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KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 278 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

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Sunday, September 29, 2024, Rabi ul Awal 24, 1446 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

## Six Passengers Killed, Nine Critically Injured In North Waziristan Helicopter Crash

ISLAMABAD: At least six people have been killed after a chartered helicopter carrying 15 passengers crashed in district North Waziristan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



The Mi-8 helicopter crash has left at least nine people injured. The chartered helicopter — that belonged to Mari Petroleum Limited, a public limited company — crashed due to technical reasons near an oil field, said the company's spokesperson, stressing that the accident had nothing to do with the security situation.

The deceased persons included three foreign pilots and three others while nine of the travellers got wounded, it added. Providing details of the incident, the spokesperson said that the ill-fated aircraft was providing personal transportation in the Shewa Waziristan block.

The injured persons were transferred to a nearby hospital and relief operations, by the Pakistan Army and others, the statement added. Media learnt from sources that the three foreign pilots are from Russia and that the wounded have been shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Thal.

The accident, the sources added, occurred after the copter suffered technical difficulty as soon as it took off and met the fatal accident after its tail rotor hit the ground during an emergency landing.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been initiated by Mari Petroleum and relevant authorities into the unfortunate incident.

## Hezbollah Confirms Hassan Nasrallah Martyred In Israeli Airstrike

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Saturday that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed and vowed to continue the battle against Israel.



Israel said earlier that it had killed the Hezbollah leader in an airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier, in what would be a devastating blow to the group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

IRNA news agency reported General Abbas Nilforoushan, deputy commander of the Guards' operations, died in the strike that killed Nasrallah.

Nasrallah's death marks a major blow not only to Hezbollah but also to its alleged backers in Iran. He was a leading figure in the Tehran-backed "Axis of Resistance", helping to project Iranian influence across the Middle East.

"Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, has joined his great, immortal martyr comrades whom he led for about 30 years," Hezbollah said in a statement.

Iran, which arms and finances Hezbollah, said a senior member of its Revolutionary Guard Corps was killed in the same strike.

It said he was killed with other group members "following the treacherous Zionist strike on the southern suburbs" of Beirut.

TV began airing verses from the Holy Quran after his death was announced.

The Israeli military said in a statement that Nasrallah was eliminated in a "targeted strike" on the group's underground headquarters under a residential building in Dahiyeh — a Hezbollah-controlled southern suburb of Beirut.

AFP journalists heard a passer-by scream "Oh my God!", and women weeping in the streets after Hezbollah announced the news.

It said he was killed along with another top Hezbollah leader — Ali Karaki — and other commanders.

"The strike was conducted while Hezbollah's senior chain of command were operating from the headquarters and advancing terrorist activities against the citizens of the State of Israel," it claimed.

Hezbollah said it would continue its battle against Israel "in support of Gaza and Palestine, and in defence of Lebanon and its steadfast and honourable people".

The Israeli military "eliminated [...] Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation", Israeli army spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote in a statement on X.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani posted on X that Nasrallah's "sacred goal will be realised in the liberation of Quds (Jerusalem), God willing".

Earlier, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned what he called Israel's "short-sighted and stupid policy", without referring to Nasrallah's fate.—RT/Agency

## PM Shehbaz Denounces Social Media Campaign Against Military Leadership

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that those involved in attacking Pakistan Army last year on May 9 cannot be forgiven as they have committed crimes against the nation and their crimes are unpardonable.



The prime minister was speaking to Pakistani media in London after participating in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session. He arrived in London on Saturday night and will be departing to Pakistan on Monday.

China — the IMF programme wouldn't have been possible. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir made personal efforts for economic development and he played a big role in the revival of IMF plan. The army chief visited a brotherly country and discussed the IMF programme. I hope this will be the last IMF programme."

He condemned campaign against the military leadership including Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on social media and hinted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was behind it. He said the vulgar and abusive campaign was a manifestation of digital terrorism and reflected on how the PTI was going out of all limits to harm Pakistan.

He thanked the Saudi, Kuwaiti, UAE and Chinese leadership for helping Pakistan in stabilising its economy. The PM mentioned that the Saudi king is playing a leadership role on the issue of Palestine.

He said "Filthy language is being used on social media against the Pakistan Armed Forces. We will not tolerate this."

