

# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Actress Shagufta Ejaz Mourns Husband Yahya Siddiqui's Passing

## Heartland

CM Sindh Takes Action After Anti-Polio Team Harassment



## Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 365.82 points to close at 79,017.61



## NATIONAL

President Pushes For Stronger Trade Ties With Sweden, Belgium



## SPORTS

Mohsin Naqvi Leads PCB's 74th BoG Meeting in Faisalabad



Sindh Set To Launch Electric Taxi Revolution

## IMF Board To Review Pakistan's \$7 Billion Loan On September 25 Following Fulfillment Of Key Conditions

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has confirmed that its Executive Board will meet on September 25 to discuss the approval of Pakistan's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The loan is crucial for stabilising Pakistan's economy, which has been grappling with rising inflation and dwindling reserves.

IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack announced the meeting during a press briefing on Thursday, saying, "We are very happy that we can say now that the board meeting is scheduled for September 25."



This announcement comes after Pakistan secured the necessary financing assurances from development partners.

The \$7 billion loan package had been under discussion since May, and a staff-level agreement was reached in July. Despite this, Pakistan faced delays in finalising the IMF Board's approval. The government has had to meet stringent IMF conditions, including the imposition of a record Rs1.8 trillion in new taxes and electricity price hikes of up to 51%.

Among other conditions, Pakistan agreed to halt the establishment of any new special economic or export processing zones. The country also accepted that tax incentives for existing zones would not be extended after expiry. These measures are part of a broader set of industrial policy changes that, critics say, effectively transfer control of key economic decisions to the IMF.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad confirmed that the country arranged over \$2 billion in external financing from lenders other than the IMF. "All those assurances and external financing have already been arranged by the government, and I don't see any further hurdle now in taking our case to the board," Ahmad said during an analyst briefing on Thursday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, addressing the federal cabinet earlier in the day, praised the progress in negotiations with the IMF. "We are moving in the right direction with the Fund, and I am hopeful for a positive outcome," he said, while also acknowledging the harshness of the imposed measures. The prime minister thanked Pakistan's friendly countries for their support, stressing the need for Pakistan to free itself from dependence on external loans and build a self-reliant economy.

Kozack added that the successful implementation of the nine-month standby arrangement from 2023 had stabilised Pakistan's economy. She pointed to consistent policymaking that had brought about a return to growth, disinflation, and an increase in the country's international reserves.

Despite meeting these tough conditions, Pakistan had struggled to secure a date for IMF board approval, causing concern over the country's economic future. However, the upcoming September 25 meeting offers hope for much-needed relief, with IMF approval potentially unlocking additional financial support from other international partners. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has announced that all matters with the International Monetary Fund have been successfully settled.—RT/Agency

## Imran Khan Condemns Gandapur's 'Vulgar' Comments About Journalists

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday expressed displeasure over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's vulgar remarks against journalists during a party's September 8 power show in Islamabad by deeming them "inappropriate".



During a public rally in Islamabad on Sunday, which was a major event for the embattled party, Gandapur spewed irresponsible and inappropriate comments about the journalists.

Hurling insults at the newsmen, the KP CM had alleged that a group of journalists were "campaigning against the PTI" besides vowing to "confront" them and asked the party workers to identify and expose them.

While denouncing KP CM's act, the PTI founder in a statement said: "Ali Amin Gandapur should not have done such a conversation about the journalists."

"Ali Amin Gandapur said way too much during his emotional speech," Khan said, adding: "I do not support Ali Amin Gandapur's remarks about the journalists."

Acknowledging the challenges faced by journalists in Pakistan, the PTI founder further added: "The pressure, in which, journalists are working, they are doing jihad."

Notably, earlier on Monday, Imran was asked by journalists about Gandapur's controversial remarks and the use of foul language against media workers at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Responding to it, he expressed ignorance about what the party stalwart said in the speech. Journalists questioned how come the ex-PM was unaware of Gandapur's remarks when he knew all important developments taking place in the country, while being in jail. However, the PTI founder insisted that he is "completely unaware of what is happening outside the jail".—RT/Agency

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## JUI-F Chief Questions Military Chief's Extensions, Demands Equal Privileges For Parliamentarians

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazur Rehman has strongly criticised the practice of granting extensions to military officials, calling it a "flawed" policy that should apply equally to parliament.

Addressing the National Assembly, he recalled how past military extensions were pushed through under pressure and questioned why such a privilege is not extended to lawmakers.

Rehman condemned the current judicial system as "outdated", urging the government to collaborate with the opposition on judicial reforms.

He stressed that courts

have become political entities, with some supporting one faction and others backing another.

Rehman also called for reforms that would make the judiciary impartial and restore public trust in the system.

Highlighting ongoing police protests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rehman warned that if law enforcement agencies stopped fulfilling their duties, it would severely impact the country's security.

He further criticised the extension process, particularly within the military and judiciary, stating that if this practice continues, parliament should be given the same rights.

Rehman also addressed the issue of judicial case backlogs, pointing out that over 60,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court, and proposed the creation of separate courts to handle constitutional matters.—RT/Agency

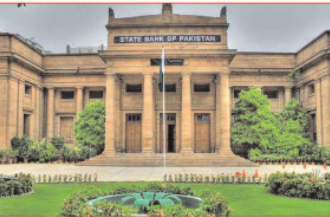
## SBP Slashes Policy Rate By 200 Basis Points To 17.5%

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reduced its policy rate by 200 basis points to 17.5% on Thursday, as headline and core inflation saw a sharper-than-expected decline over the last two months.

The rate cut will be effective from September 13, 2024.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the SBP attributed this decision to falling global oil and food prices and a delay in the anticipated increase in administered energy prices.

The central bank, however, warned of potential risks tied to global economic volatility and domestic



energy adjustments, urging a cautious approach to future monetary policies.

Inflation fell to 9.6% year-on-year in August, down from 12.6% in June. Core inflation also dropped to 11.9%, reflecting

related to the timing and scale of adjustments in energy tariffs and the course of global commodity prices.

The SBP's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$9.5 billion as of September 6, despite weak inflows and continued debt repayments.

Remittance inflows and a rebound in exports helped keep the current account deficit contained at \$0.2 billion in July 2024.

While the industrial and services sectors are expected to benefit from this policy easing, the agriculture sector faces challenges due to an expected shortfall in cotton production.

Nonetheless, the SBP maintains its projection for GDP growth between 2.5% and 3.5% for FY25. The central bank also reported that tax collection in July and August 2024 fell short of \$9.5 billion of the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) target, adding pressure on fiscal policy measures to meet revenue goals for the remainder of the year. This will be critical for maintaining macroeconomic stability, the SBP noted. The MPC reiterated that its cautious stance on monetary policy remains necessary to control inflation while supporting sustainable economic growth over the medium term.—RT/Agency

## Omar Ayub Claims He Was Wrongly Included In FIR For Deceased Individual

ISLAMABAD: "They are so incompetent that a dead man was booked along with me in a case," PTI leader Omar Ayub said on Thursday.

Talking with media, Omar Ayub, the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, said that after my tweet they altered the FIR.

"I have been booked in three cases and got bail from the Peshawar High Court yesterday," Ayub said.

"I G Islamabad has said that the Speaker National Assembly was aware about the Parliament incident," PTI leader said.

"What it means to attack the parliament, it must be investigated," he said. "Only

suspension of the Sergeant-at-Arms is not acceptable," he further said.

"Who were those people, whether they came from Nepal," he questioned.

"They are hired men, how can they hold dialogue," he questioned.

The opposition leader was talking about recent incident of the opposition PTI party's parliamentarians' arrest from the premises of Pakistan's parliament.

Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq yesterday suspended the Sergeant-at-Arms and four other security personnel of the parliament over negligence in their duty.—RT/Agency

## PM Welcomes 2% Cut In Policy Rate, Predicts Boost In Economic Activity

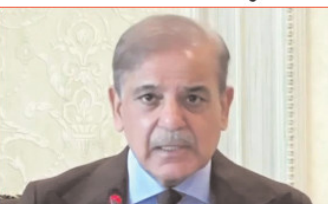
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday welcomed the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) decision to lower the policy rate by 2%, lowering it from 19.5% to 17.5%.

He expressed optimism that this move would stimulate exports, investment, business, agriculture, and overall economic growth in the country.

While presiding over a meeting of the federal cabinet committee, the prime minister expressed hope that the policy rate cut would gradually decrease to single digits, in line with the country's inflation rate.

Speaking on the ongoing discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he noted that the negotiations were progressing smoothly.

He further highlighted that, as in the past, friendly nations had once again committed to assisting Pakistan during this challenging time. With these developments,



Pakistan has now met the prerequisites to secure loans from the IMF.

"Our friendly and brotherly countries have come all the way to support us again," he said.

He thanked the ministry of finance, other concerned departments and the ambassador of Pakistan to China who played important role in getting the support from the brotherly countries.

The prime minister stressed that after achieving the goal of macro economic stability, the government will

now take measures to boost GDP growth of the country.

As regards the Israel's continued atrocities over Palestinians, the prime minister demanded the global community to stop Israel from doing war crimes in Palestine.

Condemning the Israel's barbarism in strong words, the prime minister said that today, the Israeli forces had killed six staff members of United Nations relief mission in Palestine while it also martyred 17 more Muslims in Gaza.—RT/Agency

## Government Expected To Extend Judges' Retirement Age After Securing Two-Thirds Majority

ISLAMABAD: As soon as the government secures a two-third majority in both houses of parliament, it will make a constitutional amendment to extend the retirement age of the superior court's judges, a government source told media.

The source revealed that the government and treasury benches need just three more votes in the Senate to make an amendment in the Constitution to extend the tenure of superior court judges.

But when contacted, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar neither confirmed nor denied anything. Upon showing inquisitiveness, the minister said he would get back after getting in touch with the law minister. However, he didn't return until filing of this report.

The source, however, on

condition of anonymity, said the government has already managed a two-third majority in the National Assembly.

"We are short of only three votes in the Senate," the source said, adding, "We are expecting to get the magic number any time and as soon as it is achieved, the constitutional amendment will be introduced and passed by parliament."

The Article 179 of the Constitution envisages that a judge of the Supreme Court shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years or is removed from office under the Constitution. Article 195 of the Constitution says that a judge of a high court shall hold office until he attains the age of 62 years unless he sooner resigns or is removed from office following the Constitution.—RT/Agency

## KP CM's Proposal For Talks With Afghanistan Criticized As Attack On Federal Authority By Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has come down hard on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's statement about holding direct dialogue with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, calling it a direct attack on the federation.

Addressing an event of the Peshawar Bar Council Association a day earlier, CM Gandapur announced sending a provincial government delegation to neighbouring Afghanistan to hold dialogue and settle bilateral issues without waiting for the federal government's approval as his "province is bleeding" due to a surge in terrorist attacks.

Asif, speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Thursday, said that the provincial chief executive must not have given the statement.

He added that no province has the authority to negotiate directly with any country, and in this context, the statement made by CM Gandapur, is extremely dangerous.

Pakistan has witnessed a spike in terrorist attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of



KP and Balochistan.

KP alone witnessed 25 casualties in the 29 terrorist attacks during August.

Islamabad has time again called on the interim Afghan government to prevent its land from being used by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant organisations for carrying out attacks against Pakistan.

Citing the rise in terrorist incidents, the federal cabinet in June this year approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism. Additionally, the government had also introduced a major policy shift under a decision to stringently enforce international laws at its borders

with Afghanistan earlier this year, to restrict the influx of militants and smuggled goods into the country.

Afghanistan does not recognise the Durand Line, the border between the two countries, arguing it was created by the British to divide ethnic Pashtuns.

