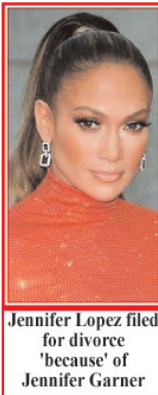


# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Jennifer Lopez filed for divorce 'because' of Jennifer Garner

## Heartland

MPA Rashid Khan Visits APCA Protest, Pledges Action On Forced Transfers



## Money

Pakistan's Oil And Gas Reserves Increase With Assistance From SIFC



## NATIONAL

Tarar Highlights National Value Of Modern Education For Seminary Students



## SPORTS

Pakistan cueists dominate in Snooker World Cup



Sindh Governor Honors Notable Figures With Honorary Doctorates

## Government Announces Rs10 Per Litre Reduction In Petrol Prices

ISLAMABAD: The government has reduced the prices of petroleum products, providing some relief to consumers across the country, media reported on Sunday.

As per the sources, the price of petrol has been cut by Rs 10 per litre, while diesel has seen a reduction of Rs 13.6 per litre.

In addition, the price of light diesel has been lowered by Rs 12 per litre, and kerosene prices have been reduced by Rs 11 to Rs 15 per litre.

These reductions come after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's approval of the revised prices, according to sources. The new rates are expected to provide some respite to the public amid rising inflation.

The government cut the petroleum price as international oil prices have significantly dropped by 8.5%,



plummeting from USD 79.39 per barrel on August 30, 2024, to USD 72.67 per barrel. This development marks a notable shift in the global energy markets.

This decline in petrol prices is largely attributed to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) revising its global oil demand forecast, leading to reduced demand and subsequent price drops, said Tahir Abbas Head of Research AHL.

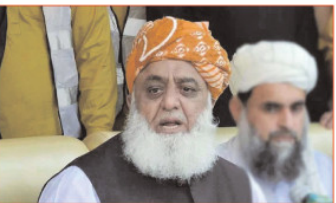
## Constitutional Reforms Stalled As Fazl Rejects Proposed Judges Extension And Retirement Age Increase

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, has refused to support the government's proposal to extend judges' tenure or increase their retirement age, leaving the government-proposed constitutional amendment package hanging in the balance.

This development has created a major hurdle for the ruling coalition, which has been scrambling to secure enough support to push the amendments aimed at making major changes to Pakistan's judicial and parliamentary systems through parliament.

According to sources, while opposition parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), along with some government allies, have given conditional backing for the formation of a constitutional court, they remain divided on the issue of judges' extension.

The development came after a meeting of special parliamentary committee, held to discuss the package, ended without a consensus, despite several rounds of consultations.



After the meeting, the session of the National Assembly (NA), initially slated for 11am today (Sunday), finally got underway late at night after multiple delays in the wake of consultations between the government and opposition.

The NA session was adjourned till 12.30pm tomorrow (Monday) shortly after it commenced. Similarly, meetings of the Senate, which was slated to take place earlier in the day, was also deferred till 12.30pm tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the federal cabinet meeting — summoned for the approval of the draft amendment — was also put off until tomorrow. The federal capital bustled on a Sunday as the government made efforts to in-

fluence on constitutional amendment," he said, adding that the party would consider suggestions that it deems to be good.

After a slew of meetings with the ruling coalition and opposition, Maulana Fazl arrived at the Parliament House to attend the special parliamentary committee meeting.

"Stay tuned," the veteran politician responded to a journalist's question in the parliament corridor.

The prospects of the said constitutional package came amid speculations revolving around extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa — who is set to retire in October this year — after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought an early issuance of notification regarding the next top judge last month. As per a report published in media, a consensus on increasing the retirement age of superior court judges has not yet been formalised, with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vowing to launch a countryside protest if the age limit of Supreme Court and high court judges is revised.—RT/Agency

## Ambassador Rizwan Emphasizes Strengthening US Trade Relations For Pakistan's Economic Growth

HOUSTON: Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, has stated that boosting exports to the US, the country's largest trading partner, could significantly contribute to putting Pakistan's economy on a path to sustainable growth.

Rizwan said this in a meeting with Karachi-Houston Sister City Association (HKSCA) President Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, in Washington DC.

In his discussion with Saeed, who is a prominent business leader and recognised volunteer in Houston, the ambassador highlighted the essential role of Pakistani-American organisations in fostering trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

Rizwan emphasised that the Pakistani-American community is not only fortifying the ties between Islamabad and Washington but also making significant contributions to Pakistan's development, particularly in the face of recent challenges.

He underscored that strengthening trade ties could



be crucial in addressing Pakistan's current economic issues and assured Saeed of his full support in this endeavour.

Meanwhile, Saeed, who has been actively engaged in trade and humanitarian activities for over 40 years, updated the ambassador on various successful trade-related initiatives. He also presented detailed reports on development projects he has led, including the 2022 Pakistan Flood Relief efforts, which raised \$2 million in humanitarian aid for flood victims.

This initiative, in collaboration with 40 organisations like Helping Hand and the Alliance for Disaster Relief, provided relief to over 65,000 flood victims through the delivery of medical supplies and equipment.

Furthermore, the HKSCA president briefed Rizwan on ongoing projects, such as the establishment of RO water filtration plants, the planting of over 10,000 trees across Pakistan, and the launch of a student scholarship program.

Ambassador Rizwan praised Saeed's commitment to trade and humanitarian efforts, recognising the significant impact of his initiatives.—RT/Agency

## Mengal Calls For Release Of Missing Persons In Exchange For Bill Support

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party Mengal (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal has demanded the release of missing persons in return of supporting the ruling coalition in passing the constitutional amendment bill.

Mengal got much importance in the current political landscape as the ruling coalition is desperate to pass the constitutional amendment bill at any cost.

He was approached by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday.



The sources said that the Baloch veteran has refused to vote till the recovery of missing persons.

The ruling coalition is struggling to meet the required numbers in both

houses of the parliament to pass the legislation and BNP-M has two votes in the Senate.

The sources said that Mengal has sought the draft of proposed legislation from

Sadiq Sanjrani. They added that the BNP-M chief has demanded the release of 2,000 missing persons in return of his two votes in the upper house of parliament.

Earlier, BNP-M chief had announced his resignation from the National Assembly.

Mengal criticised the current political system, stating that it would be better to open a small business rather than to continue a role where the assembly does not listen to their voice.

Mengal was elected a member of the National Assembly from NA-256 Khuzdar.

The government has summoned an important session of the Senate and National Assembly on Sunday to table the constitutional amendment bill.

A six-point agenda for the National Assembly has also been issued. The constitutional amendment bill related to the judiciary includes a proposal to increase the age of superannuation of Supreme Court judges to 68 years from 65 years, and that of high court judges from 62 years to 65 years.—RT/Agency

## Cabinet Division To Assess Value Of Toshakhana Gifts



ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Division has decided to estimate the value of gifts received in the Toshakhana, media reported.

As per details, the division has invited bids from private appraisers by September 30 to evaluate the value of various categories of gifts, including jewelry, watches, carpets, and other items. The aim is to determine the actual value of these gifts, and the selected appraisers will be tasked with assessing their value. The Cabinet Division will enter into an agreement with the successful bidders, who will be paid a fee for their services. Toshakhana is de-

partment or repository under the Government of Pakistan's Cabinet Division that is responsible for maintaining and managing gifts received by government officials, particularly the President and Prime Minister, from foreign dignitaries or other sources. The Toshakhana department was established in 1974, and its primary purpose is to preserve and showcase the valuable gifts received by Pakistani leaders as a symbol of national pride and friendship.

The gifts can range from jewelry, decorative items, and artwork to vehicles and other valuable artifacts.—RT/Agency

**EXCISE, TAXATION, AND NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**

**SINDH EXCISE DEPARTMENT TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS DIGITIZATION**

## BIOMETRIC VERIFICATION NOW MANDATORY

FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALL NEW & OLD VEHICLES

The Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department, Sindh, has initiated the following:

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	DATE
First	New Registration: Biometric has already been started this year	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024
Second	Transfer/Alteration of Vehicles: Biometric Verification will start for Buyers Only	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024
Third	Transfer/Alteration of Vehicles: Biometric Verification for Buyer & Seller (Both)	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025

Vehicle sellers are requested to carry out biometric verification at the sale of vehicle.

You can register or transfer your vehicle through biometric verification at any NADRA e-Sahulat Center across the country or at Sindh's District Excise Offices.

IMMEDIATE  
REGISTRATION &  
TRANSFER  
PROTECTION  
FOR LIFE

WARNING

OWNERS PLYING VEHICLES ON ROADS ON OPEN LETTERS ARE ADVISED TO TRANSFER THE VEHICLE TO THEIR NAME BEFORE 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 OR THEY WILL FACE HEAVY FINES

Visit our website for more information

www.excise.gos.pk

For more information, call

021-111-374634

021-111-ESINDR

For tax-related complaints, email at

taxportal@excise.gos.pk

For other complaints, email at

info@excise.gos.pk

Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department,  
**Government of Sindh**

# THE HEARTLAND



## MPA Rashid Khan Visits APCA Protest, Pledges Action On Forced Transfers

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Rashid Khan, Member of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, visited the protest camp set up by the All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) at the Directorate of Schools Education, Hyderabad. The protest was organized in response to the forced transfers of Superintendents from the Sindh Education Department.



APCA's central and provincial leaders, including Asadullah Durrani, Ashraf Khan Bozai, Syed Munoor Ali Shah, Inam Baksh Memon, Aqeel Qureshi, and other officials, warmly received Mr. Khan. During his visit, they briefed him on the injustices faced by the department's lower staff.

## Mushaira And 272nd Urs Of Hazrat Makhdoom Muhammad Ismail (RA) Held At Khairpur Gymkhana Club

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The 272nd Urs celebration of Hazrat Makhdoom Muhammad Ismail (RA) was marked by a grand Mushaira (poetry gathering) at the Gymkhana Club Khairpur. The event commenced with a soulful recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Qari Amer Ali, setting a spiritual tone for the proceedings.



Poet and scholar Kausar Brohi presided over the event, while notable special guests included Makhdoom Munir Ali Hashmi, Pir Tauqeer Jan Sarhindi from Kiran Sharif, Pir Farhan Ali Sarhindi from Shikarpur, Pir Syed Kashif Ali Shah Jilani from Ranipur, Director of Radio Pakistan Khairpur Syed Akbar Shah, and former Dean of Shah Abdul Latif University Dr. Taj Muhammad Lashari.

## HerSpace Hosts Pioneering Workshop On Climate Anxiety In Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: HerSpace, a youth-led grassroots network dedicated to gender and climate justice, successfully hosted its inaugural "Clay Conversations: A One-Day Workshop for Climate Anxiety" at Artghar in Hyderabad.