He said the previous government left no stone unturned in destroying relations with China. He said: "I was accused of taking a 45% commission in a deal with China. After two years of investigation, the UK National Crime Agency gave me a clean chit."

He said "Without the help of brotherly countries — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and

cannot come without political stability and his govt was doing everything for the stability. The prime minister said that he was able to explain Pakistan's view point of Palestine and Kashmir before the whole world. He said: "At my UN address, I conveyed the voice of the Pakistani people to the world as the elected prime minister. We exposed inhuman atrocities being committed in Gaza. We condemn events in Lebanon, and called for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine. We want the immediate establishment of an independent state of Palestine is necessary. Palestinians should have representation at the UN."

He added "Kashmiris have been fighting for their freedom for a hundred years. Kashmiris should be granted the right to self-determination. Burhan Wani's name was mentioned at the UN."—RT/Agency

## Government Likely to Maintain Petrol Prices For The Next Fortnight



ISLAMABAD: The government is likely to maintain the price of petrol from October 1, 2024, for the next fortnight as it has been worked out slightly upward by Rs0.11 per litre. The News reported on Saturday.

The government also reduced price of HSD from Rs262.75 to Rs249.69 after a reduction of Rs13.06 per litre. Petrol is mainly used in private transportation, small vehicles, rickshaws, and two-wheelers. Higher fuel prices significantly impact the budgets of those belonging to the middle and lower-middle classes, who primarily use petrol for commuting. On the other hand, a significant portion of the transport sector relies on high-speed diesel. Its price is considered inflationary since it is predominantly used in heavy goods transport vehicles, trucks, buses, trains, and agricultural machinery such as tractors, tube wells, and threshers.

Meanwhile, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) is estimated to decrease by Rs2.11 per litre starting from October 1, 2024.

The government, however, may make slight adjustments in the next fortnight, beginning from October 16, 2024. Previously, the prices of petrol were decreased by Rs10 per litre owing to a drop in fuel rates in the international market during the past fortnight. "The Oil and Gas regulatory Authority (Ogra) has worked out the consumer prices of petroleum products, based on the price variations in the international market," a statement released by the Finance Division read.

The consumption of high-speed diesel particularly contributes to the increased prices of vegetables and other food items.—RT/Agency

## Barrister Gohar And Salman Akram Raja Arrested Amid PTI-Police Clashes In Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: Violent clashes broke out between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters and Punjab Police near Committee Chowk, escalating tensions in the Rawalpindi.



PTI workers forcefully removed police-placed containers on Saturday while chanting slogans and marching towards Liaquat Bagh.

In response, police deployed heavy teargas shelling to disperse the crowd, leading to confrontations that spread along Murree Road. PTI supporters reportedly threw stones at officers, prompting authorities to call for additional reinforcements.

Amid the unrest, Punjab Police detained PTI Chairman Bairastra Gohar Ali Khan and leader Salman Akram Raja near the H-13 area while they were travelling to Rawalpindi, according to Express News.

PTI workers forcefully removed police-placed containers on Saturday while chanting slogans and marching towards Liaquat Bagh.

Shortly after their detention, Bairastra Gohar was released, whereas Salman Akram Raja remains in custody.

The use of tear gas resulted in canisters falling into nearby homes, causing distress among residents, including women and children. Media personnel covering the protests were also affected by the shelling.

Gohar stated that both he and Raja were stopped at H-13 and instructed to return after a disagreement, preventing them from proceeding to Rawalpindi.

Pedestrians navigating the tense situation as PTI workers from China Market, Ri-alto Chowk, and Committee Chowk gathered on Murree Road.

Despite police efforts, workers continued to congregate at Committee Chowk, Murree Chowk, and China Market, forcing some officers to retreat and leading to the arrest of several protesters. The Rawalpindi administration had earlier sealed

## Khawaja Asif Reaffirms Pakistan's Commitment To Expanding Trade With Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif says Pakistan remains committed to expanding trade, commerce and investment in Afghanistan.



He addressed the third meeting of the Quadrilateral Group on Afghanistan in New York. Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia are the member of Quadrilateral Group on Afghanistan.

The Defence Minister said we must continue to support the provision of humanitarian assistance to the 23.7 million destitute people in Afghanistan.