The 2,640km border was established in 1893 through an agreement between British-ruled India and Abdur Rahman Khan, then ruler of Afghanistan. Both countries share 18 crossing points, with Torkham and Chaman being the most frequently used for trade and movement of people. These crossings also connect Balochistan to Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province. In 2017, Pakistan started fencing the border with Afghanistan to contain terrorist cross-border movement, a move condemned by Kabul.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



## Mayor Kashif Shoro Attends Kachi Abadi Meeting

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro attended a meeting of the Human Settlement Authority's (formerly Katchi Abadi) Governing Body, held at the Old KDA Building, Sindh Secretariat, Karachi. The meeting was chaired by Syed Najmi Alam, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh on Human Settlement, Special Development, and Social Housing. During the meeting, several key topics were discussed, including confirmation of the minutes from the previous Governing Body meeting held in July 2023. Approval of the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25,



approval of the SNE for positions in the Chief Engineering Office, Demolition Squad and Low-Cost Housing Project Reforms in medical facilities for retired employees and establishment of the Demolition Squad were also

discussed. The meeting was attended by Syed Najmi Alam, Chairman of the Governing Body, Mayor Kashif Shoro of Hyderabad, Mayor Barrister Arslan Shaikh of Sukkur and other members of the Governing Body.

## PPP Will Defend Sindh's Resources: Jahangir Junejo



By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The people of Sindh need not worry, as the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is the guarantor of Sindh's rights. The PPP will protect all of Sindh's resources, including its water. Water is the lifeline of Sindh, and no dam or canal will be allowed to be built on the Indus River. These views were expressed by the General Secretary of PPP District Sanghar, Jahangir Junejo, during a conversation with

the media. He stated that Sindh has the first right to the waters of the Indus River since it is the lower riparian province.

Due to the lack of water being released into the sea, millions of acres of agricultural land in Sindh are being swallowed by the sea. He further said that as long as there is even a single worker of PPP alive, the party will continue to fight for Sindh's rights, unlike other political parties that make empty slogans.

## Commissioner Abbasi Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Plans

By Adeel Alvi

SUKKUR: A significant meeting, chaired by Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, took place regarding the arrangements for 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. Commissioner Sukkur instructed that CCTV cameras be used to provide foolproof security for the 12th Rabi-ul-Awal gatherings and processions. He directed all Deputy Commissioners to complete all necessary preparations in advance within the districts for the 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. Special attention should be given to ensuring the cleanliness of the procession routes, and proper arrangements should be made for garbage disposal. Commissioner Sukkur emphasized that there should be no electricity load shedding on the day and that any hanging wires along the roads should be immediately removed. He also stressed



that gas load-shedding should not occur on this occasion. Municipal officials were tasked with ensuring clean drinking water and proper sanitation during the processions. Commissioner Aamir Muhammad Ansari, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, DC Khairpur Syed Ahmad Fawad Shah, DC Ghotki Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, SSPs from Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, SEPCO, SSGC, Police, and a large number of religious scholars from various sects.

The meeting saw participation from DIG Sukkur Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, Wing Commander Rangers Muhammad Umar, Additional Commissioner Ome Muhammad Ansari, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, DC Khairpur Syed Ahmad Fawad Shah, DC Ghotki Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, SSPs from Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, SEPCO, SSGC, Police, and a large number of religious scholars from various sects.

## SALU Hosts Seminar Honoring Hazrat Pir Syed Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani (RA)

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A seminar on the scholarly, literary, spiritual, and social services of Hazrat Pir Syed Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani (RA) was organized by the Rozay Dhani Chair at the Museum Hall of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. The seminar was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Dr. Muhammad Younis Khushk. A large number of distinguished scholars, literary, social personalities, devotees, and students attended the seminar.



Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani. In the seminar, scholar Professor Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sahibdad, Director of the Institute of Languages (Arabic and Persian), University of Sindh, Jamshoro, delivered a lecture in which he highlighted that Syed Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani (RA) attained a high status in worship, knowledge, and spirituality during his life.

His teachings emphasized love, tolerance, peace, and the service of humanity. In his address, he stated that Hazrat Pir Syed Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani (RA) adopted principles in his life and taught people the importance of spiritual training and ethics, urging them to follow the path of truth and right-

eousness. He further noted that Pir Sahib spread awareness about the purpose and significance of Shariah and Tariqah, consistently encouraging adherence to these principles. On this occasion, Mufti Dost Muhammad Brohi, Faqir Abdul Latif Mangrio, Faqir Jan Muhammad Mangrio, Ghulam Mujtaba Jatoi, Ali Hassan Shar, Qalandar Bux Bozdar, Muhammad Aslam Ghumro, Faqir Muhammad Sahmir Qadri, Abdul Basit Khilji, Muhammad Hasan Mahesar, Ghulam Qadir Mangi, Faqir Naushad Ali Mahesar, and other participants were present. Certificates were awarded for outstanding performance at the Rozay Dhani Chair, and traditional gifts of Sindh Ajrak were presented to the esteemed guests.

## Khairpur Celebrates Lawyer Razia Danish's Birthday

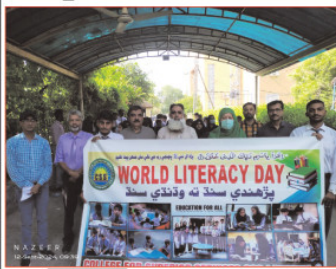
By Naeem Ahmed Sheikh

KHAIRPUR: A birthday celebration was held for the renowned Supreme Court of Pakistan lawyer, Razia Danish. According to the details, a birthday celebration was organized by the family members and the legal community of Sindh High Court Bar for Razia Danish, the first female lawyer contesting for the position of General Secretary in the 2024-25 Sindh High Court Bar elections. After cutting the cake, the event was marked with well-wishes for Razia Dan-



ish's long life, good health, and success in her endeavors, and was celebrated in a joyful manner.

## World Literacy Day Observed At College For Superior Services



By M Rafique

LARKANA: A rally was organized by College for Superior Services (CSS) Larkana to raise awareness about the importance of literacy and education on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 12 September. Led by Principal Intiaz Bughio, Naveed Hussain Korai, Nazeer Ahmed Jatoi and Manwar Ali. The rally started from CSS College and reached Larkana Press Club in which a large number of students and teachers participated. Students carried posters with messages to

raise awareness about education. On reaching the press club, the Principal of CSS College gave an impassioned speech on the important role of literacy in the development of the country. Special guest Sahib Khan Mirani, Dr. Zulfiqar Rahujo, Yasmeen Shaikh Chairperson Rotary Foundation, Deputy Director Abdul Malik Chandio and others also addressed the participants of the rally. Finally, teachers also addressed the rally, in which Naveed Hussain Korai, Nazeer Ahmed Jatoi and Manwar Ali emphasized the importance of education.

## Seminar At Govt Boys College Larkana Led By Ombudsman Jagirani

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: At the Government Boys Degree College Larkana, a seminar was organized under the guidance of the Provincial Ombudsman (Sitara Intiaz) Muhammad Sohail Rajput, and chaired by Ali Akbar Jagirani, the Regional Director of the Provincial Ombudsman Larkana. The seminar aimed to address administrative issues and promote good governance, and was attended by students, teachers, lecturers, and assistant professors. During the seminar, Ali Akbar Jagirani provided detailed information about the Ombudsman's office. He explained that if there are administrative injustices within departments under the Sindh



government, individuals can file a simple petition with the Ombudsman's office, which will provide justice and resolve the issue promptly. Javed Ahmed Memon, Associate Professor, Shaifu-ur-Rehman, Assistant Professor,

and Aijaz Jamali, Additional Director Colleges Larkana, also shared their thoughts. Jagirani answered questions from students and lecturers, emphasizing the role of the Ombudsman's office in addressing grievances.

## Free Livestock Medical Camps Held In Kohistan

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THAN BULA KHAN: In the Kohistan area, veterinary medical camps were set up for livestock in the villages of Bhall, Pandhi Aqlani, Salar Khan Aqlani, Hanif Aqlani, and Din Muhammad Aqlani, among others. Deputy Director of Livestock Development for Kohistan at Thana Bula Khan, Dr. Abdul Aziz Rustamani, informed that the camp was organized on the special instructions of PPP MPAs Malik Sikandar Khan and Malik Ahmed Khan. The camp provided vaccinations to over 4,000 animals to protect them from diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, black leg, and other ailments. Additionally, more than 480 large and small animals were given deworming medication along with injections. Dr. Rustamani advised the villagers to



regularly visit their nearby veterinary centers for vaccinations and care of their livestock.

He further mentioned that the campaign is being supervised by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Sindh, Syed Najmi Alam, Secretary for Livestock and Fisheries Sindh, Dr. Kazim Hussain

Jatoi, Director General of Livestock Sindh, Dr. Habibullah Bhutto, and Executive Director of Animal Husbandry, Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Memon. The technical team at the camp, including Dr. Mashood Ahmed and Stock Assistant Sajjad Raza Shah, carried out their duties diligently.

## Two Murderers Nabbed By Thatta Police

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The police have arrested two suspects in connection with the murder of a man who was killed three days ago in the jurisdiction of Makli Police Station. The victim, identified as Rizwan Samo, was shot dead by unknown assailants on a motorcycle while he was traveling in a Suzuki vehicle near the Makli Temple on the Thatta-Makli Road. Upon receiving the information, SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Inam Khan, promptly took notice of the incident and formed a special investigation team. The team, led by DSP Thatta and consisting of SHO Makli, SHO

Thatta and other technical staff, was closely monitored by SSP Khan. Within three days the police successfully solved the blind murder case apprehending both main suspects, Pyar Ali Brohi and Ali Raza Brohi. During questioning, the suspects confessed to their involvement in the crime.

Investigations revealed that on the day of the incident, Rizwan Samo and his companions were traveling from Makli to Thatta in a Suzuki vehicle. The suspects, passing by on a motorcycle, got into a minor altercation with Samo over a dispute about giving way to each other's vehicles. The argu-

ment escalated, and in a fit of rage, the suspects opened fire, inflicting fatal injuries on Rizwan Samo, a resident of village Khameeso Samo, Thatta. The suspects fled the scene immediately after the shooting. The police team, demonstrating exceptional professionalism, diligence, and hard work, managed to trace and arrest the suspects promptly. SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Inam Khan, praised the police team for their swift and effective operation, announcing that they would be awarded commendation certificates and cash prizes for their efforts. The investigation into the case is still ongoing.

## Larkana Police Arrest Notorious Criminal

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: According to a statement issued by the SSP office, during a patrol in the area of Dhadra Pul within the jurisdiction of Baqapur Police Station, police encountered criminals who were present with the intention of committing a crime. There was an exchange of fire between the

police and the criminals. As a result, the police apprehended one of the criminals, who was injured, and seized a pistol from him. The arrested criminal was identified as Wars, son of Bakha Muhammad Jakhrani, from Gharhi Khoro, Jacobabad District. The injured criminal was subsequently transferred to a hospital for treatment.

## Media Workshop Organized By MUJ And PFUJ

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Divisional Director of Information Mirpurkhas, Shehzad Shaikh, emphasized that democracy is essential for journalism. He stated that strengthening democracy is crucial for the freedom of the press. He expressed these views while addressing a training workshop organized by the Mirpurkhas Union of Journalists and the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy and the International Federation of Journalists. Shehzad Shaikh further highlighted that for a free press, journalists need to be mentally and physically independent. The Sindh government is taking significant steps for the welfare of journalists, which include grants for press clubs, medical treatment for journalists, and financial support for those in need. Sheher Bano, Vice

President of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and coordinator of the program, informed the participants that journalists are facing severe challenges in the current situation, and training programs like these are being held to help them overcome these issues.