This groundbreaking event marked the first workshop in Hyderabad specifically aimed at addressing climate anxiety, drawing a diverse group of participants, including students, development professionals, academics, and artists.

The workshop provided a unique and therapeutic environment for attendees to explore and articulate their feelings about the climate crisis through creative outlets such as clay sculpting, mindfulness exercises, and live music. As a member of the UNESCO YOUNIC network, HerSpace emphasizes the critical intersection between gender and climate issues, acknowledging their profound interconnection.

## Villagers Protest Against ATC Case, Block National Highway In Thatta



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: A large group of villagers, backed by activists from political and nationalist parties, staged a sit-in on the National Highway connecting Thatta and Hyderabad at Chhuttochad, a commercial hub, on Sunday. The protest brought vehicular traffic to a halt for several hours.

The demonstration was triggered by the registration of an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) case against over 50 known villagers and 400 unidentified individuals. The case was allegedly filed by the owner of a local stone-crushing plant following a protest by the villagers.

The villagers had earlier voiced their concerns over the environmental and safety hazards caused by the stone-crushing operations in their area. The plant owner, however, accused the protesters of theft and launching an attack, leading to the ATC case being registered.

## Residents Of Village Sanolo Jamali Protest Against Harassment By Influential Figures



By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Residents of Sanolo Jamali village, within the jurisdiction of the A-Section Police Station, held a protest in front of the press club, carrying the Holy Quran as a symbol of their plea for justice.

The protest was led by Samira Jamali, Muskan Jamali, Saima Jamali, and Mahboob Jamali, who voiced their grievances against influential individuals in their community.

The protesters alleged that their relatives—Sadeer Jamali, Kalo Jamali, Zulfiqar, and Murtaza Jamali—had been coercing them to engage in immoral activities. When the residents refused, they were subjected to violent attacks.

## Hur Followers Embark On Foot Journey From Achhro Thar To Pir Pagara's Shrine

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A group of Hur followers, led by Faqir Syed Suleman Shah, Faqir Misri Faqir Rajah, and Faqir Muhammad Azeem Jonejo, commenced their annual pilgrimage on foot from Achhro Thar, Sanghar, to visit their spiritual leader, Pir Sahib Pagara, the head of the Functional Muslim League. The group made a stop in Khairpur, where they were welcomed at the residence of Faqir Sabir Hussain Mahesara, a District Council member and the Information Secretary for the Functional Muslim League in Taluka Khairpur.

After a brief rest, the group continued their journey toward Pir Jo Goth, the location of Pir Pagara's shrine. Chanting slogans in honor of their revered leader, the followers expressed their devotion and commitment to the spiritual tradition of the Hur community.

## Haakro Welfare Association Advocates For Promotion Of Livelihood Skills In Schools, Gains Support From Education Officials

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Haakro Welfare Association, led by Patron Muhammad Ramzan and Dr. Maqbool Ahmed Shar, has successfully passed a resolution calling for the integration of livelihood skills alongside academic education in schools.



The initiative received widespread support from key stakeholders, reflecting the growing demand for practical skills to be taught within the education system.

During the meeting, Additional Director Chandu Mal expressed his agreement with the suggestions put forward by the association and assured his full cooperation in implementing these changes. Madam Fauzia, Deputy Director of Education, also praised the efforts of the Haakro Welfare Association, offering her support and adding valuable suggestions to enhance the initiative.

## IBA-Qualified PST And JST Candidates Demand Immediate Recruitment In Khairpur Protest Rally

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: IBA-qualified Primary School Teacher (PST) and Junior School Teacher (JST) candidates, under the banner of the Action Committee for 40-plus Marks Holders, organized a protest rally demanding their appointment orders. The rally, which began at Session Court Road and concluded at the press club, was led by Ali Ahmed Shar, Ghulam Asghar Memon, Salahuddin Chana, and Mulazim Hussain Shar.



The protesting candidates expressed their deep frustration, stating that despite passing the qualifying criteria over three years ago, the Sindh government has failed to issue their appointment orders. They called this delay an outright injustice, especially when the province's education system is in dire need of qualified teachers.

In their protest, the candidates urged the provincial government to take immediate action against the Sindh Education Minister, Sardar Shah, and other responsible officials. They demanded the swift recruitment of all candidates who secured 40-plus marks to fill the vacancies in the education system and address the crisis in the province's schools.

## Pakistan Sunni Tehreek Announces New Leadership For Sukkur Division Amid Milad-Un-Nabi Rally

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The central leadership of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek (PST) has announced new appointments for key positions in the Sukkur Division. Senior party leader Muhammad Ramzan Mughal has been named the President of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek for Sukkur Division, while Mir Muhammad Shah has taken the role of District President for Khairpur. Abdul Qudoos Soomro has been appointed as General Secretary, Ghulam Murtaza Metlo as Taluka Khairpur President, Asif Ali Mughal as City Khairpur President, and Irshad Rajput as District Leader Prior to the formal announcements, the party organized a rally titled "Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah," which began from Saraki Mor Lukman. Led by central leaders Mufti Muhammad

illumined the world with his light. The speakers urged those who do not wish to celebrate the Milad to refrain from obstructing those who do. The event concluded with participants being congratulated on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. Special prayers were offered for the freedom of Palestine and Kashmir, the relief of hardships and difficulties, and the progress and prosperity of Pakistan, including prayers for continued success for the Pakistan Army. The rally was conducted under tight security, with flower petals being showered on the participants as they marched. Along the way, citizens generously provided cold water, sherbet, and food to the rally attendees. Throughout the procession, the crowd fervently recited Darood, Salaam, and Naat in honor of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

## Kumb Couple Protest Harassment By Influential Figures, Demands Protection

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A couple from the village of Muhammad Bux Dahr, located within the jurisdiction of the Kumb Police Station near Khairpur, staged a second day of protests, calling for protection from harassment by influential individuals. Zohaib Hassan Dahr and his wife, Zubeda, revealed that they had entered into a marriage

of their own choice last month, a decision that angered certain powerful figures in their community. Since their marriage, the couple has been subjected to continuous harassment and threats from the accused—Imdad Mallah, Saleem Mati, and their associates. The intimidation has left the couple in a state of fear and distress, forcing them to go into hiding to protect themselves. Despite repeatedly reporting the threats to the Khairpur police, no action has been taken against the alleged harassers. The couple has now appealed to higher authorities, urging the DIG Sukkur and SSP Khairpur to take immediate action against the accused and ensure their safety. They stressed the need for justice and protection from the ongoing threats they face.

# NATIONAL



## Maryam Stresses Necessity Of Democracy For Pakistan's Progress And Public Welfare

LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz has stressed that the democracy was inevitable for Pakistan's development and progress and public welfare.



Sharing her message on International Democracy Day, she hailed the sacrifices of all democratic leaders including Nawaz Sharif for protection of democracy.

Maryam Nawaz insisted that democracy empowered public to elect their representatives.

"A country develops and progress with strengthening of democracy. Democracy is a source of social justice and public prosperity," Maryam Nawaz highlighted.

International Day of Democracy is being observed worldwide today to promote democracy and create awareness amongst masses about the importance of strong democratic institutions.

## Rubina Khalid Applauds Sindh Government's Decision To Eliminate Birth Certificate Fees

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Sunday expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister of Sindh and the cabinet members for approving the abolition of the birth certificate fee for children in Sindh.

On Chairperson Rubina Khalid's instructions, Director General BISP Sindh, Zulfikar Ali Shaikh, engaged in various discussions with key figures such as Provincial Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, and Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

The birth certificate is a crucial document for obtaining a B-form, which is essential for children's re-certification surveys and access to educational scholarships.—RT/Agency

## Syedaal Khan Apprises About PM's Ongoing Efforts To Tackle Pakistan's Challenges

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan Sunday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is actively working to address the challenges facing Pakistan and is committed to fostering prosperity and development in the country.



He highlighted that significant efforts are being made to tackle the country's problems effectively. He further said that thanks to the relentless efforts of both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif, a noticeable reduction in inflation has been achieved.

He pointed out that electricity prices have been reduced under Nawaz Sharif's directives, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's tireless efforts have contributed to a significant decrease in inflation.

He stressed that with proper legislation and strategic planning, the country's situation can be further improved.

The Deputy Chairman Senate emphasized the importance of a joint action plan with coalition partners to address the ongoing crises. He assured members of Parliament that every effort is being made to improve the nation's condition, stating, "We are united in our mission to bring betterment to the country."

He added that the government remains committed to providing relief to the public, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif taking every possible step to ensure progress.

Syedaal Khan urged Senate members to support the government in creating a cooperative environment within Parliament to facilitate the country's advancement.—RT/Agency

## Lahore Police Arrest Mother And Son For Selling Spoiled Chickens; 970 Kilos Of Meat Seized

LAHORE: A woman and her son were arrested in Lahore for selling dead and underweight chickens, as authorities disposed of 970 kg of unsafe poultry meat.



The crackdown was ordered by the Director General of the Punjab Food Authority at Tollinton Market.

Early morning inspections saw 44,000 kg of meat and poultry being checked.

Dead chickens were found in a warehouse, leading to the registration of a case.

The Punjab Food Authority's Meat Safety team, during their daily inspection, found a shop where the dead

chicken was intended for poultry to be secretly prepared for sale.

Despite strong resistance from the woman, the operation was completed under police supervision, and the harmful meat was destroyed.

The inspection revealed poor hygiene conditions at the meat shop. The unsafe

## Tarar Highlights National Value Of Modern Education For Seminary Students



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that introduction of latest knowledge in seminars and imparting latest education to their students was a great service to the nation.

Addressing a ceremony at Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia in Lahore through video link, he congratulated the management of the Darul Uloom for introducing new degrees in various educational sectors in many seminaries.

He said this would help equip the students of religious seminaries with modern education and they would be able to join the national mainstream.

He expressed the hope that among the students of seminaries will emerge leading scholars, intellectuals, legal experts, doctors etc.

He said imparting modern education to all was need of the hour and steps taken at Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia would prove a milestone in this mission.

Tarar hoped that in the near future, graduates from seminaries would come forward and play an important role in making Pakistan an ideal Islamic welfare state as envisaged by the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Poet of the East Allama Iqbal.

## Two Motorbike Thieves Arrested; Three Stolen Bikes Recovered



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Shams Colony police station team on Sunday apprehended two wanted members of a bike lifter gang involved in numerous bike lifting activities and recovered three stolen motorcycles from their possession.

According to a police spokesperson following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, ICT Police had started a crackdown against criminal elements involved in bike lifting activities in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

Following these directives, the Shams Colony police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two accused involved in numerous bike lifting activities, he said.

## ADB President Updated On BISP's Key Initiatives

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Asian Development Bank Masatsugu Asakawa, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme to observe its initiatives aimed at providing cash assistance, supporting enrolment in schools and maternal and child health in Pakistan.