He expressed hope that the UN Secretary-General's appeal for over three billion

dollars in humanitarian assistance will be fully funded, especially by the Western donor countries. Khawaja Asif said the early release of Afghanistan's frozen national resources, the revival of the banking system and connectivity projects is essential. He said at the same time, we should continue to work jointly to promote peace and security within Afghanistan and to neutralize the threats to the regional countries emanating from Afghanistan.—RT/Agency

## Fazl Condemns Assassination Of Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah

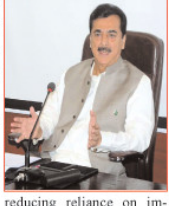


ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman condemned the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, calling it an act of "cowardly terrorism" by Israel.

his martyrdom would only serve to strengthen the ongoing struggle. The disgraceful face of Zionism has become even more evident with this blatant act," he added. Rehman further prayed for Allah to accept the martyrdom of Nasrallah, expressing hope that his sacrifice would inspire a renewed passion in the fight against oppression.—RT/Agency

## Gilani: Government Taking Significant Steps To Boost Pakistan's Textile Industry

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that the government is taking significant steps to improve Pakistan's textile industry, which contributes 60% to the national economy.



Speaking as the chief guest at the 7th International Conference on Textiles, titled "Inspiring Change: Challenges and Strides are the Wings of Success," Gilani stressed the critical role the sector plays in economic growth and employment.

He also emphasized the need for the sector to stay competitive globally and encouraged strengthening research and Development (R&D) efforts from cotton cultivation to finished textile products.

He pointed out that millions of families depend on the textile industry for their livelihood, underscoring its importance in providing jobs to thousands of workers. Gilani also highlighted Pakistan's potential to produce high-quality cotton, the backbone of the textile sector, and called for enhanced research and development to improve cotton quality while

reducing reliance on imported raw materials. The Chairman urged the production of innovative and high-quality textile products, noting that decreasing reliance on government subsidies would help make the industry more self-sufficient. He also emphasized the need for the sector to stay competitive globally and encouraged strengthening research and Development (R&D) efforts from cotton cultivation to finished textile products.

Gilani stressed the need to advance both traditional and modern segments of the textile industry, stating that the Senate plays a key role in creating legislation that supports sustainable industrial growth.

He further assured that the government is committed to providing cutting-edge technology to the industry, essential for its modernization.

Acknowledging the talented students at the event, Gilani praised the role of educational institutions in developing new techniques and designs for the textile industry. He expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan's textile sector.

U.S. Consul General in Lahore, Kristin K. Hawkins, also addressed the conference, highlighting the strong business ties between Pakistan and the United States.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



TALHAR: Students of the Government Primary School Muhammad Sharif Laghari are eating food during a Milad celebration organized by Head Teacher Nadeem Ali Khawaja.—RT

## Tando Allahyar Police seize weapons



**By Afaq Khanzada**

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the leadership of the SDPO City, an operation was conducted by the SHO of B-Section. While checking at Quba Stop on the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road, an exchange of fire occurred with the suspects.

Upon seeing the police conducting checks, the suspects fled towards the Link Road.

While being pursued by the police, the suspects' vehicle got stuck in a ditch, and they fired at the police party with the intention to kill, successfully escaping.

Out of the four fleeing suspects, three have been identified as Sultan son of Salamat Lakho, Mitho Khaskheli, and Waryam Khaskheli, while one remains unidentified.

The suspects left behind a Corolla car along with dangerous illegal weapons, including three Kalashnikovs with nine magazines and 130 rounds, and one repeater with three magazines and 40 cartridges.

Tando Allahyar police are carrying out legal proceedings, and cases have been registered against the suspects for police encounter and illegal weapons.



DADU: Umme Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after a court hearing in the famous triple Mehar murder case, at the local Model Trial Court.—RT

## DC Saleemullah Odho chairs meeting of District Coordination Committee

**By Afaq Khanzada**

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A meeting of the District Coordination Committee of Tando Allahyar was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho to discuss the implementation of the Sindh Child Protection Act 2011. The meeting was attended by district officials from the police, education, labor, social welfare, and other relevant departments.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed police officers to raise public awareness regarding begging by children under ten years old and to take action to prevent it. He also directed labor department officials to identify individuals who employ under-age children for forced labor, particularly in brick kilns, where complaints have been reported.