Expert trainer Zubair Ashraf enlightened the participants about labor laws and journalists' rights, noting that journalists can only claim their rights if they are aware of the relevant laws. Junaid Khanzada, Vice President of the PFUJ, reiterated that the union is committed to protecting journalists' rights. He mentioned the PFUJ's strong campaigns against restrictions on press freedom, the killing of journalists, and actions that cause job losses in the industry, vowing never to compromise on press freedom. PFUJ leader Shahid Ghazali discussed the decline of print media and the challenges it

faces, noting that the issuance of licenses to private channels and the rise of social media have had a detrimental impact on print journalism. Mirpurkhas Union of Journalists President Qamaruddin Shaikh, General Secretary MA Rehmani and Program Coordinator Saleem Shaikh thanked the participants and the PFUJ training team. At the end of the workshop, certificates were awarded to journalists from Mirpurkhas, Digri, Jhuo, Mithi, Kunri, and Umerkot by PFUJ, IFJ, and NED. Journalists such as Hayat Qureshi from Mirpurkhas, Sajad Ali Qaimkhan from Umerkot, Qaisar Raja from Jhuo, Ashfaq Ahmed Ashfi, Sajid Yousef Qaimkhan, Imran Asad Qaimkhan, Sajid Bajir from Mithi, Ali Gul Rind, and others presented a detailed review of the challenges faced by journalists in interior Sindh. Later, other speakers also presented their papers.

## SU Opens Admissions For New Bachelor's Programs

By Munwar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The admissions to various bachelor degree programs and third year fifth semester are underway at the University of Sindh Jamshoro and its constituent campuses for the academic year 2025. The last date to submit online application forms is fixed on September 17, 2024. Candidates who have completed their intermediate (higher secondary) education or awaiting results are eligible to apply for ad-

missions to bachelor degree programs. Students in the latter category can upload their first-year mark sheets during the registration process. Applicants must deposit the admission processing fee through a self-generated challan during filling out online forms. The challan can be deposited at any branch of Habib Bank or via mobile app as per the instructions mentioned on it. In this regard, Director Admissions Professor Dr. Ayaz Keerio in-

formed that online registration for admissions is ongoing and will continue till September 17, 2024. He highlighted the convenience of the online form submission, allowing candidates to apply 24/7, even on weekends. He also urged interested students not to wait until the last date and to submit their applications as early as possible. He reassured that candidates awaiting their second-year results are also eligible to apply for admission through the online portal.

# NATIONAL



## Aleema Khan Exposes Imran Assassination Plot In Jail

LAHORE: Aleema Khan, the sister of former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, claimed that there is a plan to eliminate her brother while he is in prison, drawing parallels to the death of Egypt's former president Mohamed Morsi.

In a post on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) on Thursday, Aleema Khan alleged that Imran Khan has been informed of a plot to assassinate him while he is incarcerated, following a pattern similar to Morsi's death in custody in 2019. She further claimed that her family received credible information from reliable sources regarding a decision to target the former prime minister. "Our family would like to address those behind this plot. Look at history and understand what happened to the Pharaohs and others who employed similar strategies. Under General Bajwa's tenure, there was an attempt on Imran Khan's life in Wazirabad. During General Asim Muniir's tenure, the



Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) took control of the Islamabad Judicial Complex, preparing to eliminate him. She went on to allege that the ISI is currently in control of Adiala Jail, where her brother is being held. "Can you explain to the millions praying for his release why Imran Khan believes there is a plan to finish him off in jail, just as they did with Morsi in Egypt?" she asked in her post. The allegations made by Aleema Khan have sparked concern among PTI supporters, though there has been no official response from authorities regarding the claims.—RT/Agency

## Sindh CM Meets Zardari For High-Stakes Talks



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr and discussed matters relating to mutual concerns. Chairman Pakistan People's Party and MNA, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and provincial Minister Sindh Sardar Muhammad Baksh Khan Maher were also present during the meeting. During the meeting, the overall situation and ongoing development projects in Sindh came under discussion. The president directed to expedite the work on the development projects in the province. Additionally, the security situation and law and order in Sindh were also reviewed during the meeting.—RT/Agency

## Irfan Siddiqui Warns Of Looming Anarchy In Pakistan

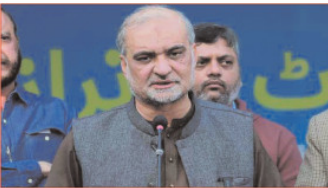
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s Parliamentary leader in the Senate, Senator Irfan Ahmad Siddiqui on Thursday said that Pakistan can not afford the revolution of unrest, abuse and anarchy. While speaking in response to opposition members' concerns over raids on the arrest of parliamentarians from the lower House premises two days ago, he condemned the incident and said that the Speaker National Assembly had formed the committee to probe the matter, however, he said that Pakistan would survive, Parliament will live and reviving does not bring revolutions.



He reminded the PTI-backed lawmakers that the constitution of 1973 was in place and it was also in place during 2018-21 when they had sent all opposition members behind bars including me, but no PTI

members said any word of condemnation over illegal practices. Irfan questioned "How many sit-ins, and attacks were carried out on Britishers and Hindus during the Pakistan movement on the orders of Quaid Muhammad Ali Jinnah". Siddiqui further asked whether Quaid Azam ordered their followers to fall petrol bombs on British institutions, the Army, Gandhi and Nehru. He said "We do not want that you (PTI) to reap what you sow, however Siddiqui held the PTI responsible for introducing a culture of disrespect in society.—RT/Agency

## Hafiz Naem Threatens Sit-In Over Broken Govt Promises



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Thursday vowed to come to Rawalpindi again if the agreement made between the JI and the government during the JI's sit-in in the garrison city was not fulfilled. In a statement, the JI Emir said the current system had become outdated and as weak as a spider's web, adding that youth of the country would change the system if it took to the streets. Rehman asserted that the

JI had other plans in store in case the government didn't give rights to the people while blaming it for sitting on the crutches of the Establishment. "These people make deals they don't get a deal then turn against their benefactors," he maintained. He demanded reduction in power tariff and taxes on the poor. He also criticised the government for introducing an anti-roads scheme and asked it to rescind.—RT/Agency

## Islamabad Police Arrest Prime Murder Suspect

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police investigators of Homicide Investigation Units (HIU) of police station Shahzad Town on Thursday arrested a suspect involved in a murder case and put him behind the bars. According to a police spokesperson, on August 20, the accused shot to death Murtajiz Hussain in the lim-

its of Shehzad Town police station. He said DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza took strict notice of the incident and ordered the arrest of the accused. Shahzad Town and HIU Police traced the blind murder case using advanced technical and scientific methods and arrested the accused, namely

Muzaffar, in a short time, he said. IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and the police team of DIG Islamabad were lauded for arresting the accused, he said. According to DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, the accused will be arraigned in the light of solid evidence, he added.—RT/Agency

## Quetta Cop Kills Blasphemy Suspect In Custody

QUETTA: A Quetta police officer killed a man being held in custody on suspicion of blasphemy charges, police officials said on Thursday. Quetta Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muhammad Baloch said that the police officer accused of the killing had been arrested. The officer had accessed a police station where a man accused of blasphemy was being held by pretending he was his relative before opening fire on him. The man accused of blasphemy had been taken into custody earlier in the week and moved to a more heavily fortified station due to an enraged mob demanding that he be handed over to them. At the time, protesters belonging to the Tehreek-i-Lab-

baik Pakistan (TLP) and other religious parties had blocked traffic on the western bypass by placing burning tyres on the road and staged rallies in several parts of the provincial capital. They later hurled a hand grenade at the Kharotabad police station, which exploded outside the police station. No human loss was reported in the attack. "We have registered an FIR (first information report) against the blasphemy suspect and arrested him soon after receiving information about the incident," a senior police officer said. According to the complaint, a resident of Kharotabad used objectionable words against the Holy

Prophet (peace be upon him). His alleged phone conversation was viral on social media, triggering sharp criticism and protests. The police informed the protesters that an FIR was registered against him under Sections 295C and 34 of the penal code and investigation was underway. Officials of the district administration and senior police officers after negotiations with the TLP leaders later managed to disperse the crowd and the western bypass was reopened. The TLP later rallied in other parts of Quetta and marched on different roads carrying placards and banners inscribed with their demands.—RT/Agency

## SOUTHERN PUNJAB

### Additional IG Investigation Punjab, Idrees Ahmed, Leads Key Meeting

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar  
GUJRANWALA: A video link follow-up meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional IG Investigation Branch Punjab, Idrees Ahmed. The meeting directed supervisory officers to clear pending challans within two weeks and send clearance certificates. The follow-up meeting, chaired by Additional IG Investigation

Punjab Muhammad Idrees Ahmed, took place at the Central Police Office. It was attended via video link by all CPOS, DPOs, SSPs, and SPs Investigation from across the province, as well as other officers. The meeting reviewed the implementation of court orders concerning pending challans. Additional IG Investigation Punjab Muhammad Idrees Ahmed praised 14 districts for

timely submitting challans and instructed 22 districts to ensure strict adherence to court orders. He emphasized that supervisory officers must clear pending challans within two weeks and promptly send the clearance certificates. DSP Legal Qadeer Anwar and DSP Legal Arslan Saif were also present at the meeting.

### Gojra Municipal Committee Caught Installing Illegal Power Lines

By Abid Mehmood Ch  
TOBA TEK SINGH: The Punjab Government's own house faces electricity theft allegations with the municipal committee itself caught stealing electricity. FIA and FESCO officials conducted a joint raid and caught the municipal committee administration red-handed, cutting off three meters and suspending the electricity supply. According to the details, electricity theft was discovered within the Punjab Government's jurisdiction. The Gojra Municipal Committee administration was found to be stealing electricity. The raid was led by FIA Faisalabad Inspector Amir Shehzad and FESCO Gojra's Executive Engineer Nasir Abbas, following a tip-off. The municipal committee was caught stealing electricity by directly connecting wires from the main



power line behind the committee's office. The raid team disconnected three meters from the municipal committee and suspended the electricity supply. During the raid, Municipal Committee Administrator Assistant Commissioner Nauman Ali Dogar and Chief Officer Ishiaq Gondal fled the scene upon seeing the raid team. The sudden arrival of the team created panic among other municipal employees, who also

fled after their officers escaped. On this occasion, FESCO Gojra's Executive Engineer Nasir Abbas told local journalists that strict action would be taken against those responsible for the electricity theft, and all dues would be recovered after identifying the culprits. FIA Faisalabad and FESCO Gojra officials participated in the raid, and as of the latest reports, raids were ongoing at other localities as well.

### President Pushes For Stronger Trade Ties With Sweden, Belgium



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday stressed the need to further enhancing the bilateral trade and economic ties with Sweden and Belgium. He was talking to the envoys of Sweden and Belgium who presented their diplomatic credentials during a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Sweden, Alexandra Berg Von Linde, and the Ambassador-designate of Belgium, Charles-Idesbald Van Der Gracht De Rommerswael, who also held separate meetings with him. President Zardari felicitated the two envoys on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan. President further expanding trade ties with Sweden, Belgium. Earlier upon their arrival at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the envoys were presented the guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Armed Forces.—RT/Agency

### Bannu Police Protest After Polio Teams Attacked

BANNU: More than 100 police personnel who provide security for polio vaccination teams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district went on strike on Thursday after a string of deadly militant attacks this week. Police officers who are routinely deployed to protect polio workers going door-to-door frequently

come under attack by militants waging a war against security forces. Hundreds of police and polio workers have been killed over the past decade. "Any constable who learns of the protest is leaving their polio duty to join the demonstration," said a police officer at the sit-in who asked not to be named. He told AFP that negoti-

ations have failed between the protesting police and senior officials in Bannu. Since the launch of the latest vaccination drive on Monday, at least two police officers and one polio worker have been shot dead in separate attacks in rural districts near the border with Afghanistan, including one officer escorting a team on Thursday.—RT/Agency

### PTA Shuts Down 465 SIMs In Katcha Crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Ms Shaza Fatima on Thursday told the Senate that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority had blocked some 465 SIMs used by dacoits in the Katcha areas of Sindh, including the districts of Shikarpur and Ghotki. Replying to a question of Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan in the House, she said that



blocked on the directions of the Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Inter-Services Intelligence and Signals Directorate of General Headquarters. The minister said that during the year 2023-24, around 8,294 mobile numbers SIMs, 4507 IMEs and 113 CNICs were blocked and blacklisted while warning notices were issued to 19,730 numbers on fraudulent communication.—RT/Agency