During the visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Taxila and the Benazir Nashonuma Centre at Wah General Hospital, the ADB President was briefed on BISP's programs and their impact on the education, health and well-being of the poorest households.

Accompanied by an ADB delegation, President Masatsugu Asakawa received a briefing from BISP Director General Naveed Akbar. The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives, such as Benazir Kafaalat, Taleem Wazaif Nashonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

## Government Greenlighting Modernization Of Shipbreaking Industry: Qaiser

GADDANI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has said that Federal Government has approved modernization project of shipbreaking industry at a cost of 12 billion rupees.

Qaiser said a waste management plant, a 30-bedded hospital, blacktop roads and a fire brigade station are included in the project.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said the process of modernization of shipbreaking industry under Hong Kong Convention would be completed by June next year. He also laid foundation stone of Industrial Waste Management plant site. The Minister was briefed about operational industrial activities of Gaddani shipbreaking yard.—RT/Agency

## PM Unveils National Campaign To Boost Organ Donation Awareness

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced the launch of a national initiative aimed at promoting organ donation, which features a special logo for voluntary organ donors on National Identity Cards.



Individuals who voluntarily register themselves as organ donors will have a special, exclusive logo printed on their National Identity Cards, symbolizing their commitment to giving the gift of life," the prime minister said in a message in connection with International Identity Day.

He said organ donation is a profound act of kindness that can give a new lease on life to those in need. "I encourage all citizens to participate in this initiative and become part of a life-saving community."

He said today, as we commemorate International Identity Day, we reflect on the profound significance of identity in our society.

The prime minister urged to work collectively towards building a more inclusive world where every individual's rights are recognized and respected. "I call upon citizens, civil society, and governmental institutions to unite in fostering a culture of awareness and education surrounding identity issues."

He stressed the need to identify and address the critical gaps in current national registration and biometric ecosystem. The prime minister also encourage the integration of digital solutions and innovation to streamline access to services and enhance the accuracy of identity verification.

The prime minister said it is not merely a

## MONEY

## Pakistan's Oil and Gas Reserves Increase With Assistance From SIFC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's oil reserves saw a 26% rise, while gas reserves increased by 2% by the end of the 2024 financial year, according to official data from the Petroleum Information Service.



These positive developments were achieved with the support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which enabled new discoveries in the exploration and production sectors.

By June 2024, Pakistan's crude oil reserves reached 243 million barrels, compared to 193 million barrels in December 2023.

Similarly, gas reserves grew from 18.10 trillion cubic feet in December 2023 to 18.47 trillion cubic feet by mid-2024.

Experts note that the newly discovered oil reserves can meet Pakistan's needs for 10 years, while gas reserves are sufficient for 17 years.

Ahmed praised the government's proactive measures, attributing the 50 million barrel increase in oil production and the 1.1 trillion cubic feet growth in gas reserves to effective exploration and well-managed initiatives.

Key contributors to these achievements include the Oil & Gas Development Company (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Mari Petroleum Company Limited, and Pakistan Oilfields Limited.

This promising progress, aided by SIFC reforms, is expected to attract more investments in Pakistan's gas sector, especially in exploration and production.

According to experts, these local reserves help refineries meet 70% of the country's diesel demand and 30% of its petrol demand.—RT/Agency

## SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## Faisalabad Police Disciplines 46 Officers For Negligence

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The top police officials have taken strict action against dozens of police officers guilty of departmental negligence and carelessness. A case has been registered against 46 police officers who disappeared official documents, while later departmental action was also taken against the said police employees. During their deployment in Faisalabad, the said police officers did not submit the samples of different cases to the relevant prosecution branch but disappeared.

The matter was brought to the notice of the higher police officers by the prosecution branch, on which strict action was ordered against the officers. By taking action against the officers under section 155C and 380 of the Criminal Procedure Code case regularities.

# EDITORIAL

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

Monday, September 16, 2024



## Another Victim Denied Justice Amid Growing Threats to Polio Workers

The recent rape of a polio worker in Jacobabad serves as a tragic reminder of the growing dangers faced by those on the frontlines of public health in Pakistan. This horrific crime, compounded by the actions of law enforcement, underscores a broader issue—victims of sexual violence are being denied justice, their voices silenced under the weight of corruption and influence.

The case reveals the stark reality of how powerful figures manipulate the justice system. The polio worker was coerced into retracting her initial statement of rape,

forced by the police to claim she was merely robbed. Only after presenting her case in court did the truth begin to emerge.



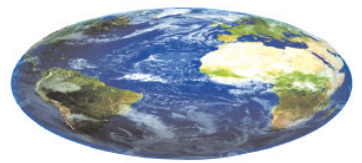
However, the fact that her statement was changed by the police, at the behest of influential figures, speaks volumes about the lack of accountability and protection for victims in Pakistan.

This attack is not an isolated incident but part of a disturbing pattern. Polio workers, especially women, have long been at risk,

facing threats, violence, and now, rape while carrying out life-saving work. These frontline workers already operate in a hostile environment, and this latest crime only adds to the climate of fear.

Until justice is served—not only for this victim but for all victims of sexual violence—Pakistan will continue to be a country where the vulnerable are left unprotected, and the powerful walk free. The system must be reformed to hold perpetrators accountable and protect those who serve their communities, or we risk losing the battle not only against polio but against injustice itself.

# GLOBAL WATCH



## 34 Iranian women prisoners on hunger strike: jailed Nobel peace laureate

TEHRAN: Thirty-four women prisoners went on hunger strike in an Iranian prison on Sunday to mark two years since protests erupted against clerical authorities, the foundation of Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi said.

"Today, on the 15th September 2024, 34 female political prisoners in Evin Prison have gone on a hunger strike in commemoration of the second anniversary of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and the killing of Mahsa (Jina) Amini," it said.

Amini was a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd whose death in custody after her arrest for allegedly violating the strict dress code for women sparked the demonstrations.

The prisoners had abstained from food "in solidarity with the protesting people of Iran, against the government's oppressive policies," the foundation added.

Mohammadi, who has campaigned against the compulsory wearing of the hijab and the death penalty in Iran, has been in Tehran's Evin prison since November 2021. She has spent much of the past decade in and out of jail and has staged repeated hunger strikes.

"On the second anniversary of the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving democracy, freedom, and equality and to defeating theocratic despotism," Mohammadi said in a statement on her official X account. "Today, we raise our voices louder and strengthen our resolve."



Mohammadi's children received the Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf in 2023 while she was incarcerated. According to her family, she was on hunger strike at the time in solidarity with the Baha'i community, Iran's largest religious minority who say they are targeted by discrimination.

UN experts last month accused Iran of denying Mohammadi proper healthcare.

She "was reportedly subjected to physical violence" in Evin on August 6, during

which she "allegedly lost consciousness, and sustained injuries to her ribcage and other parts of her body," the experts said. Iranian authorities acknowledged a confrontation had taken place, but blamed Mohammadi for "provocation" and denied any prisoners had been beaten.

Women-led protests erupted after Amini died in custody on September 16, 2022.

The protests rattled Iran's leadership that autumn and winter, but authorities crushed them, with rights group Amnesty International saying security forces used assault rifles and shotguns in the crackdown. Human rights groups say at least 551 people were killed. Thousands more were arrested, according to the United Nations.—Agency

## "It's Terrifying": Woman In China Finds Human Tooth In Mooncake, Probe Underway



Sam's Club, a US-based supermarket chain, is facing investigation after a shocking discovery in one of its China branches. According to the South China Morning Post, a customer was left stunned after she found a human tooth in a meat-filled mooncake purchased from the Changzhou location in Jiangsu province. A video posted on Douyin by the woman shows the unsettling find in the 30-yuan (\$4) pastry. The disturbing footage shows a hand holding a suspected human molar, covered in meat filling, on a piece of tissue paper next to a partially consumed mooncake. She confirmed the tooth wasn't from anyone in her family and immediately reported the incident to the police.

"My family ate this just now. Look at what it ate. It's terrifying," a voice can be heard saying.

Sam's Club has now launched an investigation into the disturbing discovery, while the mooncake manufacturer has denied any possibility of contamination. Speaking to Hongxing News, spokesperson Liu insisted it's "impossible" for a tooth to be mixed into the meat filling.

Liu explained that the manufacturing process involves mincing meat, which

is then scanned by X-ray machines designed to detect bone fragments. He emphasized that the company has a decade-long track record of incident-free production. The manufacturer has also handed over surveillance footage for review by Sam's Club and the Changzhou market regulatory department.

Online reactions ranged from disgust to dark humour, with one user joking, "Mooncake: now with meat and a suspected calcium!"

However, another user offered an alternative explanation, suggesting the customer double-check if a family member unknowingly lost a tooth. He wrote, "It's possible to lose part of a tooth without feeling any pain, so they might not even realize it's missing."

Sam's Club has faced food safety concerns in China before. In 2022, a woman from Fujian province alleged that her uncle discovered three artificial human teeth inside Swiss rolls bought from a Sam's Club store. The uncle reportedly broke his teeth after biting into the product. Although the store promised an investigation, no definitive findings were ever made public.—Agency

## Albert Einstein's 1939 Atomic Bomb Warning Letter Sells For 32.7 Crores

The letter that Albert Einstein penned in 1939, urging President Roosevelt to prioritize nuclear research, sold for a staggering \$3.9 million at a recent Christie's auction. This letter, which played a pivotal role in the development of the atomic bomb, was originally addressed to the US president, highlighting the grave potential of nuclear weapons and the urgent need for American involvement.



The original letter, now part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library's collection in New York, was Einstein's attempt to warn President Roosevelt that Germany might be developing nuclear weapons. In the letter, Einstein discussed recent breakthroughs in nuclear physics, noting that uranium could become "a new and important source of energy" and warning that this energy could be harnessed to create "extremely powerful bombs."

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Einstein, along with fellow physicist Leo Szilard, had fled Europe due to the rise of Adolf Hitler. Feeling a sense of urgency, Einstein's letter helped convince the U.S. government to expedite its research into nuclear fission, leading to the Manhattan Project and the eventual development of atomic bombs.

Peter Klamet, senior specialist in Americana, books, and manuscripts at Christie's,

described the letter as "one of the most influential letters in history." Written in the summer of 1939, it set the stage for the nuclear arms race and changed the course of the war and human history. According to Business Insider, the auctioned copy was the only one in private hands, previously owned by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, who purchased it in 2002 for \$2.1 million. Before that, it was part of publisher Malcolm Forbes' collection, acquired from Leo Szilard's estate.

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## Rahul Gandhi's Sikh 'existential threat' confirmation bolsters Khalistan Referendum: Pannun

LONDON: Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's factually truthful statement in Washington DC acknowledging that Sikhs are facing an existential threat in India will serve as a catalyst for the Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) Khalistan Referendum campaign and will amplify and bolster the support for the independence of Punjab, the group's Counsel General Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has said.