Additionally, he asked social welfare department officials to launch an awareness campaign about the Child Protection Act 2011 to ensure the public is fully informed about the Act. Saleemullah Odho emphasized that all officials must play their part in preventing child labor and that immediate legal action should be taken against anyone found violating this Act.

## DC Yasir Bhatti lauds successful completion of anti-polio campaign

**By Raja Zafar Iqbal**

BADIN: An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti to review the previous anti-polio campaign. DC Badin lauded the services of the Health Department, Revenue, and other related departments of the successful completion of the anti-polio campaign. There is a need for further work and improvements in some areas. He stated that the success of the anti-polio campaign relies on a comprehensive micro plan, which needs to be updated. He emphasized the need to enhance training to reduce rejection cases. During the polio campaign, a target was set to vaccinate 425,824 children from birth to 5 years of age against polio, which has been 100% achieved.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II

## Sanghar Student Council demands retake of tests for admissions in medical and dental colleges

**By Sajjan Jani**

SHAHADADPUR: In Shahdadpur, the Sanghar Student Council organized a protest against the alleged malpractice in the medical and dental entry tests, where papers were reportedly leaked for bribes. Former MPA Faqir Muhammad Bux Khaskheli, along with prominent figures like Zulfiqar Nirban and Mehdi Hassan Panhwar, led a rally in front of the press club.

Students from various schools, alongside social and legal activists, participated in the demonstration.

The council officials and affected students demanded a retake of the medical entry test and called for it to be conducted by an institution without a tarnished reputation.

They urged authorities to expose the paper leakage mafia and take strict action against them, asserting that the disregard for merit represents a grave injustice to Sindh's students, with potentially dire consequences for the province's future.

## WASA's apathy and negligence result in spread of waterborne diseases in Hyderabad

**By GM Chandio**

HYDERABAD: WASA filter plant chlorine leakage issue occurred a few days ago which left 36 people unconscious but this was the result of the negligence of the concerned authorities. The WASA employees said that they had informed the officials but MD didn't heed on it and resultantly the leakage from the cylinder increased and 36 people became victims including 27 school children.

Zahid Khemtio, Managing Director WASA Hyderabad, neither reached the incident location nor visited the victims hospital to inquire the victims health. Chlorine is mixed in water for the purposes of disinfection as chlorine kills or inactivates harmful microorganisms which can cause typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and giardiasis. Unfortunately, chlorine has been providing to water filtration plants but their usage is questionable.

Natural water, such as rainwater, groundwater, and water from bodies such as lakes and rivers, is referred to as raw water. Until it is treated by a potable water treatment process, water is considered raw water. Although raw water is less expensive than treated water, it is dangerous for the health of consumers. Raw water has not been treated and doesn't have any of its minerals, ions particles, or parasites. The residents of Hyderabad has been providing raw water since years from 7 filter water plants.

Two filter plants have been covering population of Qasimbabad Tehsil. 3rd Hala Naka Filter Plant covering neighboring population. 4th Hussainabad Filter Plant covering populations of Hussainabad. 5th filter plant Lati-fabad No. 4 covering Lati-fabad populations. 7th filter plant is located in SITE area Hyderabad.

Residents of Hyderabad have been crying, protesting, holding sit-in and demanding for the provision of treated water but WASA authorities didn't care of it. It can be assumed that due to negligence of WASA authority and especially MD Zahid Khemtio, Hyderabad District witnessed several diseases. Due to this, hundreds of children, women and elders who have been victims to several waterborne disease. MD WASA turned the issue and responsibilities towards subordinates by suspending XEN and SDO and trying to keep away himself.

Dr. Kashif Memon, Medical Superintendent Civil Hospital Hyderabad, said that due to chlorine leakage, children were confronting the difficulties of shortness of breathing because the saturation level of affected victims dropped down till 70 to 80. All children were treated at Child Life Foundation, Civil Hospital Hyderabad. Whereas the adults were treated at Emergency Ward. They have been oxygen therapy for 9 hours to maintain saturation level.

