.

SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. It has since ex-



panded to include India, Pakistan, and Iran as full members, with Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia as observers, and other countries as dialogue partners. The SCO is often seen as a counterbalance to Western alliances like NATO and plays a significant role in fostering regional cooperation.

Pakistan attended all the meetings of SCO hosted by India last year either in person or virtually.

Then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari visited Goa for the meeting of SCO Foreign Ministers in May 2023. India extended the invitation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the SCO summit held in New Delhi. Before Pakistan could take a decision whether to attend the summit in New Delhi, India suddenly decided to

host the meeting virtually instead of in person. It is believed that India took the decision at the last moment because of its tensions with

China and Pakistan. The SCO is pivotal in addressing regional security concerns, including terrorism, extremism, and separatism. It conducts joint military exercises and intelligence sharing among member states.

The SCO promotes economic cooperation through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It seeks to enhance trade, energy partnerships, and infrastructure development across Eurasia. It also provides a platform for member states to align on major international issues, often advocating for a multipolar world order and challenging Western dominance in global affairs. The 23rd SCO Summit was held on July 4, 2023, hosted by India via video conference. This summit marked a significant moment for the organization, as it was the first time India chaired the SCO after becoming a full member in 2017.—RT/Agency

## PTI Senator Falak Naz Suspended For Offensive Remarks Against Faisal Vawda

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday suspended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Falak Naz's membership of the upper house for two days over the use of unparliamentary language against fellow lawmaker Faisal Vawda amid pandemonium.

The ruckus comes a day after police arrested several PTI lawmakers and leaders in midnight raids a day after it held a major rally in the capital to demand party founder Imran Khan's release.

The law-enforcers cited the violation of a newly enacted law regulating public rallies as the reason for the arrests.

The PTI said nearly a dozen of its parliamentarians had been picked up in Islamabad. Others had sought refuge in parliament to evade law enforcers, it said.

The turbulent Senate session, marked by an indiscriminate exchange of barbs between senators, saw an enraged Vawda accuse opposition members of hypocrisy.

Reportedly, PTI Senator Falak Naz hurled swear words at Vawda, prompting him to vehemently protest her inappropriate language.

The Senate chairman first ordered the expungement of the abusive words



from the record, but the outspoken senator was not satisfied with it.

"Abuse is rampant, but we will respond with reason," Vawda said, demanding action from Gilani.

"They are using abusive language even in the Senate," Chairman Sahib, arrest them."

Calling on the chairman for strict action and not a slap on the wrist, the former federal minister stressed that apologies wouldn't be enough to resolve the situation.

"Words won't fix this, chairman Sahib, you must take action," he insisted, suggesting suspending the female senator if she refused to apologise.

Gilani, who initially hesitated, finally gave in under Vawda's pressure, and declared: "If she doesn't apologise, I will suspend her."

Vawda, in his outburst, demanded that those respon-

sible must be held accountable for their actions.

"There will either be an apology or a three-year suspension," he warned, as Gilani suspended Falak Naz's membership for two days, attempting to restore order to the Senate.

Referring to past political manoeuvres, Vawda remarked that certain figures within the opposition, who once claimed NAB amendments were unjust, later benefited from them.

Aiming the opposition's clamour, Vawda, referring to the brutal murder of journalist Arshad Shaif in Kenya, claimed, "You had an innocent person killed for your politics."

He further stated that while the opposition talks of unity, their actions tell a different story.

"Had you not talked about breaking the country, we would have stood with you," he said.—RT/Agency

## Yousuf Raza Gilani Challenges NAB's Authority In Toshakhana Case



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Yousuf Raza Gilani has challenged the jurisdiction of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Toshakhana case registered against him.

Gilani challenged the jurisdiction of the NAB court through his lawyer following the restoration of the NAB tweaks by the Supreme Court.

After initial arguments, Judge Abid Sajjad of the accountability court in Islamabad has issued a notice to NAB directing them to clarify whether the Toshakhana case falls under their jurisdiction.

The court has adjourned the hearing on the petition until September 26.

The NAB had filed a re-

ference with the accountability court against the former heads of the state for not depositing luxury vehicles and valuable gifts received from the foreign leaders in the treasury.

NAB sources said that former president Asif Ali Zardari had only paid 15 per cent of the total cost of the vehicles received as gifts through fake accounts.

Zardari had received expensive cars as a gift from Libya and the UAE as president but did not deposit it in the Toshakhana, the sources added. Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gilani had also received cars as a gift from different foreign leaders as prime ministers and used it themselves instead of depositing them in the treasury.—RT/Agency

## ATC Grants 8-Day Physical Remand For PTI Leaders In Islamabad Rally Case

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday approved an eight-day physical remand for PTI leaders Sher Afzal Marwat, Aamir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Naseem Shah, Ahmed Chattha, and others in connection with the Sangiani police station case, while rejecting the physical remand request for Advocate Shoaib Shaheen and sending him to judicial custody.

Islamabad police had arrested PTI Chairman Barrister Sher Afzal Marwat, Aamir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Naseem Shah, Ahmed Chattha, and others in connection with the Sangiani police station case, while rejecting the physical remand request for Advocate Shoaib Shaheen and sending him to judicial custody.

A heavy police presence had gathered outside the Parliament House in anticipation. As PTI leaders exited the building, police took positions and swiftly moved to detain them.

The arrests took place over violations during PTI's rally in Islamabad on Sunday.

The violations include disrupting the agreed route, breaching commitments, attacking Islamabad police, exceeding permitted timings, and delivering anti-state speeches.