"That is why the opposition leader has launched his diplomatic move to build rapport with future neighbour Khalistan. Gandhi has signalled to the US that the Congress party has accepted that Punjab will be an independent country because Sikhs are facing an existential threat in Modi's India," he added.

The New York-based lawyer said: "These BJP, RSS and Jana Sangh leaders such as Manjinder Sirsa and Iqbal Lalpura are enemies of Sikhs, Punjab and Khalistan and they will be held accountable. Prime Minister Modi, it is high time you realise that the people of Punjab are seeking independence from the Union of India through the global Khalistan referendum."

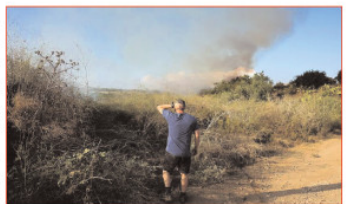
## Michaela DePrince, America's Trailblazing Ballerina, Dies Aged 29



Ballet dancer Michaela Mabinty DePrince, who moved to the United States from an orphanage in conflict-ridden Sierra Leone and beyond have poured in, with American ballerina Misty Copeland writing, "Despite being told the world wasn't ready for black ballerinas," she remained determined and made big strides." DePrince's life and career shattered barriers for dancers of colour, challenging stereotypes in the ballet community. Born in 1995 in Kenema, Sierra Leone, DePrince's early life was marked by tragedy.—Agency

## Israel to retaliate as Netanyahu warns Houthis after missile hits central Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would inflict a "heavy price" on the Iran-aligned Houthis who control northern Yemen, after they reached central Israel with a missile on Sunday for the first time.



Reuters saw smoke billowing in an open field in central Israel.

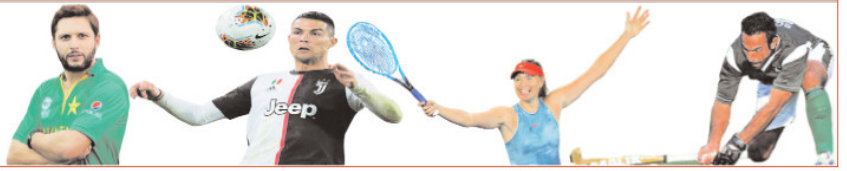
Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sareea said the group struck with a new hypersonic ballistic missile that travelled 2,040 km (1270 miles) in just 11 1/2 minutes. After initially saying the missile had fallen in an open area, Israel's military later said it had probably fragmented in the air, and that pieces of interceptors had landed in fields and near a railway station. No body was reported hurt.

Air raid sirens had sounded in Tel Aviv and across central Israel moments before the impact at around 6:35 a.m. local time (0335 GMT), sending residents running for shelter. Loud booms were heard.

The drone that hit Tel Aviv for the first time in July killed a man and wounded four people. Israeli air strikes in response on Houthi military targets near the port of Hodeidah killed six and wounded 80.

Previously, Houthi missiles have not penetrated deep into Israeli airspace, with the only one reported to have hit Israeli territory falling in an open area near the Red Sea port of Eilat in March.—Agency

# SPORTS



## Pakistan cueists dominate in Snooker World Cup



MONGOLIA: Pakistani cueists Awais Munir and Asjad Iqbal secured victories in their third matches without facing a single defeat and advanced to the Round of 16 at the Snooker World Cup in Mongolia.

Awais triumphed over Iran's Siyavosh Mozayeni with a 3-1 scoreline. After losing the first frame, he made a brilliant comeback to win the next three frames consecutively.

The frame scores favouring the cueists were 9-63, 78-34, 59-50, and 73-13.

On the other hand, Asjad defeated Qatar's Ali Alabdilli to maintain his lead in the group. Asjad's frame scores were 59-36, 26-63, 58-19, and 70-58.

With an undefeated run in the group stage, both cueists finished on top of their group stage to qualify for the pre-quarter finals.

On Saturday, in his first match, Asjad defeated Mongolia's Batarxhuu Naranhuu with a score of 3-0, the frames ending 71-38, 71-51, and 110-32.

In the second match, Asjad also triumphed over Japan's Junji Miyazawa, again without dropping a frame, with scores of 68-18, 63-11, and 83-01.

Awais won his first match against Mongolia's Kash Uchjir, with frame scores of 60-17, 62-12, and 81-09.

In his second match, Awais defeated Oman's Hussain Al-Wati without losing a frame, with scores of 68-06, 10175-12, and 83-15.—Agency

## Saleema Imtiaz nominated as first Pakistani woman umpire on ICC's development panel

DUBAI: Pakistan's Saleema Imtiaz has made history by becoming the first woman umpire from the country to be nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires which will allow her to officiate in women's bilateral international matches and ICC Women's events.

Saleema, who's also the mother of Pakistan women's international player Kainat Imtiaz, began her career as an umpire with the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Women's Umpires Panel in 2008.

Throughout her career, she has officiated high-profile events under the Asian Cricket Council, such as the 2022 and 2024 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup, the 2023 ACC Emerging Women's Cup in Hong Kong and most recently she was a member of the playing control team for the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2024 in Kuala Lumpur.

Following her inclusion in the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires, Saleema will officiate the Pakistan-South Africa women's T20I series in Multan set to begin on Monday (tomorrow).

During tomorrow's match, she will be accompanied by Faisal Aafreedi from the PCB International Panel of Umpires with Nasir Hus-



ain as the TV umpire, while Humairah Farah will serve as the fourth umpire and Muhammad Javed Malik from the PCB International Panel of Match Referees will oversee the series as match referee.

Expressing her views on the development, an elated Saleema said: "I am beyond thrilled to join the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires."

"The journey has been filled with hard work and

personal sacrifices, but now, standing at the cusp of this new chapter, it all feels worth it," she remarked, adding that this is not a win only for her but for "every aspiring female cricketer and umpire in Pakistan."

"I hope my success motivates countless women who dream of making their mark in the sport," said the woman umpire.

"This moment reflects the growing influence of women in cricket [...] I sincerely hope to see more women follow in my footsteps and embrace this beautiful game," she added.

Reflecting on her dream, she said that ever since her daughter made her debut for the national side in 2010, she herself had wanted to represent Pakistan at the international level.—Agency

## Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2024: Lewis Hamilton set for GP pitlane start after car changes

Lewis Hamilton will be forced to start the Azerbaijan Grand Prix from the pit lane despite qualifying in seventh place, after picking up a penalty.

The Mercedes driver struggled for pace against the clock, with his quickest Q3 lap nearly a second slower than that of pole-sitter Charles Leclerc.

After the session, a fifth power unit of the season was installed into Hamilton's car meaning he will be forced to start the race from the pit lane. It will add to a topsy-turvy grid in Baku, with Lando Norris also starting near the back after being knocked out in Q1.

Hamilton's penalty will see Norris promoted to 15th on the grid, having moved up two positions since the end of qualifying after Pierre Gasly was disqualified over a fuel flow infringement.

An extended DRS zone on the home straight will provide plenty of overtaking opportunities for the likes of Hamilton and Norris. Safety car interruptions will also be a real possibility, given the unpredictable nature of the



Baku City Circuit.

Speaking after qualifying behind Mercedes team-mate George Russell yet again, Hamilton explained that he struggled to keep his tyre temperatures within the ideal operating window.

"Yesterday the car was amazing, it felt great and I honestly think it could have been at least second row today, but I came today and all of a sudden, the tyres didn't work all day," he said.

The Baku event - with its track's long straights and the tyre management requirements of Sunday's race - meant Mercedes decided to take the penalty hit here after its disappointing qualifying on Saturday in Azerbaijan.—Agency

## Lionel Messi nets two goals in return to Inter Miami against Philadelphia

Argentine star Lionel Messi smashed two goals within four minutes, making a comeback after three months as Inter Miami beat the Philadelphia Union 3-1 on Sunday in his first game for the club in over three months.

Additionally, in the first half, the Herons were leading with 2-1, as the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner scored in the 26th and 30th minute of the game.

Earlier in July, the 37-year-old got his ankle injured in the Copa America final against Colombia.

In regard to this, Argentina's captain wasn't chosen to play for his national team. In those matches, his



team defeated Chile 3-0 while faced a defeat against Colombia from 2-0 during World Cup Qualifiers last week.

Meanwhile, the comeback of Messi, 37, wasn't confirmed. His head coach Tata Martino confirmed his involvement on Friday, but wasn't sure if he would start or come off the bench.

In the 59th second of the game, the opposite team took the lead, however, the Herons tied the game after the ex-

Barcelona Major smashed his 13th Major League Soccer goal of season.

The Argentine star gave assist to Luis Suarez in the 98th minute who kicked the winning goal for Inter Miami.

It is worth noting that Messi now has 15 goals and 15 assists for Inter Miami in 19 matches.

Moreover, Messi's absence has affected his team a lot. Inter Miami had gone 10-3-1 in all the competitions they encountered. It was dismissed in the Round 16 of Leagues Cup by the Columbus Crew.—Agency

## 'I was surprised': Imad Wasim on Babar Azam's undeserving return to captaincy



LAHORE: Imad Wasim has expressed his surprise at the decision to reappoint Babar Azam as Pakistan's captain for the white-ball formats ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

This move comes after Babar had stepped down from the role following Pakistan's lacklustre performance in the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Following the 2023 ODI World Cup, where Pakistan's performance fell short of expectations, Babar Azam resigned from the captaincy, with Shaheen Afridi taking over the leadership role.

Despite this change, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reversed its decision after only six months, reinstating Babar Azam as captain following the New Zealand series.

In an interview with a local sports platform, Imad Wasim, who was part of the squad during the T20 World Cup, shared his thoughts on the sudden change in captaincy.

"Yes, I was surprised,"

Wasim said, acknowledging the unexpected nature of the decision. "What can I say, it's ultimately the selector's call. Whatever they thought was the best option, they picked and they picked the team [accordingly]."

He added, "Everybody in Pakistan was surprised, not just me. So, I can't say that I was not surprised."

Pakistan's T20 World Cup campaign saw them facing significant challenges, including a surprising defeat to the USA and a loss to arch-rivals India.

Reflecting on the team's performance, he stated, "Yeah, our performance wasn't up to the mark to be honest and we have to accept that, including myself. So yeah, but it is what it is. I think we had a good side, but it didn't click. It can happen in any format, especially T20. But yeah, it was disappointing. I was really disappointed."

The all-rounder admitted that overcoming the disappointment of the World Cup took time.—Agency

## Cristiano Ronaldo to miss Asian Champions League opener

Cristiano Ronaldo was diagnosed on Sunday with a viral infection and will miss Al Nassr's Asian Champions League opener this week at Iraq's Al Shorta.

The Portuguese veteran is targeting Asia's top club crown to add to his long list of achievements when the competition kicks off on Monday.