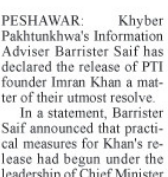
### Retirement Farewell Held For Director Of Education Syed Jawad Haider Sheerazi



By Dr Mirza MB Qamar  
GUJRANWALA: On the retirement of Director School Education Gujranwala Division Syed Jawad Haider Sheerazi, a farewell ceremony was held in his honor under the chairmanship of Commissioner Gujranwala Division Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi. The event was attended by ARPO Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Tariq Qureshi,

ADC Muhammad Shafiq, ADR Tanveer Yasin, Additional Director of School Education Madam Riffat Nisa, and CEOs of Education from Gujranwala, Malik Khalid Javed Awan, Sialkot's Javed Iqbal, and Mandi Bahaudin's Chaudhry Aurangzeb DE Shakhri Altaf Hussain, Principal of Quaid-e-Azam Divisional Public School, Sajid Jamal, and other educationists were also present. During the cere-

### Barrister Saif Reveals Plan To Free Imran Under Gandapur



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Adviser Barrister Saif has declared the release of PTI founder Imran Khan a matter of their utmost resolve. In a statement, Barrister Saif announced that practical measures for Khan's release had begun under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin. He stated that rallies would be held across the country to advocate for Khan's freedom. He dismissed criticisms from "fake ministers" regarding the rallies, asserting that holding public gatherings was a constitutional right. He further said rallies would be conducted wherever deemed necessary. Dr Saif further stated that false cases and FIRs would not deter their efforts. He added that the government had invited its own downfall through underhanded tactics.—RT/Agency

### A Lesson In Time And Faith



By Nisar Banbhan  
The house was unusually quiet since Grandfather's heart surgery. His once lively presence had been replaced by a frail figure confined to his room, as the doctor had advised against long walks. Despite friends' visits for his wisdom, his world had shrunk to the four walls of his room. In our family, seeking Grandfather's blessings before any important task had become a cherished ritual. As I prepared for my exams, I felt compelled to visit him. I found him absorbed in prayer, his body weakened by age and illness. After finishing his prayer, he greeted me with a warm smile. "Grandfather, I have an exam today. Please pray for me," I requested. Noticing his declining health, I suggested he rest and pray later. He chuckled, amused by my youthful belief in waiting for a more convenient time. "Life is like your exam," he said. "You can prepare all you want, but time waits for no one. When the clock runs

out, your paper must be handed to the one with the red ink—your teacher. It's too late to change what's written." His words struck a deep chord. "We must make the most of the time we have, fulfill our duties, and not wait for perfect circumstances. Life is about doing our best before it's too late." Grandfather's wisdom, quoted from Surah Al-Ghassiyah, emphasized that our efforts in this life should lead to success in the Hereafter. As I left his room, his lesson on living fully and meaningfully stayed with me. Grandfather's wisdom was indeed the prayer I needed most.

# EDITORIAL

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

Friday, September 13, 2024



## Greed Over Lives: The Shah Faisal Colony Tragedy Exposes Karachi's Rotten System

The recent fire in Karachi's Shah Faisal Colony No. 3 is a grim reminder of the rampant corruption and indifference that plagues our system. A man lost his life, not due to an unfortunate accident, but because of a lethal combination of greed and systematic rot. The unauthorized petrol pump that caused the fire had been the subject of multiple complaints from residents, all of which fell on deaf ears. It was a disaster waiting to happen.

Ten families in the building had repeatedly

demanded the removal of this ticking time



bomb, and yet, nothing was done. Despite the authorities sealing the illegal pump, it reopened within a week—a direct result of the owner's brazen claim that he had officials in his pocket. This is the harsh reality of Karachi: lives can be bought and sold for bribes, and the people who are supposed to protect us are often complicit in the crimes

that endanger us.

Siraj, the victim, was just getting a haircut when the fire broke out. He wasn't even involved in the ongoing dispute between residents and the pump owner. His life was snuffed out because the very system that should have safeguarded him allowed this illegal operation to flourish unchecked.

We must demand justice, not only for Siraj but for the residents whose warnings were ignored. This tragedy must serve as a wake-up call to end the culture of bribery and negligence that places innocent lives in peril.

# THE HEARTLAND



## CM Sindh Takes Action After Anti-Polio Team Harassment

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, has taken strong notice of an incident where a polio team was attacked and misbehaved with by a man named Rehmatullah Nahio in the Turk Colony, Makli. The CM has directed the Commissioner of Hyderabad to conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit a report to his office. In a statement, the CM emphasized that polio workers are protectors of the new generation and any form of misconduct or attack against them will not be tolerated. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Thatta and SSP Thatta have visited the



scene to gather evidence from the public. SSP has directed to arrest man but no arrests had been made at the time of this report. On the other hand Rahmatullah Nahio, the man involved in the incident, claimed he is a

## SSP Tunio Inspects Sakrand Police Station



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: SSP Tanveer Hussain Tunio of Shaheed Benazirabad visited the Sakrand Police Station. During his visit, he inquired about the resolution of public issues from the police staff. DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Bashir Ahmed Khuharo and SHO (Station House Officer) Sakrand Asghar Ali Awan informed him that efforts are being made to provide prompt justice to the complainants. SSP Tanveer Hussain Tunio instructed that the doors of the police station

should always remain open and that relief should be provided to the public quickly, leaving no room for complaints. He further emphasized making it easier for the public and police to meet so that ordinary citizens can come to the station without difficulty. He directed SHO Asghar Awan to pay special attention to the cleanliness of the police station, enhance its beauty by trimming the parks, and plant grass and trees in vacant plots. Senior journalist Qazi Javed Sanai and police spokesperson Ameer Ali Brohi were also present during the visit.

## Ombudsman Memon And Director Mallah Lead Awareness Walk In TMK



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Tando Muhammad Khan, a rally was organized by the education department to promote school admissions and improve education in Sindh. Led by Ombudsman Sindh Abdul Wahab Memon, Hyderabad Region Director of Education Ghulam Sarwar Mallah, District Education Officer Elementary Raja Nisar Memon, District Education Officer Primary Abdul Wahab Nizamani, Additional Deputy Commissioner One Naeem Soomro and former President of PTI Sindh Shafi Muhammad Sathio, thousands of students and teachers marched from Al-

Fattah Chowk. The participants carried placards and banners with slogans such as "Educate Sindh, Increase Admissions in Sindh," and "Save Sindh's Education." The rally, which turned into a large gathering in front of the press club, emphasized the need to save education in Sindh from decline. The leaders urged increasing student enrollments in schools and colleges from primary to higher secondary levels and ensuring that students receive government-provided facilities such as free books and uniforms. They stressed that it is crucial for parents to enroll their children in government schools. The rally was attended by Assistant Commissioner Muham-

## Samaro Chairman Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Preparations

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Samaro, a meeting was held at the Town Committee Samaro to celebrate the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). The meeting was chaired by Chairman Zulfikar Khaskheli and was attended by all the scholars, citizens, and officers of Samaro city, along with journalists. The attendees included scholars such as Haji Molvi Ghulam Mustafa Sabri Saidi, Hafiz Abdul Rauf Saidi, Mufti Abubakar Raho, Imam Tariq Qaimkhani of Faizan Chishtiya Mosque, Mubarak Ali Ghoori, and other dignitaries including Chairman Zulfikar Khaskheli, Vice Chairman Noval Rai Maheshwari, Syed Karam Ali Shaikh Bukhari, National Press Club President Ali Muhammad Sheedi, Secretary Rizwan Attari, Javed Umed Khan, Shakeel



Ahmed Bilali, Waleed Qaimkhani, Shahzaib Qaimkhani, Masroor Ahmed Qaimkhani, as well as officers DSP Ghulam Mustafa Kachhelo, Education Officer Muhammad Ibrahim Khaskheli, and Hesco's Muhammad Saleh Chandio. During the meeting, Haji Maulvi Ghulam Mustafa Sabri Saidi announced that the procession would start from Madina Jamia Mosque at 8:00 AM and follow its traditional routes to reach

## BISP Beneficiaries Struggle Due To Facility Shortages



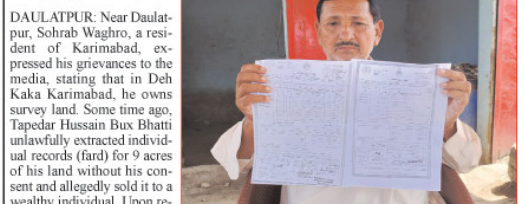
By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: In Shahdadpur, at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Mono Technical College Center, hundreds of deserving women have been left without their stipends for the 12th consecutive day due to the incompetence of BISP and Jaz-Cash. Women have had to face harassment and pay bribes of 1500 rupees each to receive their payments. The high volume of women at the center has created a chaotic environment, with only 4 Jaz-Cash devices functioning amidst the heat. Despite requests for transparency in the distribution of stipends, the BISP administration and Jaz-Cash agents have failed to resolve the situation. Women

have had to wait all day without receiving any assistance and many had to leave empty-handed. This mismanagement and corruption are causing significant distress among the poor women who are left without the aid they need. There are calls for immediate action to address the issue, increase the number of operating devices, and ensure that payments are made fairly and promptly.

## Daulatpur Man Demands Justice In Land Dispute

By Aijaz Johkio



DAULATPUR: Near Daulatpur, Sohrab Waghiro, a resident of Karimabad, expressed his grievances to the media, stating that in Deh Kaka Karimabad, he owns survey land. Some time ago, Tapadar Hussain Bux Bhatti unlawfully extracted individual records (fard) for 9 acres of his land without his consent and allegedly sold it to a wealthy individual. Upon receiving this information, Sohrab Waghiro managed to cancel the sale. However, recently, he learned that once again, a fard for 6 acres of his same survey land had been created, and he managed to obtain this fraudulent record. Sohrab Waghiro appealed to the Assistant Commissioner

of Qazi Ahmed, the Deputy Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad, and other authorities to take legal action against the corrupt Tapadar Hussain Bux Bhatti. He demanded an investigation into whether Bhatti received money from someone to illegally create the fard and sell his survey land. Sohrab further stated through the media that if his land is unlawfully transferred to someone else or if any harm comes to him or his family, Tapadar Hussain Bux Bhatti and his accomplices will be held responsible.

## Secretary Food Shaikh Addresses Khairpur Payment Issues

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Following the directives of the Sindh High Court, Secretary of the Sindh Food Department, Khalid Mehmood Shaikh, visited Khairpur to address the issue of pending payments for wheat bills to farmers. During his visit, he met with officials of the food department and local farmers. Secretary Khalid Mahmood Shaikh stated that farmers had filed petitions in the Sindh High Court over non-payment

of their wheat dues. In compliance with court orders, efforts are underway to resolve the farmers' issues. He mentioned that complaints have been received from over a hundred farmers regarding unpaid amounts, and after investigation, payments will be made on merit. The High Court has given a 15-day deadline for resolving the farmers' concerns, including issues with bills, which will be addressed soon. Meanwhile, farmers staged a protest against the Secretary and the District Food Controller (DFC), claiming that instead of complying with the court's orders, the food department was disregarding them. The protesting farmers alleged that after filing the petition, DFC Khairpur, Hakim Mahar, had been continuously harassing them and that his associates had threatened them with murder if they did not remain silent. The farmers called for immediate action against the DFC for his alleged misconduct.