## Badin Police continue operations against criminals, drug dealers

**By Raja Zafar Iqbal**

BADIN: On the instructions of SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir, Badin police are conducting operations against drug dealers and criminals. Ghulam Mustafa Aqlani has arrested the wanted accused Yasir Shah in the theft case. SHO Police Station Shaheed Fazil Rahu Inspector Ghulam Mustafa Aqlani has recovered the stolen motorcycle from Shah-nawaz Khaskheli which was handed over to its rightful owner.

SHO Pangrio Police Station Sub-Inspector Manzoor Ahmed Nuhri along with the staff have arrested 2 gamblers, cards and 2300 rupees in cash have been recovered from their possession. Pangrio Police also conducted a raid and recovered 300 bottles of wine from possession of a moonshiner named Sharif Mallah.

SHO Police Station Khoski Inspector Molchand Meghwar along with the staff has arrested the accused Safina vendor Allah Jurio and 190 sachets of Safina Gutka have been recovered from his possession. SHO Gulab Bhatti along with the staff have arrested the accused Mehar Ali Laghari, who was selling mainpuri and mawa. CIA Inspector in charge Shahjahan Lashari has recovered 525 liters of country liquor and three suspicious motorbikes from a local wine seller in the limits of Badin police station, while 4 suspects fled from the spot.

## PPP Taluka President Sher Muhammad Rind passes away



**By Khadim Khaskheli**

SANGAHR: The Taluka President of PPP Simjhora, Sher Muhammad Rind passed away after suffering from prolonged illness. The body of the deceased was laid to rest at his family's ancestral graveyard after performing his funeral prayers in village Sahib Khan Rind. PPP leaders, area notables and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life attended the funeral prayers and offered condolence with the bereaved family over the sad demise of Late Sher Muhammad Rind.



HYDERABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman is addressing his supporters during a public gathering held at Kohinoor Chowk.—RT



HYDERABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman is addressing his supporters during a public gathering held at Kohinoor Chowk.—RT

# NATIONAL



## Maryam Advocates For Establishment Of 'Punjab Tourism Authority'

LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz has sought proposals regarding the establishment, design and comprehensive plan for the 'Punjab Tourism Authority'.

She has directed the development of policy measures to promote tourism within the province and has established a special 25-member committee for this purpose.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) senior leader Senator Pervaiz Rasheed will serve as a special member of the steering committee, while senior provincial minister Maryam Aurangzeb will act as the committee's convener.

Provincial ministers for information, minorities, transport and communication will also be part of the committee.

Members include National Assembly member Afzal Khokhar, senior an-



chperson Iftikhar Ahmad along with various secretaries from different ministries.

The committee is tasked with preparing proposals within 15 days to present to the CM, with the aim of developing a comprehensive tourism plan for Punjab.

The initiative aims to promote 8 to 10 key tourist destinations in Punjab having religious, cultural, historical and business heritage significance.

The government plans

to promote foreign tourism and religious tourism in the region.

A complete restructuring of the existing tourism framework in Punjab will be undertaken Under the CM directive. This will include an upgrade of the system as well as a comprehensive overhauling of the archaeological, museums and transport sectors.

The development of a modern technology app and a tourism portal has also been initiated.—RT/Agency

## Lahore DC Faces Contempt Charges For Blocking PTI Rally



LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has fixed a hearing against DC Lahore for September 30 to consider contempt proceedings for not allowing a PTI rally, despite court orders, media reported.

As per details, Justice Farooq Haider will hear the petition filed by Akmal Khan, seeking contempt proceedings against the Lahore DC for violating court orders.

The Lahore DC had refused to allow the PTI rally, despite the court's clear orders, leading to the petition for contempt proceedings. Earlier, Lahore High Court directed the Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Lahore to decide on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan by September 30.

The PTI is seeking permission to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan on October 5, which is the birthdate of PTI founder Imran Khan.

The court's order comes after the PTI's Punjab Vice President requested the court to hear the case. The LHC has ordered the DC to make a decision on the request by September 30, the court's official lawyer has been directed to inform the DC about the court's order.—RT/Agency

## Fake Currency Network Plans To Circulate Counterfeit Notes Nationwide

RANIPUR: The security agencies along with the police in joint operation confiscate a shipment of fake currency notes in Ranipur area of Khairpur, media reported on Saturday.