"Al Nassr captain Cristiano Ronaldo was not feeling well today and was diagnosed with a viral infection," said a club statement posted on social media platform X on Sunday.

"The team's doctor confirmed he needs to rest and stay at home. As a result, he will not be travelling with the team to Iraq today. We wish our captain a speedy recovery."

The former Real Madrid and Manchester United forward saw his first attempt with the Saudi side Al Nassr end in a quarter-final penalty shootout after to eventual champions Al Ain earlier this year.

Now rebranded as the Asian Champions League Elite, Al Nassr and the other



teams from Saudi Arabia will be a major threat after spending vast sums of money in the last two years on the likes of Ronaldo and Neymar.

England forward Ivan Toney was the latest big name to swap Europe for Saudi when he left Brentford for Al Ahli last month for more than \$45 million.

As part of the new-look

competition, Saudi Arabia - which is expected to host the 2034 World Cup - will stage a mini-knockout tournament from the quarter-finals onward to decide the champions, who will take home at least \$12 million.

Al Nassr, Al Ahli and Neymar's Al Hilal will all be involved when the Champions League Elite launches on Monday with a new format that splits 24 teams evenly into two groups of East and West.

Each team will play eight different opponents in the group stage. The top eight teams from each zone will play in the last 16 over two legs in March, before the action moves to the final stages in Saudi Arabia from April 25 to May 4.—Agency

## Harry Brook to lead England against Australia as Jos Buttler ruled out



ENGLAND: Harry Brook will lead England in the ODI series against Australia after regular white-ball captain Jos Buttler was ruled out.

Jos Buttler is currently nursing a right calf injury, which ruled him out of the ongoing T20I series against Australia, where Phil Salt is serving as the captain.

It's worth noting that this will be Harry Brook's first stint as the captain of England's ODI team.

Meanwhile, pace bowler Josh Hull is also sidelined for the ODI series with a quad injury. All-rounder Liam Livingstone has been brought into the squad for the five-match series which begins at Trent Bridge on Thursday 19 September.

Previously, England also included Ollie Stone in the squad as the replacement for Gus Atkinson, who has been given a rest from the ODI series against Australia.

The right-arm pacer played a pivotal role in England's 2-1 series victory over Sri Lanka, picking up 12 wickets at an average of 27.41.

He turned heads with his batting skills in the recently concluded series when he scored his maiden century in the second Test at Lord's while batting at No. 8.

Gus Atkinson was initially named in England's ODI squad which marked the absence of key players like wicket-keeper batter Jonny Bairstow and experienced all-rounder Moeen Ali.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Khloe Kardashian 'addicted' to plastic surgery after criticism



Khloe Kardashian reported developed a defense mechanism after being criticized over her physique and looks.

According to a new report of Life & Style, the Good American founder faced intense sibling comparison since her early age. This unfair treatment reportedly affected her self-esteem, and she decided to go under the knife.

Spilling the beans on the matter, an insider shared that Khloe's mother Kris Jenner was also critical of how she looked different from her sisters Kim and Kourtney.

"In the end, the only thing that helped her feel better about herself was getting surgery," the insider revealed.

"People can say what they want about her nose and the fillers and the extreme weight loss, but she finally loves what she sees in the mirror and says everyone can go f\*\*\*\* themselves," she addressed and pointed out that "the issue is that a lot of people think she's gone way too far, that she's had more nose jobs than she admits."

"Not only that, surgery can be very addictive, she's already mentioned other things she wants to get done so the worry is she's now on a very slippery slope and could wind up totally butchering herself," they concluded.

## Jennifer Lopez filed for divorce 'because' of Jennifer Garner



After the divorce filing, shocking insider accounts have been appearing in the press. The latest states how the reluctant Jennifer Lopez was finally pushed over the edge.

According to well-placed sources, in the last days of their relationship, The Mother actress was working and hoping to bridge the gap with her ex.

But instead, what she noticed, insiders say, was an utter disregard from the Argo star for her efforts to mend ties.

On top of that, the On the Floor singer was frustrated to see the shocking closeness between Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner during the ending days of their relationship.

"Seeing the photos of them looking more like a couple than a pair of exes was the final straw for J. Lo. It was the push she needed to finally file for divorce," the tipster tattled to In Touch.

What was worse, sources say, Ben and Jennifer kept coming closer, in the eyes of his ex, irrespective of what they called it.

"J. Lo is fuming and feeling like a total fool, especially after seeing the photos of Jen and Ben together at Violet's college drop off."

"The way they are looking at each other is proof in J. Lo's eyes that there's a lot more than just coparenting going on, she's now predicting they're going to get back together," the snitch revealed.

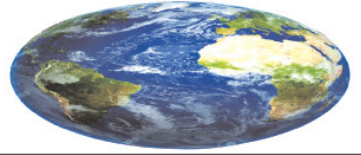
"It's so painful and humiliating, she feels beyond betrayed," the mole squealed.

This, in turn, made of Jen and Ben together as she sidelined her earlier worries about filing for divorce and ending a marriage of two years.

## Face of the Day

**Name:** Qasim Khan  
**Location:** Karachi  
**About me:** I love taking selfies!

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



# GLOBAL WATCH

## King Abdullah appoints chief of staff as Jordan's new PM

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II on Sunday nominated his chief of staff to be the new prime minister, the royal palace said, charging him with forming a government after parliamentary elections.



The outgoing premier, Bisher Khasawneh, submitted his resignation to the king earlier on Sunday. Under the kingdom's constitution, the government usually resigns after legislative elections. It is the king who appoints the prime minister, not parliament which has limited powers. "King Abdullah on Sunday tasked Jaafar Hassan with forming a new government," a palace statement said. As well as being chief of staff, the 56-year-old Hassan was previously planning minister. In Tuesday's election Jordan's leading Islamist party, the Islamic Action Front, became the largest in parliament, winning 31 out of the 138 seats.

The IAF is a political offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, and the result gives the Islamists their largest representation since 1989. Despite a low turnout of 32 percent, the party's success came with voters frustrated about economic woes and Israel's war against the Palestinian group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Jordan in 1994 signed a peace treaty with Israel, becoming only the second Arab state to do so after Egypt, but regular protests have called for the treaty's dissolution since the war erupted last October. Nearly half of the country's population is of Palestinian origin. Khasawneh, 55, had headed the government since October 2020. Jordan's parliament is bicameral. In addition to the elected parliament, there is also a senate with 69 members appointed by the monarch. The Gaza war has hit tourism in Jordan, which relies on the sector for about 14 percent of its gross domestic product. The kingdom is heavily dependent on foreign aid, especially from the United States and the International Monetary Fund.—Agency

## Indian Navy's Top Meet Amid Bangladesh Crisis, China's Aggressive Tactics



New Delhi: The top commanders of the Indian Navy will hold a meeting to review the security situation in and around the country from Tuesday amid growing instability in the region. The regime change in Bangladesh and an increasing influence of extremist radical groups there is one of the emerging security concerns that is expected to come up for discussion at the meeting. Another key concern is growing Chinese activities and military support to Pakistan. The meeting will be held in the new Naval Headquarters in Delhi from September 17 for four days, defence officials said according to news agency ANI. It will be the first conference since Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi took over as the Chief of Naval Staff in April this year. The announcement comes after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent call to the defence forces to be ready for the unexpected at the Joint Commanders' Conference in Lucknow. Creation of new theatre commands will also be taken up for discussion at the meeting. The Admiral has instructed all commanders to maintain high operational preparedness at all times. The Navy will also review its operations in the Gulf of Aden, where it achieved a lot of success against pirates and drone attacks early this year. The force holds its commander's conference twice a year, where all senior officers give their inputs and presentations.—Agency

## Donald Trump Safe After "Gunshots In His Vicinity" At Florida Golf Club

Washington: Donald Trump's campaign reported Sunday that there had been "gunshots in his vicinity," but added that the Republican presidential candidate was safe.



"President Trump is safe following gunshots in his vicinity. No further details at this time," said a statement from his campaign spokesman Steven Cheung. Trump had been golfing at his golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida, not far from his Mar-a-Lago residence, during a day away from the presidential campaign, multiple media reports said. It was unclear who had fired the shots, and there was no immediate indication that Trump had been targeted.

Some reports said the gunfire was between two people in a dispute near the course. Still, it came amid heightened concern for the candidate's safety — just two months after the former president was wounded in the car when a gunman opened fire during a Trump rally in Pennsylvania. The US Secret Service, tasked with protecting presidents, former presidents and other dignitaries, faced criticism after the Pennsylvania incident. The head of the agency later resigned, and at least five of its agents were placed on administrative leave.—Agency

## Hamas Official Says Group Has "High Ability" To Continue Gaza War

A senior Hamas official told AFP on Sunday that the Palestinian Islamist movement had ample resources to continue fighting Israel despite losses sustained over more than 11 months of war in Gaza. "The resistance has a high ability to continue," Osama Hamdan told AFP during an interview in Istanbul.



"There were martyrs and there were sacrifices... but in return there was an accumulation of experiences and the recruitment of new generations into the resistance." His comments came less than a week after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told journalists that Hamas, whose October 7 attack triggered the war, "no longer exists" as a military formation in Gaza. "The number of casualties... is much less than what is expected in a battle of this size, level and breadth," Hamdan said on Sunday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched retaliatory military operations to destroy Hamas after the group's surprise attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to a report based on Israeli official figures. The Israeli military actions aimed at securing a truce — mediated by the

United States, Egypt and Qatar — have apparently stalled. In the interview on Sunday, Hamdan said the United States, Israel's most important military backer, was not doing enough to force concessions from Netanyahu that would end the bloodshed. "The American administration does not exert sufficient or appropriate pressure on the Israeli side," Hamdan said. "Rather it is trying to justify the Israeli side's evasion of any commitment." During two press conferences after officials announced the deaths of the six hostages earlier this month, Netanyahu said it was Hamas who refused to compromise and vowed "not to give in to pressure" on remaining sticking points. He also said Israel's military campaign had killed "no less than 17,000" Hamas militants.—Agency

## At least 8 people die trying to cross the English Channel: French authorities

NICE: At least eight people died during a failed attempt to cross the English Channel from northern France, French maritime authorities said Sunday.