## SEPCO Cracks Down On Power Theft In Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Under the direction of SEPCO WAPDA Dadu's Assistant Commissioner Nisar Ahmed Gadahi and SEPCO WAPDA Moro's Engineer Aijaz Ahmed Detho, a grand operation was conducted at the Moro Subdivision's Feeder City-I. During this operation, a large number of illegal connections were removed and terminated. Connections with outstanding dues were also cut, and illegal wires and connections were dismantled. LS In-Charge Muhammad Ramzan Khokhar, LS Aabid Ali Syial, Ghulam Haider Soomro, Sikandar Ali Sandilo, and personnel from the Sindh Police actively participated in the operation. The officials conveyed a message

from AC Dadu Nisar Ahmed Gadahi and Engineer Moro Aijaz Ahmed Detho to the public, urging them to use electricity legally with a meter, settle their outstanding dues promptly, and stop using illegal electricity connections. The officials warned that if people do not comply with these instructions, strict legal action will be taken against them.

REGIONAL TIMES  
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**SPORTS**

## Pakistan Defeats China, Advances To Asian Hockey Semi-Finals

HULUNBUIR: Pakistan's hockey team secured a resounding 5-1 victory over China in a dominant performance, ensuring their place in the semi-finals of the Asian Hockey Championships Trophy 2024.



The stars of the match were Nadeem Ahmed and Hannan Shahid with each scoring two goals to lead Pakistan to a comfortable win. Moreover, Abdul Rehman added another goal to further solidify the team's dominance.

Pakistan's next match is set to be a high-stakes encounter as Pakistan will face their traditional rivals, India, on Saturday. The Indian team have remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, making this upcoming clash all the more thrilling.

On Wednesday, Pakistan bagged the first victory of the competition, beating Japan 2-1. Nadeem Ahmed scored a goal in the first quarter to give Pakistan the lead but

Japan equalised by scoring a goal in the second quarter. In the 10th minute of the second quarter, Sufyan Khan scored a goal to restore Pakistan's lead which was enough to secure a win. Remember, Pakistan's first two games ended in a draw against Malaysia and South Korea, respectively.—Agency

## Mohsin Naqvi Leads PCB's 74th BoG Meeting In Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi presided over the 74th meeting of the Board of Governors (BoG) here on Thursday.



The BoG was briefed on the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup, which commenced at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Thursday afternoon with the opening match between UMT Markhors and Lake City Panthers.

becomes an annual feature. This will bring continuity, consistency and clarity to Pakistan's domestic cricket pathway structure.

An update was provided to the BoG on the infrastructure projects' progress with respect to the design and scope of work.

The BoG suggested that after witnessing the overwhelming response of the Faisalabad crowd, the PCB should take complete control of Iqbal Stadium and upgrade it to international standards, enabling the venue to be revived and host bilateral international series once again.

Members expressed their complete support and satisfaction with the projects, stating this was the need of the hour and that once the projects are completed, they will contribute to enhancing the image and profile of Pakistan and Pakistan cricket.—Agency

## Champions Trophy Staying In Pakistan, No Relocation Plans

DUBAI: International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive Geoff Allardice has confirmed that there are currently no plans to relocate the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 from Pakistan and assured that no team has expressed reluctance to play in the tournament.



Speaking at a media briefing in Dubai, organised for the Women's T20 World Cup, Geoff expressed satisfaction about the tournament's venue.

He stated that the ICC continued to conduct regular visits to its member countries, including Pakistan, to ensure the successful hosting of events. Despite previous challenges, he emphasised that all participating teams were committed to playing in Pak-

istan. The ICC Champions Trophy 2025, known as the "Mini World Cup", is set to feature eight elite teams including India, Australia, New Zealand, England, South Africa, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, based on their performances in the 2023 ODI World Cup. Sri Lanka and the West Indies will not be competing in this edition. The Women's T20 World Cup, originally scheduled to take place in

Bangladesh, will now be held in Dubai and Sharjah due to political instability in Bangladesh. The tournament will commence on October 3, with the final set for October 20.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES  
**THE HEARTLAND**



## Shadi Palli Youth Commits Suicide

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A young man ended his life by ingesting poison in the jurisdiction of the Shadi Palli police station. According to the details, a 22-year-old resident of Jago Bhungari, Dharo, son of Thanor Kolhi, reportedly committed suicide by con-

suming poisonous substances over a domestic matter. The police are investigating the matter to determine the exact cause of this incident, according to the SHO of Shadi Palli. The deceased's body was brought to the Taluka Hospital for necessary formalities, after which it was handed over to the family.

## Youth Electrocuted In Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul's Jailani Ground neighborhood, a young man named Fahim Dayo was electrocuted while repairing the electricity line at a grocery

store. He lost consciousness and was rushed to the local hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Upon the arrival of his body at his home, there was widespread grief and mourning.

## SSP Hyderabad Probes Alleged Fake Encounter

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The family of Haji Ghani, who was arrested in an injured condition after an alleged police encounter led by SITE Station House Officer (SHO) Imran Rasheed, has declared the incident a fake police encounter. The family staged a protest outside the Hyderabad Press Club and the SSP

office, alleging that Haji Ghani was taken from his home and injured by the police. They also claimed that the police are falsely implicating Ghani in a 2007 crime, stating that their son was born in 2008. Following the protest, the SSP took notice and ordered an inquiry into the matter, assigning the investigation to police official Siraj Lashari.

## Thieves Clean Out Tando Adam Home

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In the jurisdiction of Tando Adam's City Police Station, unidentified thieves broke into a house in Chandio Colony, stealing a refrigerator, two LCD TVs, two batteries, a stabilizer, ceiling fans, 28,000 rupees in cash, and other valuable items. The homeowner, Zahra, wife of Fayaz Shaikh, held a press conference out-

side the Awami Press Club in Tando Adam. She explained that two weeks ago, she was falsely implicated in a drug case by two police officers. After securing bail, she returned home 15 days later to find her house had been robbed. When Zahra went to file a complaint at the City Police Station, the police dismissed her, calling her a fraud and liar, and refused to help. She appealed to higher

authorities, demanding that her case be registered and the stolen goods be returned immediately. In her frustration, she stated that if no action is taken, she and her children would set themselves on fire at Muhammadi Chowk to escape this oppressive society. Zahra's brothers, Arshad Mohtai and Rasheed Shaikh, were also present during the press conference to support her.

## HCSTSI Elects New Executive Committee

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The Secretary General of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) and Returning Officer of the Election Commission for 2024-2026, Furqan Ahmed Lodhi, a total of 25 candidates had submitted their nomination papers for the 20 vacant seats of the Executive Committee. Out of these, five candidates,

Muhammad Irfan Memon, Syed Aamir Iqbal Jaffari, Abdul Rehman Rajput, Faisal Khilji and Syed Faraz Ali Shah, have withdrawn their nomination papers. As a result, the remaining 20 candidates, including Muhammad Akram Ansari, Muhammad Saleemuddin Qureshi, Muhammad Saleem Memon, Muhammad Shahid Qam Khan, Kishan Chand, Shan Elahi Sehgal, Chaudhry Muhammad Aslam, Suhail Ahmed Qureshi, Muhammad Iqbal Motilani, Nazir Muhammad Ghori, Akbar Ali, Ahmed Idrees Chohan, Dr Muhammad Yousuf, Muhammad Asghar Khan Khilji, Moiz Abbas, Ashfaq Ahmed, Muhammad Al-Nasir, Muhammad Shareef Puri, Muhammad Sanawar Qureshi and Shaikh Ghulam Rasool, have been unofficially declared unopposed and successful.

## Kandiari Woman Seeks Protection From Abusive Husband

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: In Kandiari, resident of Shahbaz Colony, Mrs. Aliya Shaikh, daughter of Dildar Shaikh, staged a protest at the press club against the alleged abuse and mistreatment by her husband, Asif Shaikh. She claimed that her husband is a cruel

man who regularly abuses her under the influence of alcohol. Last night, while drunk, he physically assaulted her and threatened her family with death. Feeling threatened and unable to endure her husband's tyranny, Aliya Shaikh, along with her parents and children, has taken refuge at her mother's

house. She expressed fear for her life, stating that her husband might abduct and harm her with the help of unknown individuals. Aliya Shaikh has appealed to the IG Sindh, SSP Naushahro Feroze, and SHO Kandiari to take action against her husband, Asif Shaikh, and ensure her protection.

## Minor Drowns In Kashmore Open Manhole

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMORE: Due to the negligence of town administration, a four-year-old girl named Sadaf Lashari fell into an open manhole and lost her life. The tragedy occurred when the girl was

going out to buy something from a shop and accidentally fell into the manhole. The family had repeatedly complained to the town administration to cover the manhole with a lid, but their requests were ignored. The death of the child has caused a wave

of grief and anger among the family and local residents against the town administration. The bereaved family is demanding action against their failure to address the issue and prevent such a tragedy.

## Two Female Teachers Suspended By Director Ghulam Shah

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: The Director of Primary Education, Shaheed Benazirabad, Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, conducted an unexpected surprise visit to primary schools in the Kandiari taluka. During this visit, he took disciplinary ac-

tion against four primary teachers, including one male and three female teachers, due to their continuous absenteeism and complaints from local villagers. Specifically, teachers Tehmina and Saira Ujjan, who were found to be consistently absent, were suspended. Addition-

ally, Ali Hassan Channa and another female teacher from the rural areas around Kandiari, who were also reported absent by local residents, were also suspended. All suspended teachers have been directed to report to the Director's office in Shaheed Benazirabad.

REGIONAL TIMES  
**ENTERTAINMENT**



## Actress Shagufta Ejaz Mourns Husband Yahya Siddiqui's Passing



Veteran Pakistani actress Shagufta Ejaz announced Thursday the passing of her husband, Yahya Siddiqui, who had been battling cancer for the past five years. She shared the heart-breaking news on her Instagram, requesting prayers from fans.

In the Instagram post, Ejaz wrote: "My husband Yahya Siddiqui has passed away. Kindly recite surah Fatihaynes) JazakAllah". The tragic news comes days after Ejaz and Siddiqui celebrated their wedding anniversary in his hospital room, which the actress documented in a recent vlog

on her YouTube channel. The vlog featured their daughter bringing a cake to the hospital for the occasion. In the vlog, Ejaz expressed concerns about the inadequate facilities at the private hospital while also asking her fans for prayers.

Siddiqui, who was undergoing treatment at the private hospital, had been battling cancer for five years. The couple tied the knot, marking their respective second marriages. They have two daughters together, while both also have children from previous marriages.

## Angelina Jolie 'Fed Up' With Health Speculation



Angelina Jolie reportedly reacted to rumours related to her health. According to an insider privy to In Touch Weekly, "Angelina swears she's in perfectly good health." The mother of six "is sick of the endless scrutiny [when it comes to her body], hence

the heavy clothing to cover up even in hot temperatures." "For the people in Angelie's world, there's still an ongoing worry, but they know better now than to bring it up," the source also confided. In addition to this, the source mentioned, "She's made it very clear this is

her life, her body, and nobody's to question her about it anymore - period." "She's by no means malnourished, and decades of rumours pertaining to her being dangerously underweight or having some type of eating disorder are wide off the mark and ex-

tremely cruel," the insider insisted. They remarked in conclusion, "She points out that she's been thin since childhood. It's something she's perfectly comfortable with, and there's no need for anyone to worry or panic."