After confiscating the shipment sent through a courier of fake currency notes of Rs 200,000, the

police managed to arrest the owner of medical store. The police spokesperson stated that the courier having fake currency notes of Rs 200,000 - was sent from Peshawar to a medical store in Khairpur.

The spokesperson further added that the packets of fake currency notes were also sent from Pe-

shawar to Haripur and Islamabad on the same day by a group supplying fake currency across the country.

Apart from this, the police and security agencies have started an investigation to nab the gang supplying fake currency notes across the country.—RT/Agency

## SOUTHERN PUNJAB

### NRSP and Population Welfare Dept Discuss Family Planning Initiatives



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A meeting was held regarding family planning, with a focus on changing human behaviors, organized through a joint collaboration between the District Population Office Toba Tek Singh and NRSP District Population Officer Muhammad Naem. Pro-

Shabbir, and stakeholders from the community participated. During a detailed briefing on positive changes in attitudes regarding family planning, it was emphasized that our religion, Islam, also provides guidance on family planning. The goal is to reduce negative impacts on health while contributing to national planning. In-charge NRSP Muhammad Atta, Deputy Director Social Welfare, District Information Officer Muhammad Shabbaz Ansari, DM Dr. Asif, Asif

economy. While we have a large workforce, unfortunately, the available jobs are unable to absorb this workforce. Furthermore, the education sector and healthcare system are facing challenges in meeting the growing population's needs. To resolve this critical issue faced by our country, population control must be implemented. In this regard, all stakeholders must play their full role with determination to improve the practical situation of family planning in Pakistan.

## Uzma Bukhari: Punjab Police Know How To Handle Individuals Like Gandapur

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Uzma Bukhari has stated that the Punjab police know about the treatment for individuals like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

Addressing a press conference with Khawaja Imran Nazir at the Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR) in Lahore, the Punjab minister said that police will ensure the K-P chief minister is taught a lesson, adding that any attempt to destabilise the province will not be tolerated.

Bukhari said that the concerns raised earlier had now materialised, as Gandapur was reportedly using government resources from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including ambulances, jammers, and cranes, while entering Punjab.

She questioned whether such preparations were for a public gathering or an attack on the province.

According to Bukhari, Gandapur is bringing armed groups to Rawalpindi, which has been confirmed by the authorities. Alongside armed police



forces, he is allegedly accompanied by his own private security. Bukhari said that law and order prevail in Punjab, and the use of force or violence would not be tolerated under the guise of democracy.

She questioned calls from the judiciary to allow political rallies, asking whether rallies should be conducted in this manner.

Bukhari further accused Gandapur and his group of seeking violence and stated that previous political maneuvers involving casualties would not be repeated.

She reiterated that Punjab police are well-equipped to handle individuals like Gandapur and prevent any hostile actions in the province.

Additionally, Bukhari questioned why the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be sacrificed while Imran Khan's children enjoy a luxurious life abroad. She urged mothers in K-P to ensure their children pursue education instead of being used as fuel for violence and terrorism.

In a separate press conference earlier, Bukhari questioned the use of weapons by political parties during rallies.

She criticised the K-P Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, for carrying an AK-47, stating that a political leader should focus on resolving public issues rather than inciting violence.—RT/Agency

## Three Policemen Injured In Bajaur Explosion



BAJAUR: At least three police officials got wounded in a blast on Saturday after their vehicle hit a bomb planted along the roadside in tehsil Khar of Bajaur district.

The deputy superintendent of police (DSP) said other officials, including the station house officer (SHO), escaped unhurt in the blast incident.

A hunt for the suspects had been launched in the Bhat Cheena area, the DSP added.

Police said the wounded were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment.

The attack comes two days after an explosion at a police station on Thursday night claimed the lives of two people, while several others remained injured in Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

District Police Officer (DPO) Swabi Haroon Rasheed had told reporters that the blast occurred in the police station's warehouse room on the first floor, where huge quantity of explosive material recovered from the terrorists from time to time was stored.

The nation has been reeling under rising violent

attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan.

The two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last couple of months, according to data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS).

The digital database of security incidents managed by the Islamabad-based think-tank suggested an alarming situation as the number of attacks jumped from 38 in July to 59 in August.

These incidents included 29 attacks in KP, 28 in Balochistan, and two in Punjab. Meanwhile, KP witnessed 25 casualties in the 29 terrorist attacks during August.