The incident occurred Saturday just before midnight when authorities spotted a boat, carrying dozens, in distress near a beach in the northern town of Ambleteuse. A French rescue ship was deployed to the area and rescue services offered medical assistance to 53 migrants on the beach, a statement from the French maritime authorities in charge of the Channel and the North Sea said. "Despite the emergency care provided, eight people have died," the statement said. No people were discovered during the search at sea, it added. Six people were taken to hospital "in relative emergency," including a 10-month-old baby with hypothermia, Jacques Billant, the Pas-de-Calais prefect, told French media on Sunday. He said survivors of the accident come from Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt and Iran. Survivors of the tragedy have been taken to the sports hall in Ambleteuse, according to a statement from the prefecture of Pas-de-Calais region. Prosecutor's office in

Boulogne-sur-mer has opened an investigation into the accident. The incident Saturday occurred nearly two weeks after a boat carrying migrants ripped apart in the English Channel as they attempted to reach Britain from northern France, plunging dozens into the treacherous waterway and leaving 12 dead, officials said. British officials were quick to express sadness over another English Channel incident. "It's awful," Foreign Secretary David Lammy told the BBC. "It's a further loss of life." The new Labour Party government has pledged to crack down on criminal gangs plying the channel trade and had discussed with European partners "how we go after those gangs, in co-operation upstream." Europe's increasingly strict asylum rules, growing xenophobia and hostile treatment of migrants have been pushing them north. Before Saturday's accident, at least 43 migrants had died or gone missing while trying to cross to the U.K. this year, according to the International Organization for Migration. Other surveillance and rescue operations are under way Sunday along the entire Pas-de-Calais coast amid stormy weather conditions and agitated sea, French maritime authorities said. They warned anyone who tries to cross the Channel on flimsy and overloaded boats and in often difficult weather conditions of "significant risks." On Saturday, French coast guard and navy vessels rescued 200 people from the treacherous waters in the Pas-de-Calais area, according to a report sent by French maritime authorities in charge of the Channel and the North Sea.—Agency

## "I Hate Taylor Swift": Donald Trump After Singer Endorses Kamala Harris



The post came as a surprise, even from the provocative Donald Trump: "I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT!" the former president said on his social media platform Truth Social on Sunday. Though the all-caps post came without accompanying commentary or explanation, the context was clear. On Tuesday, just minutes after a debate with Vice President Kamala Harris that Republican Trump was widely seen as losing, the superstar singer/songwriter posted a message on Instagram saying she would be voting for his Democratic rival, calling Harris a "steady-handed, gifted leader." Celebrity endorsements rarely carry enormous weight, but the hugely popular Swift is seen as being in a class of her own, with more than 100 million followers on social-media — 10 million of whom "liked" her Instagram post. "Going after Taylor Swift is a genuinely bad campaign strategy," said one poster on social media platform X. "Taylor doesn't get mad, she gets even." It was not clear what Trump hoped to gain by attacking Swift, though he may calculate that any publicity is better than none. He has been criticized, even by fellow Republicans, for his recent association with conspiracy-minded right-wing influencer Laura Loomer, who has at times joined him on his campaign plane. The 31-year-old Loomer — who has called the Sept. 11 terror attacks an "inside job" and said some recent mass shootings were staged by Democrats — recently suggested that Swift had entered an "arranged relationship" with football star Travis Kelce "to influence the 2024 election."—Agency

## Tasmanian Skull Theft: 150-Year-Old Crime Still Dividing A City



Over 150 years ago, surgeon and politician William Crowther allegedly stole the skull of an Aboriginal leader, William Lanne, from a Hobart morgue. Today, the crime continues to spark debate in the city as the statue of Crowther, once towering over a central square, lies in ruins — its feet severed by vandals. In the heart of Hobart, Tasmania, the bronze monument once stood over the oak-lined square. The statue, earlier, was cut down at the ankles, leaving only severed bronze feet behind, the BBC reported. The vandalism, along with the words "what goes around" spray-painted on its base, symbolised a larger struggle — a debate about colonialism, racism and the dark history of Tasmania's treatment of its Aboriginal people. William Crowther's notoriety stems from an event that took place over 150 years ago, when he allegedly broke into a morgue and mutilated the body of William Lanne, an Aboriginal leader. Lanne's skull was stolen and later sent overseas as a trophy, which showed the colonisers' view of Tasmania's Aboriginal people as extinct. Today, Lanne's descendants and many in the Aboriginal community see Crowther as a symbol of colonial brutality and erasure. William Lanne, often referred to as the last "full-blooded" Aboriginal Tasmanian, is a symbol of the tragic history of Tasmania's Indigenous population and their mistreatment by British colonisers. Born around 1835, Lanne was part of the Palawa people, the original inhabitants of Tasmania (formerly Van Diemen's Land). Lanne was forcibly removed from his homeland and lived through two notorious camps established to confine Aboriginal people.—Agency

## UN chief underscores importance of democracy, warns against threat of unchecked AI

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Sunday reaffirmed the importance of upholding free speech, civil liberties and the rule of law, as well as ensuring accountable institutions and protecting human rights, while warning that artificial intelligence (AI) posed a threat to democracy.



"This is especially crucial in a year where more than 50 countries — representing half of the global population — are holding elections," the UN chief said in a message marking International Day of Democracy. "Yet, these rights and values are under attack around the world. Freedoms are being eroded. Civic space is diminishing. Polarization is intensifying. And mistrust is growing," he said. Pointing out that this year's Democracy Day focuses on AI, Guterres said, "Left unchecked, the dangers posed by artificial intelligence could have serious implications for democracy, peace, and stability. This can start with

the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, the spread of hate speech and the use of so-called deepfakes." Despite the dangers, artificial intelligence has the potential to play a positive role in strengthening democratic systems, he added, noting that AI can promote full and active public participation and contribute to human development. "AI can boost education on democratic processes, and shape more inclusive civic spaces where people have a say in decisions and can hold decision-makers to account," the UN chief said. By utilizing AI for good governance, countries can create more transparent and accountable systems, that allow citizens to engage more effectively, he said. However, this will require effective governance of AI at all levels, including internationally. Guterres also highlighted the recent report of the UN's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence with recommendations on harnessing the benefits of AI while mitigating the risks. "The message is clear: AI must serve humanity equitably and safely," he stressed, adding that the upcoming Summit of the Future will be a critical platform for nations to discuss ways to strengthen international cooperation on AI. "On this International Day of Democracy, let us keep working to build a more inclusive, just, and equal world."—Agency

## Haiti confirms 24 killed in 'horrible' gas truck blast

A fuel truck explosion on a road in Haiti's southern peninsula on Saturday killed 24 people and left half of the 40 injured survivors with third-degree burns, the government said.



Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille visited the site, near the coastal city of Miragoane in the department of Nippes, and said some of the most seriously injured victims were evacuated by helicopter to receive specialised care. Ambulances were also being sent as quickly as possible to attend to others with severe burns and to relieve overcrowded local hospitals. "It's a horrible scene we've just lived through. Many dozens of victims, wounded, severely burned," Conille said in a video distributed by the government. The injured were mostly men, as well as three women and a child, according to a report from Haiti's emergency services, which did not give any details about the identities of the dead. Another 15 people sus-

tained second-degree burns, the report said. A witness to the incident said the truck's gas tank had been punctured by another vehicle, and people had rushed to the site to collect fuel. "There were a lot of people. Those who were close to the truck got pulverised," the man, who did not give his name, said in a video interview with local outlet Echo Haiti Media. A similar incident in 2021 in the city of Cap-Haitien killed at least 60 people, after people were also thought to have been attempting to take fuel from a tanker truck. Fuel deliveries to the Miragoane area have

slowed in recent weeks as trucks were transported via ferry to avoid gang-controlled highways surrounding the capital of Port-au-Prince. The spread of gangs in the capital and surrounding areas has fuelled a humanitarian crisis with mass displacements, sexual violence, child recruitment and widespread hunger. A state of emergency is now in place nationwide. Haiti's civil protection agency reported the identities of a 31-year-old man and two 23-year-old men who suffered burns over 89% of their bodies, and were being treated in a hospital in Les Cayes, in southern Haiti.—Agency

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh Governor Honors Notable Figures With Honorary Doctorates

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has conferred honorary doctorate degrees upon several distinguished individuals in recognition of their exceptional contributions to diplomacy and international relations. Among the honorees were Iran's Consul General Hassan Nourian and Bahrain's Consul General Abdullah Ahmed Bughous.



The awards were presented during a special convocation of Jinnah University for Women, Karachi, held at the Governor House. In his address, Governor Tessori praised the honorees for their significant efforts in advancing diplomacy and promoting global development. He stressed the importance of recognizing those who serve with dedication, noting that such recognition inspires others and contributes to national progress.

The list of recipients also included Farhan Hanif, Arshad Wali Muhammad, Ms. Akram Khatoon, Haji Hanif Tayyab, and Syed Nadeem Raza Sarwar. Governor Tessori commended their outstanding achievements in various fields, emphasizing their crucial role in enhancing international relations and driving development. He acknowledged their unwavering commitment to fostering dialogue, resolving conflicts, and addressing global issues, which has set high standards of excellence.

## Eid Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations At Governor House

KARACHI: Governor 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal announced that there would be a series of 12 gatherings throughout the month of Rabi-ul-Phophet Muhammad (PBUH) during a special gathering at the Governor House to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). He emphasized that following the Prophet's teachings is crucial for leading a meaningful life, and that the system of Mustafa (PBUH) provides solutions to all societal challenges.

The Governor House was adorned with vibrant lights and decorations, creating a festive and uplifting atmosphere for the occasion. In his address, Governor Tessori expressed his appreciation for being appointed on the auspicious day of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal and announced that there would be a series of 12 gatherings throughout the month of Rabi-ul-Phophet Muhammad (PBUH) during a special gathering at the Governor House to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). He emphasized that following the Prophet's teachings is crucial for leading a meaningful life, and that the system of Mustafa (PBUH) provides solutions to all societal challenges.

## Saeed Ghani Urges Media To Support Efforts Against Illegal Constructions In Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has called on the media to assist the provincial government in curbing the construction of illegal buildings across Karachi. He made this appeal while speaking as the chief guest at an event organized by the Local Bodies Reporters' Association (LBRA) at the KMC Sports Complex. The ceremony recognized the lifetime achievements of veteran journalist Shehzad Chughtai.



During his address, Ghani expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the Sindh Building Control Authority, noting that thousands of illegal structures had been erected in the city over the years. He stressed the importance of media collaboration in preventing the further rise of such constructions, urging journalists to report on these matters factually to maintain credibility. The minister acknowledged the shortcomings of various municipal agencies, stating that they had not been able to serve the public effectively. He assured attendees that provincial authorities would take notice of factual news reports and act accordingly. Ghani also emphasized his longstanding, amicable relations with the media, despite occasional differences of opinion.

Praising Shehzad Chughtai's contributions to journalism, Ghani described him as an institution within the field, encouraging younger journalists to learn from his experience. He also welcomed the opportunity to act as a patron for LBRA, the representative body of reporters covering municipal affairs. Former Karachi Press Club President Imtiaz Khan Faran, also spoke at the event, suggesting that media should hold cantonment boards and DHA accountable for their performance in serving residents. LBRA General Secretary, Imran Ali Shah, reinforced the request for Ghani to assume a patron role for the association.—RT

## Ombudsman Rescues University Student's Academic Year From Administrative Error

KARACHI: Provincial Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput has intervened to protect the academic year of Owais Ahmed Bhayo, a Clinical Pharmacy student at Shah Abdul Latif University. Owais Ahmed, who is in his second semester, was mistakenly declared as having failed his exams despite maintaining an excellent academic record. In response to this discrepancy, Owais Ahmed submitted a petition to the provincial ombudsman, which led to a comprehensive investigation.