## Face of the Day



Name: Moiz Malik  
 Location: Karachi  
 About me: I am the selfie king of Karachi!  
 Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## Polio Worker Assaulted By Armed Men In Jacobabad

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, armed individuals sexually assaulted a polio worker. The affected worker has been moved to a hospital. The Chief Minister of Sindh has taken notice of the incident. The incident occurred in the village Allah Bux Jakhriani in the jurisdiction of the Mouladad Police Station. The female polio worker was allegedly assaulted by armed men under the pretense of administering anti-polio drops. The Deputy Commissioner of Jacobabad, Zahoor Marri, informed the media that upon receiving news of the assault, he arrived at the scene, where the victim was rescued and

taken to the hospital. The preliminary report from the doctor indicates suspicion of assault, but confirmation will depend on the chemical report. According to the Deputy Commissioner, the health worker stated that two suspects lured her under the pretext of administering anti-polio drops and then assaulted her at gunpoint. The Deputy Commissioner confirmed that the suspects have been identified and will be arrested soon. District Health Officer Dr. Irshad Sarki reported that the worker was initially attempted to be abducted before being assaulted. The female worker claimed she was lured under false pretenses and assaulted

## Talhar Celebrates Prince Amin Muhammad Aga Khan's 87th Birthday

TALHAR: Prince Amin Muhammad Aga Khan's 87th birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Prince Amin Muhammad Aga Khan is the younger brother of Prince Karim Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili community, and is also the chief of the Ismaili Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide. As Chief Scout, Prince Amin Muhammad has always encouraged youth to help the underprivileged in developing countries to lead better lives. He has played a significant role



in the Aga Khan Development Network, following in his brother's footsteps to work for the welfare and improvement of the poor, focusing on education and healthcare.—RT

## DC Mukhtiar Abro, SSP Saud Magsi Visit Dadu Press Club

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Dadu Mukhtiar Ali Abro and SSP Dadu Ameer Saud Magsi visited the Dadu Press Club and met with journalists. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Mukhtiar Ali Abro announced that there would be a public holiday in Dadu on October 9th in honor of the anniversary of the poet Ustad Bukhari. SSP Dadu Ameer Saud Magsi, while speaking to the journalists, said that journalists are the voice of the people and they help highlight public issues. He further stated that the protection of the lives and property of Dadu's citizens



would be ensured, and the administration would promptly take action on all public matters. SSP Magsi also assured that the office doors are always open for the people of Dadu, and the administration is ready to address their concerns at all times.

## Medical Stores Fined In Dokri By DHO Dr. Shoukat Abro

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: In Dokri, the District Health Officer (DHO), Drug Inspector, and Assistant Commissioner conducted raids on medical stores, collecting fines exceeding 40,000 rupees and issuing warnings. Over 20 medical stores were raided by DHO Dr. Shoukat Ali Abro, Drug Inspector Sahib Khan Mirani, Assistant Commissioner Farzana Mirani, and ADHO Farhan Ali Jakhio. Fines were imposed for expired medicines, lack of cleanliness, and the absence of air conditioning and refrigerators in the medical stores. During the raids, DHO Dr.



Shoukat Ali Abro, Drug Inspector Sahib Khan Mirani, and Assistant Commissioner Farzana Mirani stated that strict instructions had been issued to the medical stores. They warned that severe actions would be taken against stores selling addictive or expired medicines.

They further mentioned that several stores were found with expired medicines, lack of air conditioning or refrigeration to maintain proper temperature, and poor hygiene, leading to fines and warnings being issued.

## DC Rasheed Masood Visits Faizan Madani Center

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan has visited Faizan Madani Center, Mirpurkhas to review the arrangements regarding 12 Rabi-ul-Awal, in which Divisional Supervisor Hafiz Muhammad Zain briefed. Attari and other officials of Dawat-e-

Islami had a discussion. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan ensuring cleanliness along the routes of rallies and processions of Rabi-ul-Awal the administration will provide all possible cooperation regarding the uninterrupted supply of electricity and the roots of the Milad process and other matters. If there is any problem, you can contact us.

## Barrister Soomro Earns Master's From University Of Hertfordshire UK



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: A renowned Sindh lawyer Barrister Shahid Hussain Soomro has earned his Master of Law degree from the University of Hertfordshire (United Kingdom). On this occasion, friends, family, and the legal

community congratulated him. Barrister Shahid Hussain Soomro, upon completing his Master of Law graduation, announced that he would host a memorable party for his friends to celebrate this achievement and make these joyful moments unforgettable.

## KN Shah Woman Protests For Daughter's Recovery



By Ayaz Burio

KN SHAH: A woman named Syeda Kausar Shah while addressing a press conference on Thursday said that her 14-year-old daughter named Iqra Shah has been misgendered and abducted by Farhan Khuharo, Saeed Khuharo and Zahid Khuharo. The forcible marriage of her daughter has also been contracted by

kidnapers, she added. The protesting woman alleged that the kidnapers may shift her daughter after shifting her to Saudi Arabia. She demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and ensure the recovery of her daughter. It is worth mentioning that Iqra Shah has contracted marriage with Farhan Khuharo in a court in KN Shah a few days ago.

## SAU VC Calls For Revamp Of Sindh's Agricultural Industry

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agricultural University, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, has emphasized the need to strengthen the province's agricultural industry by benefiting from the CPEC project and other scientific initiatives. He expressed these views during a visit to the College of Agricultural Engineering, where he engaged with the college administration, faculty, and students. Dr. Marri stated that strengthening Sindh's agricultural industry would lead to prosperity in the province. He noted that experts are working on the development of the

agricultural sector, which will bring benefits. He also highlighted the importance of addressing issues faced by industrialists and understanding their needs. Modern research and quality education were emphasized as key areas for improvement, with a focus on training youth to further enhance research standards. During the visit, Principal Jam Gulam Mustafa Sehto, faculty member Dr. Ismail Kunhar, and others briefed the Vice Chancellor on the college's issues. They urged the Vice Chancellor to play a global role in planning strategies to eradicate poverty among poor students and farming families.

## Health Team Arrives In Hingorja After Child Deaths

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Two children in the village of Muhammad Khan near Hingorja died from the dangerous disease diphtheria. Following a notice from the Health Department, a five-member committee was formed under the direction of the DHO (District Health Officer) of Khairpur. The committee consisted of THO (Tehsil

Health Officer) of Sobhohero Dr. Abdul Rehman Memon, ADDHO (Assistant District Health Officer), Khairpur Abdul Haq Metlo, Dr. Karam Abbas Solangi, Abdul Razaq and Saeed Ahmed Abro. The committee reached the village and set up a camp to examine the affected children and administer vaccines. During this visit, THO Dr. Abdul Rehman Memon reported

that they are checking all children in the village. Afterward, the report will be sent to the relevant officials. He explained that diphtheria causes a sore throat and swelling of the throat. They are investigating whether the deceased children died due to diphtheria or another disease. He assured that the report will be submitted to the DHO office within three days.

## SAU Joins 10 Million Tree Plantation Drive

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: At Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, representatives from various educational, agricultural, research, and private institutions, along with employable cultivators, have pledged to plant one crore trees. The university has also announced plans to hold a conference in October on Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai's poetry, focusing on agriculture, seasons, and nature. In this regard, under the auspices of the university's Energy and Environment Department and with the support of Lines Club Karachi, High Court Environment Company, and Ro-



ary International, an opening program for the "Future Tree Plantation, 10 Million Trees, Climate Change Defenders" seminar and plantation campaign was held. The event was chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Fatah Mari in the university's main auditorium. The seminar was attended by

the Vice Chancellors of Sindh's three universities, Dr. Nusrat Shah, Dr. Arabella Bhatta, and Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Memon, along with heads of various government and private institutions, leaders of cultivator organizations, experts, and a large number of students.

## Town Chairman Waqar Bhutto Holds Open Katchery

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Chairman of Empire Town Committee and PPP Larkana's Information Secretary Advocate Waqar Ali Bhutto listened to public issues at the Empire Town office, where a large number of people presented their problems, which were immediately addressed. On this occasion, Chairman Waqar Ali Bhutto mentioned that many people bring their issues to the town office daily, including problems like motorcycle theft, cleanliness, land issues, blockages in streets, and other developmental matters. He tries to resolve these by



contacting the relevant officials. Waqar Ali Bhutto stated that under the guidance of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, MPA Larkana Jamil Ahmed Soomro is making efforts to beautify Larkana. He emphasized that he strives to address the basic issues of Empire Town's residents on a priority basis and listens to public problems daily at the town office. He assured that his office doors are always open for the public.

## Education Awareness Rally Led By TEO Shahabuddin Shahani

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: Under the leadership of TEO Joti Taluka, Shahabuddin Shahani, a rally involving various primary school teachers and students was taken out. The rally included District Education Officer Liaquat Naich, Deputy DEO Mian Muhammad Pirzado, and other teachers such as Nazir Ahmed Solangi, Riaz Hussain Khoso, Ameen Jamali, Khaliq Babar, Mujib Shahani, Asghar Lund, Akbar Lund, Mehran Laghari, among others. The rally marched from the city's



main intersections to the National Press Club. The leaders participating in the rally emphasized that education is a priceless asset, and their goal is to equip every child with this asset. They highlighted that not only is education free, but free books are also provided to ensure that poor and underprivileged parents are not burdened with the cost of books and fees. The leaders urged parents to enroll their children in government schools to secure their future and make it brighter.

## Deputy Director Primary Education Iram Naz GECE Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Deputy Director Education (Primary) Mirpurkhas, Iram Naz visited Government Elementary College of Education (GECE) in Mirpurkhas. She reviewed the ongoing induction and professional development training for 120 newly recruited primary teachers, comprising the 7th batch of new recruits trained

by 8 master trainers. She said that training is an ongoing process, not a one-time event, but a continuous process of learning, practicing, acquiring and repeating in your area of expertise. Iram Naz emphasized that there was an impressive exhibition showcasing the trainees' portfolios, showcasing their outstanding work over the past 24 days. This exhibition was a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the trainees, which provides a fitting end to their comprehensive training program. In which Principal Javed Iqbal Arain and other officers of the Education Department participated in which the teachers who received the training said that this training will prove to be an important milestone in their journey of professional development.

## APCA Rallies For Clerk's Rights

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In response to a call from the All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA), a significant rally was held at the district headquarters in Makli, Thatta. The protest began at the District Council Office Makli and proceeded to the public park led by APCA's Central Secretary General, who voiced strong objections against the policies of the Sindh Education Department. APCA's Provincial President, Ahmed Nawaz Pathan, delivered a passionate speech, condemning the recent actions by the education department, including the forced transfers of clerks and the issuance of show-cause notices to leaders like Asadullah Durani. He argued that these measures constituted a direct attack on the rights of employees and de-



manded their immediate revocation. Pathan called for an end to all forms of harassment against clerks and employees across various departments. Iqbal Shah, another prominent leader at the protest, criticized the education department's policy of recovering salaries from senior teachers and highlighted the ongoing injustices faced by employees throughout Sindh. He labeled these policies as anti-employee and anti-education and urged higher authorities to address the clerks' legitimate grievances promptly.

## NWM Villagers Protest For Rainwater Drainage

By Younis Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In the village of Bachalpur near Nawab Wali Muhammad, rainwater has destroyed several homes. Various community members from the village, including Dadon Faj, Wazir Mallah, Manthar Chandio, and Jan Muhammad Mahar, protested against the Union Council Chairman Qasim Junejo. Speaking to the media, they complained that two weeks have passed since the rain, but the rainwater has not yet been drained. Our access routes are blocked by stagnant rainwater, which has led to the outbreak of diseases



like malaria and gastroenteritis in epidemic form. They further stated that they only saw the Union Council Chairman during the elections, and

since then, he has not provided any assistance. They demanded that the rainwater be drained as soon as possible to prevent further illness.

## Chairman Syed Samar Rizvi Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Plans



TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Municipal Committee Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi regarding the arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awal. The meeting was attended by AC Shakir Faheem, representatives from HESCO, Sui Gas, Health, Police, Municipal staff, Councilors, and religious scholars. During the

meeting, the arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awal were reviewed. Chairman Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi stated that specific measures have been taken to ensure no load-shedding from the 1st to the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awal. HESCO officials have been instructed to prevent power outages so that people engaged in worship at mosques, homes, and roads do not face any inconvenience. Heavy generators are available in case of any power faults. The Chairman mentioned that all arrangements for cleanliness and other preparations in the city have been completed. Obstacles on roads have been removed, and security arrangements will be provided by the police, Rangers, and religious personnel at mosques and rally sites. The meeting was also attended by CMO Abid Khoso, Engineer Aijaz Shah, Zawar Parvez Samo, Municipal Officer Faisal Mirjat, and others.