According to media, Islamabad police presented Shoaib Shaheen and other arrested workers, charged under terrorism provisions, before Judge Abul Hasnat



Zulqarnain of the ATC today. Prosecutor Raja Naveed requested a 15-day physical remand for the accused, stating that they used police equipment during the attack on police and that police kits were still to be recovered following their party's rally in Islamabad's Sangiani on Sunday.

Raja Naveed argued that while no recovery was filed tied to Shaheen, "everything was done under his instructions," which warranted the remand request. Shaheen's lawyers opposed this, urging the court to discharge him from the case.

When asked, the court was informed that around 60 to 70 individuals had been arrested. After hearing the arguments, the court rejected the physical remand request for Shoaib Shaheen and ordered his transfer to jail on judicial remand.

The court also requested arguments for his post-arrest bail application tomorrow. Five Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), including Sher Afzal Marwat, Aamir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, and Ahmed Chattha, were presented in court, where police requested their remand. Marwat questioned the legitimacy of the case, saying, "Does the police have a single witness? This FIR was filed this morning, and [PTI Chairman] Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was discharged on the same evidence we are being presented with here."

The court noted, "You discharged a Kalashnikov, he did not," to which Marwat responded, "You are fabricating this. I only had a pistol."

After reviewing the police's request, the court granted an 8-day physical remand for the five MNAs and three other suspects.

The court ordered their return for further proceedings after the remand period concludes.—RT/Agency

## Imran Khan Supports K-P CM, Urges PTI To Exclude 'Cowards' Who Apologized For Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding leader Imran Khan has defended Ali Amin Gandapur and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's controversial remarks that have landed him in hot water recently.

Talking about the K-P CM's incendiary remarks, Khan claimed that Gandapur had merely expressed the 'nation's sentiments'.

"Party members who had apologised for Gandapur's remarks are weak cowards, they should not remain in the PTI," Imran Khan said.

Imran Khan also stated that the establishment has deceived them, and he is closing the doors to negotiations with all parties from today.

Speaking informally with journalists at Adiala Jail, he said that from today he is instructing his party not to engage in any discussions with the establishment.

The establishment has deceived us, and from today, I am closing the doors to negotiations with the establishment and any other party.

He mentioned that he had allowed six party lead-



ers to negotiate with the establishment, but he has never stopped anyone from engaging in dialogue.

The date and NOC for the September 8 rally were provided by the establishment, and whether we get permission or not, we will hold the rally in Lahore on September 21.

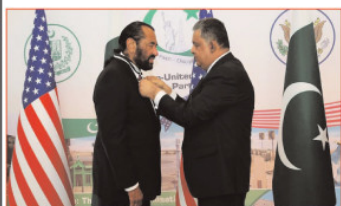
Responding to allegations from Faisal Vawda regarding involvement in the murder of journalist Arshad Shaif, the former PTI leader denied any wrongdoing and called for an open trial to reveal the truth.

"Everyone knows who Faisal Vawda is speaking for," Imran Khan alleged that

Faisal Vawda used to follow him around, trying to arrange a meeting with General Faisal Naseer.

He remarked that in this country, a person with a stick makes decisions, and those decisions become law. Imran Khan further stated that only democracy and the rule of law can save the nation. He also mentioned that he has no knowledge about the government's deal with the IMF. Noting that apart from Barrister Ali Zafar, no other party leader had come to meet him at Adiala Jail today, Imran Khan appeared visibly upset during his informal conversation with journalists.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan's US Envoy Awards Congressman Al Green With Sitara-i-Khidmat



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh honoured Congressman Alexander N Green with the prestigious Sitara-i-Khidmat for his outstanding contribution in strengthening Pakistan-US relations. The award, which was presented to Green during a special investiture ceremony at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC on Monday, also honours his support for promotion of Islamabad's positive image in the US Congress and his role in combating Islamophobia. According to statement released by the Pakistani Embassy in Washington on Monday, the ceremony was attended by Congressman Randy Weber, Representative Henry Cejnar, former Congressman Nick Lampson, Texas State Representative Suleman Lalani, diplomats and promi-

nent members of the Pakistani American community from Texas and DMV area. In his welcome remarks, Sheikh referred to Green as "an extraordinary individual whose contributions have significantly strengthened the friendship between Pakistan and United States." "You tireless efforts, geared to promoting positive image of Pakistan across various forums, have certainly played a pivotal role in deepening diplomatic and economic ties between our two nations," said the ambassador. Recalling Green's support during devastating floods of 2022, the ambassador observed that the Congressman not only expressed his solidarity with the people of Pakistan at a most difficult time but he also returned to the US Congress to passionately advocate for timely assistance.—RT/Agency

## Lahore High Court Reinstates Lieutenant General Munir Afsar As NADRA Chairman

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has reinstated Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

Hearing the intra-court appeal filed by the federal government, LHC's two-member bench comprising Justices Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal and Ahmad Nadeem Arshad suspended the high court's September 6 verdict wherein it had declared Lt Gen Afsar's appointment null and void.

The decision, announced by Justice Asim Hafeez, came after a citizen named Ashba Kamran challenged



the appointment of Afsar as the chairman in a petition, which was approved by the LHC.

Kamran's petition argued that the caretaker government approved the appointment of a serving army officer by amending the

Nadra Ordinance. The caretaker government cannot interfere in permanent policy matters, the plea added.

During the hearing today, the government's lawyer apprised the court that Nadra chairman's appointment notification was challenged in the plea. However, he added, the petitioner's request was limited only to the extent of the notification issued by the caretaker government.

The applicant never challenged the new rule, he said, while requesting the court to annul the single-member bench's last week's verdict.—RT/Agency