The investigation uncovered that the university administration had made a significant error in declaring Owais Ahmed as failed. Following this, Ombudsman Dr. Rajput issued directives to the university, including the Controller of Examinations, to correct the mistake and ensure fairness. In compliance with the ombudsman's orders, the university administration has reversed its earlier decision and officially recognized Owais Ahmed Bhayo as having passed his Clinical Pharmacy exams, thereby preserving his academic year. Owais Ahmed expressed his gratitude, describing the decision as a triumph for justice that allows him to continue his studies. Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput also directed the university to adopt more equitable practices in handling student matters and to safeguard academic rights to prevent similar issues in the future.—RT/Agency

## Three Passengers At Karachi Airport Suspected Of Mpxv; Hospitalized For Testing



KARACHI: On Sunday, three passengers arriving at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport were suspected of having mpox, according to reports. The passengers, who were returning from Middle Eastern countries, have been transferred to the Sindh government's Infectious Diseases Hospital for further evaluation. They will be placed in isolation until their test results are available. As of now, Pakistan has reported a total of six confirmed mpox cases, with the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mpox, a virus that presents with flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions, is generally mild but can be severe or fatal in certain cases. Those at higher risk include children, pregnant women, and individuals with compromised immune systems.

## PSQCA Highlights Role In Quality Assurance At IEEE Exhibition

KARACHI: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEE) successfully hosted a three-day exhibition at the Karachi Expo Center. The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) took part in the event, with representatives including Media In-charge Mr. Mubej-ur-Rahman Solangi, Assistant Directors Engineer Bashir Ahmad, Imtiaz Ali Memon, and Engineer Ayaz Hussain Abro. They engaged with attendees, explaining PSQCA's role in upholding quality and standards.



The PSQCA booth drew thousands of visitors eager to learn about the organization's initiatives, with representatives handing out brochures and educational materials. The event, organized by Engineer Ahmed Zubair, was lauded for its successful execution and diverse display of electrical and electronic products. During the closing ceremony, shields and certificates were awarded to notable guests in acknowledgment of their contributions.—RT

## Successful Wrap-Up Of 'Jom! Malaysia Chaloo!' Event Held At Dolmen Mall Clifton

KARACHI: The Consulate General of Malaysia in Karachi is delighted to announce the successful conclusion of the 'Jom! Malaysia Chaloo!' event, which took place at Dolmen Mall Clifton from 13 to 15 September 2024. This engaging three-day event effectively highlighted Malaysia's higher education opportunities, tourism attractions, and cultural heritage, drawing substantial public interest.



The event featured exhibitions from 12 leading Malaysian universities, offering Pakistani students and their families valuable information about academic programs, scholarships, and study opportunities in Malaysia. Additionally, Tourism Malaysia and Batik Air showcased travel experiences and affordable flight options between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur. A standout moment of the event was the official launch ceremony on 14 September 2024 at 4:00 PM. The ceremony captivated attendees with traditional Malaysian cultural performances, providing a glimpse into Malaysia's rich cultural tapestry.

During the launch, Mr. Herman Hardynata Ahmad, Consul General of Malaysia in Karachi, addressed the audience, expressing gratitude to participants, partners, and attendees. He emphasized the significance of the event in strengthening Malaysia-Pakistan relations, stating, "This event is a testament to Malaysia's dedication to deepening our connections with Pakistan, especially in education and tourism. We are proud to present Malaysia as a premier destination for Pakistani students and travelers." The event attracted a diverse audience, including students, families, travelers, and business professionals, all eager to explore the opportunities Malaysia has to offer. The Consulate General of Malaysia in Karachi extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event and looks forward to organizing future initiatives that further strengthen the bond between Malaysia and Pakistan.—RT

## Police Discover Body Of Officer At Karachi Station; Another Body Found In Sultanabad

KARACHI: The body of a police officer, which had been discovered for three days, was discovered in a barracks at the Nabi Bakhs police station in Karachi. The deceased has been identified as 50-year-old Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Ghulam Sarwar. According to police officials, ASI Sarwar, who was part of the Investigation branch, was found dead in a barracks located on the second floor of the station. The body has been transferred to a civil hospital for further examination and legal procedures. In a separate case, authorities also reported the discovery of another police officer's body in a residence in the Sultanabad area of Karachi. Preliminary reports suggest that this officer may have been deceased for approximately two days.—RT/Agency

## REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

## Pakistani Government Enforces Essential Services Act In DISCOs To Curb Protests

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government has implemented the Essential Services Act across DISCOs, NTDC, and GENCOs to prevent expected protests against the privatization of these state-owned power companies, media reported on Sunday, quoting sources. According to sources, the Essential Services Act has been enforced for six months in DISCOs, NTDC and GENCOs to prevent employees from going on strikes as the Pakistan government is planning privatization of these loss-making state-owned entities. The act also places restrictions on union activities within DISCOs, NTDC, and GENCOs, sources added. It is anticipated that unions and employees from DISCOs, NTDC, and GENCOs may stage protests, but any violation of the Essential Services Act will result in strict action, according to sources. On August 2, the federal government okayed the privatization of 13 power distribution companies as the Ministry of Energy unveiled a plan to privatise these entities in phases. According to the notification, the Ministry of Energy has also issued directives for the privatization of 12 organizations in the power sector. The privatization process will be carried out in phases, with the first phase involving the privatization of four DISCOs. The four power companies include FESCO, GEPCO, HESCO, and IESCO. The second phase will include the privatization of MEPCO, PESCO, and other companies, as per the notification.—RT/Agency

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## Governor Tessori: Democracy In Pakistan Has Grown Stronger

KARACHI: On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori affirmed that democracy is essential for ensuring the well-being of the people. He emphasized that Parliament is the highest authority and must be respected by all. Reflecting on the progress of democracy in Pakistan, Tessori remarked that the country's democratic system has become more stable and resilient compared to previous years. He pointed out that embracing modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, could further enhance the democratic process by addressing existing challenges. Tessori also commended the efforts of all involved in fortifying and maintaining democracy in Pakistan, recognizing their significant contributions to its advancement.—RT/Agency



## Barrister Ali Zafar Accuses Government Of Trying To 'Restrict' Judiciary

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Barrister Ali Zafar said on Sunday that the incumbent government wanted to "contain" the judiciary. Expressing his thoughts, Zafar said, "We [PTI] will fight our war inside and outside of the parliament. Bringing the constitutional amendment into the darkness will be the attack on the democracy." "The Supreme Court emphasized that the vote of the PTI lawmakers will not be considered. The PTI lawmakers will not go to cast their votes in the Senate," Zafar maintained. Few days back, Zafar said that the apology was "not good enough" for his party leaders' arrest. Expressing his thoughts during the Senate session, Zafar said, "The premier or interior minister will have to tender the resignation. If you will not do this, then it will be up to your conscience." "The arrest of the lawmakers from the Parliament House is condemnable," said Zafar.—RT/Agency

## Sanjrani Promises 'Positive Developments' For Government And Public

ISLAMABAD: Former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said on Sunday that the government and nation will get "good news". Expressing his thoughts, Sanjrani said, "The government has informed us about the key clauses in line with the constitutional amendment bill. We will make the decision after the special committee meeting. "It is premature to say anything about the matter,"

Separately, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Syed Khurshid Shah said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) needs to change the "attitude in line with the constitutional package." Expressing his thoughts, Shah said, "Whatever step we will take, it will be meant for the betterment of the institutions and the country." "We will look forward to addressing the problems in a pleasant way. We will take Fazlur Rehman on board on every matter," said Shah. He maintained, "We will look to ensure that all the parties will come on one page."—RT/Agency

"There are two things a person should never be angry at, what they can help, and what they cannot."

—Plato

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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 2024

## PTI Condemns 'Attack On SC' And Opposes Proposed Changes To Judges' Tenure And Retirement Age

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday fiercely resisted a proposed constitutional amendment the government is pushing through parliament, rejecting both the extension of judges' tenure and the increase in their retirement age.

The government, determined to press ahead with legislation affecting the superior judiciary, is scrambling to court members from various political parties.

The proposed amendments aim to increase the retirement age of superior judges by three years, sparking controversy and a political tug-of-war between the government and the opposition.

Currently, Article 179 of the Constitution states that a Supreme Court judge shall hold office until the age of 65, while Article 195 sets the retirement age for high court judges at 62.

Speaking on private TV on Friday, the government's legal affairs spokesperson, Barrister Aqeel Malik, confirmed that the government



is also considering revising the seniority principle in the appointment of the top judge.

Currently, Article 175A of the Constitution mandates that the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court be appointed as the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) based on seniority.

Well-placed sources informed media on Saturday that the government, through the proposed constitutional amendment, plans to establish a constitutional court and amend Article 63-A, which addresses the defection of lawmakers.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar echoed similar

sentiments in the upper house of parliament, stating that the Constitutional Bill aligned with the provisions of the Charter of Democracy (COD), endorsed by all political parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking to media, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan stressed that such significant changes in the constitution should only be legislated in the nation's and the country's best interest, rather than for personal gains. However, he warned the government against "touching" the Supreme Court.

When asked about his

meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Gohar acknowledged that "offers" were part of politics but clarified that the PTI had not made one.

"I believe Maulana has taken a principled stance [on this matter], and he is sticking to it. Judges should not be granted extensions, nor should their [retirement] age be increased," he said. The PTI chairman warned that if passed, the legislation would tarnish the judiciary's reputation and compromise the judicial system. On the other hand, Advisor to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, called the constitutional amendment nothing short of treason, describing it as an ambush on the Supreme Court.

He further criticised the 'phony' government for attempting to introduce a notorious amendment to the Constitution. The KPCM's advisor also picked apart the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for being in cahoots

with the government on the legislation. "Bilawal Bhutto, the grandson of the constitution's founder, Zulfiqar Bhutto, is spearheading the amendments," he said. Saif further claimed that the coalition government was running from pillar to post to secure the "magic number." Separately, speaking to the media, PTI chief Gohar said such unconstitutional amendments should not be passed by the parliament. Condemning the lack of transparency, Gohar said that the content of the legislation had not yet been revealed. "We haven't even studied it. Is this amendment meant to target the judiciary?" he questioned.

"A government born in the dead of night does everything in the dark of night." Referring to discussions with the JUI-F chief, Gohar expressed hope that the politico would continue to stand for the judiciary, describing him as a "shrewd politician." He reaffirmed the PTI parliamentarians' full support for the party's stance.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Expected To Secure New IMF Bailout Package On September 25, Says Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the country will secure an extended International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme on September 25, media reported on Sunday.