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh Set To Launch Electric Taxi Revolution

KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister for Transport, Sharjeel Memon, announced that the provincial government is planning to introduce electric taxis, according to media reports.

During a meeting with representatives from Chinese automobile company GAC and Dewan Motors, Memon emphasized the government's commitment to creating a favorable environment for investors interested in the project.

The new taxi service is expected to generate employment opportunities, and Memon assured the Chinese delegation of the government's full support in facilitating their investment. "The Sindh government will provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities for electric taxis," Memon stated, high-



lighting plans for charging stations and a streamlined regulatory process. GAC's general manager also briefed the minister on electric vehicle options, with discussions exploring various possibilities for launching the service in Sindh. Previously, Sharjeel Memon had announced the introduction of a "Pink Taxi" service for women in Karachi. Speaking to the

media, Memon, who also oversees the information ministry, shared that the women-only taxi service will be launched under the Sindh Mass Transit Authority in its initial phase. He added that the pink taxis will be driven by women, equipped with cameras for safety, and launched under the directives of PM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.—RT

## NEPRA Slaps K-Electric With Rs10M Fine Over Electrocution Deaths



ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has fined K-Electric (KE) Rs 10 million for electrocution incidents in Karachi between 2022 and 2023, which claimed the lives of 33 people.

NEPRA dismissed K-Electric's response to the show-cause notice and ordered the utility to pay the fine within 15 days. Additionally, NEPRA directed KE to provide Rs3.5 million in compensation to the families of each victim.

The authority also instructed the company to offer a job to a family member of Muhammad Aslam, one of the victims.

In response, K-Electric stated that NEPRA's investigation found no negligence on its part in 32 of the 33 cases. "K-Electric has been fined for an unsatisfactory response in one incident. We will issue a formal response after a detailed review of the report," the company said.—RT/Agency

## Kamran Tessori Pushes For Public Holiday On 11th Rabiul Awwal

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to declare a public holiday on 11th Rabiul Awwal.



In a letter addressed to both leaders, Tessori suggested the holiday be observed nationwide and in Sindh, noting that religious scholars had made this request during a recent meeting.

The governor expressed optimism that his proposal would be considered.

In a related move, Tessori also wrote to the Chairman of PEMRA, urging the authority to ensure that cable operators refrain from broadcasting entertainment content until 12th Rabiul Awwal in the honor of Eid Milad-un-

Nabi (PBUH). The letter called for PEMRA to implement this directive across all media outlets and cable services. Muslims around the world commemorate Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), on the 12th Rabiul Awwal, the 13th month of the Islamic lunar calendar.—RT/Agency

## Nationwide Push To Empower Local Governments, Boost Democracy

KARACHI: Starting August 1, 2024, a new initiative titled the Strengthening Local Governments and Promoting Democracy (SLGPD) project has been launched to enhance democracy and local governance across Pakistan. The project is being implemented by the Legal Rights Forum, Aawaz CDS, and the Pakistan Development Alliance, and will run until June 2025 in key cities including Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi.



Initial meetings for the project's rollout have begun, with the first gathering involving Sindh Assembly's Leader of the Opposition, Ali Khurshidi. Legal Rights Forum CEO Tahir Malik, and Program Manager Shireen Aijaz. They discussed ways to improve the project and ensure effective implementa-

tion. Legal Rights Forum has requested that Provincial Assembly members be nominated for the program so that specialized training sessions can be organized. Ali Khurshidi assured that he would nominate representatives, including female MPs, minority members, and committee participants. The SLGPD project is focused on empowering local governments by enhancing parliamentarians' understand-

ing of constitutional and financial reforms. It aims to improve local governance and help resolve public issues more efficiently. Further meetings with government officials and the Mayor of Karachi are planned to discuss the project's progress. MPs Shariq Jameel, Mahesh Kumar, Tahana, Anil Kumar, and Najm Mirza were also present alongside the opposition leader during the meeting.—RT

## Jinnah's 76th Death Anniversary Honored At Quaid-e-Azam Museum

KARACHI: The Quaid-e-Azam House Museum, formerly known as Flagstaff House, hosted a special ceremony to commemorate the 76th death anniversary of Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Titled "Jinnah's Legacy and the Role of the Armed Forces in Pakistan's Security, Defense, and Regional Stability," the event was organized by the Board of Management of the museum.



Notable attendees included Senior Vice Chairman Liaquat H. Merchant (SI), former Sindh Governor Lieutenant General (Retd.) Moinuddin Haidar, Vice Chairman of the Board Iqram Sehgal, and Commodore (Retd.) Sadeed A. Malik Kashir. The gathering also welcomed local dignitaries and students from various schools. Liaquat Merchant highlighted Jinnah's pivotal role in the Pak-

istan Movement and his efforts to educate Indian Muslims through his newspapers. He announced that the museum had awarded scholarships to 7,000 students and expressed plans to transform it into a nation-building institution.

Lieutenant General (Retd.) Moinuddin Haidar paid tribute to Jinnah's vision of a strong and secure Pakistan, praising the armed forces for their contributions, including their role in the 1965 war. Iqram Sehgal re-

flected on Jinnah's strategic foresight and his stance on the Quit India movement in August 1942, as well as his opposition to the partition of Bengal and Punjab, which was ultimately carried out by Lord Mountbatten. The event concluded with a prayer for Jinnah's soul, and the organizing efforts were well-handled by Executive Secretary Irum Fawad. General Secretary (SI(M), Commodore (Retd.) Sadeed A. Malik Kashir, expressed his gratitude to all participants.—RT

## Mother, Daughters Tragically Drown In Karachi Tank

KARACHI: A woman and her two young daughters tragically drowned in a water tank in Karachi.

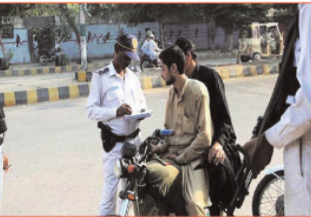
Rescue teams confirmed that the bodies have been transported to the hospital.

The victims have been identified as 35-year-old Shayla Ali Nawaz and her daughters, 5-year-old Yusra and 3-year-old Rohab. Rescue officials stated that an investigation into the incident is underway. In a separate incident, a collision between a truck and a car in



Defence Phase 8, Saba Avenue, left one person dead. Rescue teams reported that several others were injured and taken to the hospital for treatment.—RT/Agency

## Pillion Riding Ban Enforced Across Karachi, Other Cities



KARACHI: The Sindh government has imposed a ban on pillion riding in several districts, including Karachi, to ensure law and order during processions and Rabiul Awwal gatherings.

The provincial home department issued a notification detailing the restrictions, which will take effect from tomorrow in various districts.

The ban will apply to cities such as Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Nawabshah, Sukkur, Kashmore, Khairpur, Dadu, Qambar Shahdadkot, and Ghotki. In Karachi, the ban will be enforced in District South on September 13, 14, 16, and 17, in District East on September 13, 16, and 17, and in District West on September 16 and 17.

Hyderabad will implement the ban from the 12th of Rabiul Awwal, while Dadu will observe it on September 16 and 17. Nawabshah and Sanghar will enforce the restriction on September 17.

Similarly, pillion riding will be prohibited in Sukkur on September 16 and 17, while in Khairpur and Ghotki, the ban will be in place from September 13 to 17.—RT/Agency

## Bribery Tied To Illegal Petrol Pump In Shah Faisal Colony Tragedy

KARACHI: One person tragically died after a fire erupted at an illegal mini petrol pump located in a residential building in Shah Faisal Colony No.3, Karachi, according to reports on Thursday.

Local residents revealed in an interview that they had repeatedly lodged complaints with the Assistant Commissioner of Korangi about the illegal petrol pump operating in their building.

The building houses 10 families, all of whom submitted a formal request for the removal of the unauthorized pump and called for a complete ban on such operations.

Residents further claimed that while the petrol pump was sealed by authorities, it reopened within a week.

The pump owner allegedly boasted, "No one can shut down my business because I pay off the DC, AC, and police." According to eyewitnesses, the victim, identified as Siraj, was visiting a nearby salon when the fire broke out, causing him to suffocate to death inside the shop.—RT/Agency

## Altaf Ghaffar Slams State Bank's 2% Rate Cut As Too Little

KARACHI: Altaf A. Ghaffar, Acting President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), has expressed dissatisfaction with the State Bank's decision to reduce the interest rate by 2 percent to 17.5 percent. Ghaffar had anticipated a more substantial cut of at least 5 percent, arguing that the current reduction is inadequate and does not align with the ongoing decrease in inflation, which has now fallen to single digits.



Ghaffar emphasized that despite the 200 basis point cut, bringing the key policy rate to 17.5 percent, it remains excessively high. He advocated for a more aggressive reduction, aiming for a rate closer to 7 to 8 percent, similar to levels seen in other countries.

He highlighted that a lower interest rate would encourage borrowing and business expansion by reducing the cost of doing business, which would be

beneficial for the economy. Ghaffar acknowledged the State Bank's efforts to ease monetary policy with this being the third consecutive rate cut, but stressed the need for more significant reductions to stimulate economic growth and alleviate financial pressures on businesses and consumers.

Ghaffar pointed out that the tight monetary policy had previously resulted in prohibitively high borrowing costs, adversely affecting the manufacturing sector and overall economic performance. He expressed appreciation for the recent rate cuts but called for a further reduction of at least 500 basis points in the next review. He also noted that the decline in inflation was largely due to government administrative measures and improved agricultural production, rather than the State Bank's policies. Ghaffar attributed part of the inflationary relief to the stability of the rupee, which has mitigated the impact of currency devaluation on imported commodities.—RT

## Gadap Chairman Inspects Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Preparation



By Asif Qureshi

Gadap Town. Ashraf Baloch, Deputy Director of Sanitation

KARACHI: Tariq Aziz Baloch, Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Gadap, along with Municipal Commissioner Ahmad Yaqub, and local council members, and officials, conducted a review of the preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). Their visit covered Union Committee Pipri and other Committees within

urgently issued directives to ensure the timely completion of cleanliness, lighting, and maintenance tasks along procession routes, mosques, and key gathering areas. He emphasized that the administration is working diligently to finalize arrangements in consultation with event organizers and religious scholars, related to the 12th Rabiul-Awwal.



KARACHI: Leaders of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek pose for a group photo with SSP Malir, Kashif Atab Abbasi, after discussing the arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW).—Photo by Asif Qureshi

## Muhammad Kamaal Mughal Named Vice Chair Of Consumer Association

KARACHI: Renowned businessman and social activist Muhammad Kamaal Mughal has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Consumers Association of Pakistan (CAP).

Kaukab Iqbal, Chairman of CAP, issued the official notification of his appointment, expressing confidence in Mughal's abilities to serve the cause of consumers.

Iqbal highlighted the challenges consumers are currently facing, including load shedding, rising prices, inflation, and damaged in-



frastructure due to recent rains. He expressed hope that Mughal will work diligently to address these issues and advocate for the betterment of consumers in his new role.—RT



KARACHI: A luncheon was held in honor of Abdul Samad Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association. Attendees, including Malik Khuda Baksh, Javed Bukhari, Tariq Hassan, Anwar Kamal, Muhammad Saeed, Ahmad, senior journalist Masood Ahmed Siddiqui, and Kashif Munir, gathered for a group photo.—RT

Barring that natural expression of villainy which we all have, the man looked honest enough.

—Mark Twain

# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

## READERS

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13 2024

## IHC Requests Federal Government's Position On Potential Military Trial For Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought clarification from the federal government over the prospects of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's military trial over his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots which witnessed military installations being vandalised following his arrest in a graft case last year.



"The PTI founder is a civilian [and] the military trial of a civilian is a matter of concern for the petitioner as well as the court," IHC's Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb said while hearing Khan's plea filed under Article 199 of the Constitution on September 3 amid speculations hinting at his trial in a military court.

The former prime minister's plea came against the backdrop of statements by government high-ups including Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar

which have fuelled such rumours. Commenting on the ex-PM's legal woes earlier this week, Asif had told a private news channel that it was becoming clearer day by day that the former prime minister would face a military trial based on "evidence against him".

It is pertinent to know that in July, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore — in a four-page written verdict — said that reasonable grounds existed to connect the PTI founder with the May 9 in-

cident. It is to be noted that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government had initiated military trials of those involved in installations in last year's riots.

The matter had ended up in the Supreme Court which declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void in its October 23 verdict which was later suspended by the apex court in a 5-1 majority ruling in December.

The majority order was announced on the intra-court appeals filed by the federal and provincial governments and the defence ministry against the top court's verdict.

The December 13 verdict stated that military court trials would be conditioned on the apex court's final verdict on the intra-court pleas.

Expressing his views during the hearing today, Justice Aurangzeb remarked the petitioner has referred to a statement issued by the director general Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) and said that if it is such, then the federation should present its clear stance on the matter. "Today if we [court] say that there's nothing [on the matter] and [then] tomorrow you produce an order for a military trial, what would happen then?" the judge said while directing the additional attorney general to take instructions from the federal

government and inform the court on Monday. "Is the PTI founder's military trial under consideration? If there's nothing as such then the plea will become ineffective. However, if it is then we [court] will hear the case and decide upon it," Justice Aurangzeb noted while pointing out that a decision of the SC on civilians' military trials exists already in response to additional AG's request for a decision on the objections raised on Khan's pleas, the judge said that he was removing the objections raised by the IHC registrar's office. He was referring to the objections that the petitioner neither mentioned any specific information report (FIR) nor any documentation or order was attached to the petition and questioned how a petition be filed in a high court while the matter of military trials is sub judice in the Supreme Court. —RT/Agency

## PTI MNAs Arrested On Parliament Grounds Presented In National Assembly

ISLAMABAD: At least 10 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Members of National Assembly (MNAs), who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House in a late-night raid for allegedly violating newly-enacted public gathering law, were brought to the lower house on Thursday after their production orders were issued by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.



In the fresh crackdown on Monday, the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and "masked men" — after late night — allegedly entered the Parliament House and whisked away at least 10 lawmakers of the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party.

A number of cases were filed against PTI leaders, which also include the reported attack on police at Chongi No 26 — which turned into a battleground as PTI workers and law enforcers clashed after the former deviated routes leading to Sangiani, venue of public gathering.

The arrests drew scathing criticism from the former ruling party but from the speaker as well as some members of the treasury benches.

Subsequently, Sadiq suspended five security staff, including the lower house of parliament's Sergeant at Arms Muhammad Ishaq Ashraf, for four months over failure to ensure the house's

security.

He also issued production orders of the PTI MNAs in police custody — Malik Aamir Dogar, Zain Hussain Qureshi, Waqar Akram, Sher Afzal Marwat, Muhammad Ahmed Chatta, Zubair Khan Wazir, Owais Haider Jakhra, Syed Shah Adad Ali Shah, Naseem Ali Shah, and Muhammad Yusuf Khan.

Following the orders, the federal police presented them in the lower house of parliament today amid high security. A heavy contingent of police also reached the House along with the detainees.

Speaking on the NA floor, PTI firebrand politician Marwat thanked the speaker for issuing their production orders. "The police have not returned my personal pistol and five Kalashnikov — kept in car at the time of arrest."

Rejecting the cases registered against him, Marwat said he was booked for tearing uniform of a police officer.

On the other hand, Leader

of Opposition Omar Ayub condemned the "storming of Parliament" by masked men, demanding NA Speaker to investigate the matter.

"The Constitution and law have been violated," he said, asking how the Islamabad police chief dared to arrest the parliamentarians. "How a DSP [deputy superintendent of police] showed a pistol to Marwat?"

The opposition leader further said that the lawmakers were arrested and thrashed, adding the "masked men" had said they don't follow law.

He also asked the speaker how the law enforcers got keys of lawmakers' lodges. "Mr Speaker, who gave them the keys," he said, noting that suspension of security officials would not make a difference.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the physical remand of the arrested lawmakers and adjourned the hearing till tomorrow. —RT/Agency

## Federal Cabinet Approves Initiative To Enhance Gwadar Port Operations

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to direct all government departments to route 50% of their imports, such as wheat, sugar, and fertilizer, through the Gwadar Port.



Earlier, the prime minister had issued the directives to increase the Gwadar port operations to ensure development and prosperity of the Balochistan province. He also directed that 50% of all public sector imports should be ensured through the Gwadar Port. The meeting of the cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The cabinet also instructed to increase the volume of exports from Gwadar Port in the future. A subcommittee of the cabinet will be formed to submit a quarterly report on imports and exports through Gwadar Port to the cabinet. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Communications, approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the issuance of a commemorative postal stamp to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Ministry of Industries and Production presented a report from the Cabinet Committee on Sugar Exports. The cabinet expressed satisfaction that, due to a well-timed decision on sugar exports, the country not only earned valuable foreign exchange, but sugar prices remained stable, and sugarcane farmers were adequately rewarded for their efforts. The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, also approved the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Korangi Fish Harbour Authority, Karachi. The cabinet instructed that all provinces should be given representation on such government boards. Additionally, the cabinet directed that any government-owned corporations with incomplete boards should be fully constituted as soon as possible. On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Health Services, the cabinet approved the appointment of Muhammad Yaqoob, Assistant Director of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, as the Federal Inspector Drug Balochistan. Likewise,

on the recommendation of the Planning Ministry, the federal cabinet approved an amendment to the Cabinet resolution dated October 30, 2013, regarding the appointment of Planning Commission members from the open market. Under this amendment, the salaries of Planning Commission members will now be set under the Special Professional Pay Scale-II (SPPS-II) instead of the Management Pay Scale. Furthermore, the cabinet also approved setting the salary of the Chief Economist of the Planning Commission, to be appointed from the open market, under the Special Professional Pay Scale-I (SPPS-I). The cabinet, based on the recommendations of the Revenue Division and according to the Supreme Court of Pakistan's orders, approved the Federal Public Service Commission to conduct departmental promotion exams for the posts of Inspector and Inland Revenue (BPS-16). —RT/Agency

## Pakistan Seeks \$1.2 Billion Saudi Oil Facility For One Year



ISLAMABAD: In a bid to bridge the \$2-2.5 billion financing gap pointed out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the ongoing financial year, Pakistan has requested Saudi Arabian authorities for \$1.2 billion Saudi oil facility (SOF) for the next 12 months, official sources told media.

The publication, on Thursday, reported that a finance ministry handout did not mention anything regarding the matter. A staff-level deal was signed with the IMF under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF), however, it is yet to be put before the Fund's Executive Board for the loan's approval.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian government wants to procure 15% stakes in the Reko Diq project through investment in two phases; nonetheless, the transaction in this regard has not been made so far.

On the other hand, the Islamic Development Bank's ITCF facility has also been requested to provide \$400 to \$500 million loan. In addition, the Gulf commercial banks as well as the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) have also been requested for \$1 billion loan.

Besides fulfilling the additional financing of \$2.5 billion, Pakistan is also asking three bilateral creditors to roll over \$12 billion deposits lying with the State Bank of Pakistan. The country also requires commercial re-financing of \$4 billion during the current fiscal year to meet the total requirements of \$26.2 billion for the ongoing fiscal year.

According to an official statement issued by the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a homegrown economic agenda centered on comprehensive institutional reforms across key sectors of the economy. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, who called on him at the Finance Division on Wednesday. —RT/Agency

## Imran Khan Calls On PTI To Prepare For Nationwide Street Movement Under The Banner Of 'Jihad For Democracy'

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has urged his party to prepare for a nationwide street movement, declaring that the fight is necessary to safeguard the country's freedom.



Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Thursday, Khan said, "Our movement is a jihad for democracy. I call on the entire nation to take to the streets to save our freedom."

Khan accused Special Judge Humayun Dilawar of being behind his and his wife Bushra Bibi's imprisonment. "Humayun Dilawar was gifted land worth billions in return for his decisions against us. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Anti-Corruption department holds all the evidence, but now the FIA has filed a case against them."

He also criticised Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, alleging that Naqvi was rewarded with key positions including interior ministry and PCB chairmanship for his role in the government's crackdown on PTI. "Naqvi committed the worst atrocities against us, including the brutal killing of Zille Shah by the police. His body was dumped on the road, and an

FIR was lodged against me," Khan said.

Khan further condemned Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, accusing him of protecting those responsible for PTI's oppression. "Justice Isa stripped us of our electoral symbol and refused to hear our petitions on human rights violations."

The former prime minister expressed concerns over electoral fraud, saying, "The former Rawalpindi commissioner held the chief justice and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) accountable for the rigging, yet Chief Justice Isa will be given an extension."

Drawing a parallel to historical events, Khan likened the current political situation to that of Yahya Khan's era, accusing the powers that be

of prioritising personal interests over the nation. "Nawaz Sharif has been kept in custody with a scare, otherwise he would have fled long ago. The entire nation must rise for a street movement to preserve our freedom," Khan urged, adding that the rule of law is essential for attracting investment to Pakistan.

He concluded by announcing that PTI's street protest plans will be revealed soon, while also highlighting ongoing injustices, including the abduction of Saadullah Baloch's wife and daughter. "They have entered the assemblies and arrested parliamentarians. This has never happened before, and my wife's imprisonment is also illegal." —RT/Agency

## Court Dismisses Imran Khan's Request For Acquittal In £190 Million Case

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Thursday turned down Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's acquittal plea in the £190 million case.



The decision was announced during the hearing in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after arguments of all the parties were heard in the case.

The court fixed September 13 (tomorrow) as the date to cross-examine the investigating officer, who is the last witness of the reference.

The accountability court on September 10 had adjourned hearing of the plea seeking exoneration of the incarcerated former prime minister along with his wife in the case till today.

Previously, Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi had appeared before the court during the hearing conducted by accountability court Judge Nasir Javed Rana at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

The PTI founder on September 7 had filed a plea seeking acquittal in the £190 million case after the Supreme Court's verdict in 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. Later during the hearing, Khan and Bushra's lawyers did not appear before the court owing to their commitments in the Lahore High Court (LHC) due to which the reference's last witness, Mian Umar Nadeem — who is also an investigating officer — couldn't be cross-examined. Furthermore, assistant counsel Faisal Chaudhry's request

## Sindh CM Murad Shah And PPP Leader Naveed Qamar Meet With PM Shehbaz



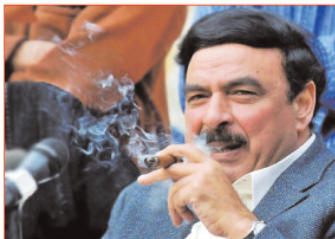
ISLAMABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with the PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Economic Affairs Minister, Ahmad Khan Chishti, and State Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik were also present during the meeting.

The discussion was about ongoing federal development projects in Sindh, as well as

## Sheikh Rashid Insists On September 30 Deadline, Foresees Collapse Of Coalition Government

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has reiterated his stance on the September 30 deadline, stating that the nation will soon know whether a "charter of democracy" is being formed or whether it's "the death of democracy."



Last month, Sheikh Rashid had predicted that a technocrat government will take control of the country by September 30. The former interior minister had claimed that the "intervention process" for installing the technocrat setup had already begun.

Speaking to the media outside an anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi on Thursday, where he appeared in connection with the May 9 cases, Rashid criticised the current state of governance. "Democracy has been

stripped bare on Constitution Avenue. Even drug dealers aren't arrested the way MNAs were picked up from parliament. If the speaker has any conscience left, they should resign. Even if there's just one member, move a no-confidence motion against him, even if it fails," Rashid said. He condemned the defamation of state institutions and lamented the rising cost of electricity. "Another Rs50 billion burden has been placed on the people. They are squeezing the already dead even further. Those they favour aren't given remand, while others are handed over to police on physical remand. Sixteen months have passed, and no charge sheet has been presented." —RT/Agency