Speaking at the CFA Society of Pakistan's 21st Annual Excellence Awards, Aurangzeb expressed hope that it will be the country's final IMF programme. However, he warned that failure to sustain reforms might lead to a 25th programme.

His remarks came as Islamabad reached an agreement with the Washington-based lender on a \$7 billion 37-month loan programme in July earlier this year. However, the future of the bailout package is subject to the approval of the Fund's executive board which is set to convene on September 25 with Pakistan included in its meeting agenda.

The country was required to secure external financing of \$2 billion from bilateral and commercial lenders as a pre-requisite for the IMF board's approval.

It is to be noted that Pakistan owes \$5 billion to Saudi Arabia in the form of cash deposits, along with \$5 billion and \$3 billion from China and the United Arab



Emirates (UAE), respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the finance minister stressed the need for macroeconomic stability and said that Pakistan has previously experimented with various economic models, none of which yielded the desired results.

On pensions, Aurangzeb announced that any new federal government employees would be required to contribute to a defined-contribution pension scheme. He stressed the need for Pakistan's economic focus to shift from imports to an export-driven model.

The finance minister's statement comes as the incumbent government is also set to introduce a mini-budget with an aim to generate around Rs650 billion in revenue, primarily by cracking down on tax evaders and

increasing general sales tax (GST) on properties, tractors and other items.

Accepting another condition tabled by the global lender, the government had agreed to jack up valuation tables for real estate in 42 cities by the end of September 2024 so the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) can notify the revised rates in the coming weeks.

The upcoming mini budget will be introduced after securing approval from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the federal cabinet.

Either the money bill will be laid down in parliament or a presidential ordinance will be promulgated but the final decision will be taken by the government after consulting with its political allies, especially the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).—RT/Agency

## Farooq Sattar Suggests MQM-P Might Support Constitutional Amendment For National Interest

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Farooq Sattar has stated that the party "could support" a constitutional amendment if it serves a "greater national interest".

Speaking to the media after an informal meeting at the Speaker's Chamber, Sattar acknowledged that such legislation is generally not favoured.

Still, he emphasised that "if a constitutional amendment is necessary for the country's stability, it should be made."

Sattar highlighted that the amendment includes reforms, outlining all relevant topics.

"We will make a decision once we receive the detailed content," he added. He also mentioned that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had some secondary disagreements but understood most issues.

Yesterday, the ruling coalition reached out to the JUI-F chief to seek his support for proposed constitutional amendments on Saturday night, according to sources. The move came as the government lacks a crucial eight votes for the amendments. It was also reported that a delegation from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also arrived at Fazlur Rehman's residence with a similar goal but left without meeting him after seeing the government officials there. "The country cannot move forward without resolving the constitutional and political crises. We believe stability is crucial for the nation's future," Sattar stressed.

Dr Farooq Sattar urged the government to provide



assurances that it will also address inflation and unemployment.

"There are thousands of unresolved cases. When will they be addressed?" he questioned.

He also called for necessary steps to resolve the economic crisis, noting that judicial decisions will not impact the government's two-thirds majority in parliament.

Following the Supreme Court's clarification on the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) application regarding the implementation of the July 12 order in the reserved seats case, the fate of the proposed constitutional amendment remains uncertain, as it may be struck down by the apex court due to several legal defects.

Although the government has prepared to table the constitutional amendment bill in both houses of parliament today (Sunday), the move is expected to face legal challenges. Similarly, the ECP may face issues due to its failure to fulfill its constitutional obligation by implementing the July 12 order. Serious questions have been raised about the conduct of the polls supervisory body

due to its failure to hold the general elections within the mandated 90 days.

Serious concerns have been raised about the fairness of the Feb 8 general elections, with the PTI directly accusing the ECP of complicity.

The commission misinterpreted the Jan 13 order by failing to declare the PTI as a parliamentary party. Additionally, the largest party was denied reserved seats when the election tribunals began investigating the controversy surrounding the Form 45 and Form 47 results, the government empowered the ECP to appoint retired judges to these tribunals. On Friday, Senior Supreme Court Judge Justice Munib Akhtar had invited the ECP to explain about the status of a proposed constitutional amendment.

In a meeting of the commission on May 3, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar had requested the commission to defer the meeting because the Centre was considering amending Article 175A of the Constitution.—RT/Agency

## Ahsan Announces \$27 Billion Investment From Friendly Nations In Pakistan Over The Coming Years



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the government is committed to bringing socio-economic and judicial reforms to put the country on the fast track economic development, media reported in his televised remarks today, he categorically stated that nobody will be allowed to play with the peace and stability of the country. Strongly criticizing the politics of PTI, he said the party should step its role in the parliament instead of taking to the streets. Ahsan Iqbal said friendly countries have extended assurance of investing twenty seven billion dollars in Pakistan in the next five years. He said Saudi Arabia has announced to invest five billion dollars, while the UAE and Kuwait will each invest ten billion dollars and Azerbaijan will invest two billion dollars. He said these are the external

opportunities that are knocking at our doors. He said it is our responsibility to take full advantage of these opportunities through continuity of policies and reforms. Ahsan Iqbal said China has also shown willingness for the second phase of CPEC. He said China has given assurance for the establishment of five new corridors including that of growth, livelihood, innovation, green economy and open regional inclusive development. The Minister for Planning said that a Danish company has announced to invest two billion dollars in Pakistan's Port Infrastructure. He regretted that PTI is trying to create impediments in the way of this investment. He recalled that the party had also tried to sabotage IMF deal. Ahsan Iqbal said it is important to bring reforms in the judicial system as well to attract the foreign investment.—RT/Agency

## Tarar Promises Proposed Legislation Will Serve The Nation's Collective Interests

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar dispelled concerns about any "person-specific" legislation, reaffirming the government's commitment to delivering speedy justice for the people of Pakistan.

"Reforms are overdue to ensure that the people of Pakistan have access to swift justice," Tarar stated while addressing the media inside the Parliament House on Sunday.

In response to a query, he maintained that the government would secure the necessary numbers in both Houses for the new legislation. "It is incorrect to believe that there is any person-specific legislation. Our focus is solely on the greater good of the masses," he reiterated.

Tarar noted that all political parties are united in their goal to provide speedy justice at the doorstep of the people. He also mentioned that a special committee, consisting of allied parties, is currently in session. Given the national importance of these reforms, he maintained that the Cabinet would con-



vene shortly to discuss the matter.

When asked about Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Tarar affirmed that he remains an old ally and partner.

Speaking to journalists, the minister assured that any proposed legislation would be in the collective interest of the nation. He noted that the judiciary has faced delays in resolving cases for many decades, making it imperative to implement measures for quicker justice. Tarar highlighted that all coalition parties are represented on the special committee formed to address this issue. He also mentioned that Pakistan Peo-

ple's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had discussed the Charter of Democracy as a framework for judicial reforms.

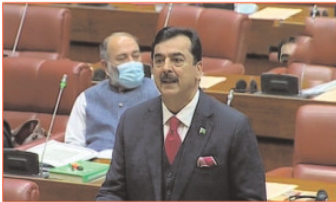
"Any amendment on matters of national concern should benefit the entire Pakistani nation," he stated. He pointed out that legal gaps have often led to issues such as unissued cause lists, unreserved notices, and delayed orders.

The minister called for a balanced system to address these problems effectively. He added that a cabinet meeting would be convened soon, with all cabinet members present to discuss the reforms.—RT/Agency

## Senate Chairman Appoints Members To Special Committee

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, approved the nominations from both government and opposition benches for the members of the Special Committee.

According to the Senate Secretariat, the nominated members include the leader of the Opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Parliamentary leader of PTI Senator Ali Zafar, Parliamentary leader of BAP Senator Manzoor Ahmed, Parliamentary



leader of JUIP Senator Atta Ur Rehman, Parliamentary leader of ANP Senator Ajmal Wali Khan, Parliamentary leader of MQM-P Senator Syed Faisal Subzwari, Parliamentary leader of BNP Senator Muhammad Qasim, Parliamentary

leader of MWMP Senator Raja Nasir Abbas, Parliamentary leader of NP Senator Jan Muhammad, Parliamentary leader of PML Senator Kamil Ali Agha, and Parliamentary leader of SIC Senator Hamid Khan.—RT/Agency



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has assured all possible support to Chinese companies for investing in Pakistan.

He was virtually addressing the opening session of the Expo of International Fair in Beijing. The Minister said Chinese businesses can get benefit from

the best opportunities available in Pakistan like Special Economic Zones, Export Processing Zones and Gwadar Free Zone. He said there is an ample scope for investment in agriculture, livestock, and food processing and mineral sectors in Pakistan. More than 150 entrepreneurs from Pakistan are participating in the Beijing fair.—RT/Agency

## Ahsan Javid Sues Scotland Yard Following Acquittal In £34 Million Money Laundering Case

LONDON: Former money exchange bureau boss British Pakistani, Ahsan Javid has sued Scotland Yard to recover nearly £600,000 confiscated by the police after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) failed to prove its £34 million money laundering case against him, leading to conclusion of the high-profile trial and the acquittal.

At the heart of Javid's case against the London police are his four laptops, which the Scotland Yard officers seized during the raids in November 2017 and returned after nearly four years. Javid alleges his laptops were manipulated, tampered with, passwords changed and key evidence to support his rightful ownership of the seized cash was destroyed, following his acquittal in the criminal case. Javid, his wife Amna Gulzar and two others were first arrested in November 2017 but charged in May 2018 with conspiring to launder £34 million between 2012 and 2018, mainly to Pakistan, with false identities by setting sham companies and accounts. They were accused of stashing away cash



in 43 bank accounts before transferring the money from the UK to Pakistan and other countries but the trial concluded amid failures by the police and the prosecution. However the police didn't return the seized cash of Javid — estimated at £600,000 — at the time of his acquittal in October 2021. Now the British Pakistani has taken the police to the court over discrimination, unfairness and wrongful acts. The trial concluded in October 2021 at the Snaresbrook Crown Court due to the "systemic and catastrophic" disclosure failures by the prosecution, ill-preparedness and the lack of evidence. Judge Charles Falk stopped the trial and condemned the CPS after the prosecution body asked for more time to investigate and prepare evidence — nearly

two months into the trial scheduled. "Catastrophic failure has come about because the investigation exponentially grew in size without sufficient manpower, resources, training or expertise being allocated to it", the judge had said. Javid and his family celebrated the end of trial and failure of the prosecution to get a criminal conviction against them but his dilemma didn't end there as the police told him that his money will remain frozen and forfeited by the police as a recoverable money under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), which gives the police power to seize monies — without formal charges, on ground of suspicions that the seized amount is a recoverable property or intended for use in unlawful conduct.—RT/Agency