To tackle the menace of increasing terrorism in the country, the federal cabinet had approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam in June this year. The operation is a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism.—RT/Agency

## Police Arrest 25 Criminals, Seize Narcotics And Weapons

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police apprehended 25 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons in different raids during last 24 hours.

A public relations officer told APP on Saturday that police teams also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

In this regard, the Islamabad Police Aahpara, Sumbal, Tarnol, Sangiani, Industrial Area, Noon, Shams Colony and Koral police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, selling liquor and possessing illegal weapons.

Police teams arrested 13 accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and recovered 1,375 gram heroin, 3,500 gram hashish, 110 gram Ice,



10 Liters of liquor, two daggers and five pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 12 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, said that the Islamabad Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will

be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace.

Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority, he added. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15", or the "ICT 15" app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.—RT/Agency

## PIA Receives Pakistan's First National Tourism Award



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been awarded the prestigious National Tourism Award for its significant contributions to promoting domestic tourism, media reported on Saturday.

During a ceremony held on World Tourism Day, the award was presented to PIA CEO Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat. PIA was recognized for its unique role in connecting the country's re-

gions both domestically and internationally.

The airline has actively campaigned to showcase Pakistan's breathtaking northern areas to the world, boosting tourism.

"This award is an honor for PIA and a testament to our national commitment," said a PIA spokesperson, adding that the airline will continue to play its part in promoting domestic tourism as the national carrier.—RT/Agency

## Smart Safe City Project Boosting Security And Efficiency In Punjab

By Syed Mubashir Hussain

In response to urban challenges like crime, traffic congestion, and pollution, the Smart Safe City initiative in Punjab, led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, aims to create secure and vibrant urban environments. This initiative reflects her commitment to public safety and a Safer Punjab.

Currently operational in Lahore, Nankana, and Kasur, the project has made significant strides in Sialkot and Sheikhupura. Smart Safe City projects have been rapidly launched in major cities like Rawalpindi and Multan, utilizing provincial resources and technology. The initiative employs advanced surveillance, artificial intelligence, and traffic management to enhance public safety.

A key component is the Integrated Command, Control, and Communication (IC3) Centre, which monitors real-time feeds from CCTV



cameras to improve law enforcement responses. Notably, this technology has already led to a 34% decrease in property crime, demonstrating its effectiveness.

The Safe City initiative also plays a crucial role in traffic management, implementing an AI-based e-challenge system for various violations to promote road safety and reduce congestion. Furthermore, it addresses environmental issues through air quality monitoring.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced plans for the Smart District Safe City project across all districts by December 31 and

introduced upgraded safety features for women. An expansion agreement signed in March 2024 aims to extend the initiative to 18 additional cities, enhancing urban management and community well-being.

Under the leadership of IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the initiative modifies law enforcement, setting a benchmark for other provinces. The Smart Safe City initiative not only addresses immediate safety concerns but also lays the groundwork for sustainable urban development, ensuring vibrant cities for future generations.

## Two Five-Year-Old Girls Victimized In Gang Rape Incident In Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: A disturbing incident of gang rape of two girls - who were going to tuition - was reported from Ilahi Abad region of Faisalabad, media reported on Saturday.

According to the details, the police stated that two 5-year-old girls were raped by

three individuals, out of which one accused has been arrested.

The accused allegedly lured the girls away from the tuition center and subjected them to rape after administering intoxicating substances in their drinks. The medical reports of

the victims confirmed the rape, however, SHO police station Sadar delayed to register the case for three weeks.

Meanwhile, after delay of three weeks a case has been registered against the accused in the Sadar police station.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL



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

Sunday, September 29, 2024

## The Tragedy of a Fake Encounter: A Call for Accountability

The recent revelation of a staged encounter by the Mirpurkhas police, which led to the extrajudicial killing of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar, marks a dark chapter in Pakistan's justice system. This incident, fueled by baseless blasphemy accusations, reflects the deeply ingrained culture of impunity within our law enforcement agencies. The inquiry report that surfaced due to relentless public outcry has confirmed that the Mirpurkhas police, in a shocking breach of trust, fabricated an encounter to legitimize their unlawful actions.

Such incidents are not isolated; they point to a systemic failure where police officers resort to fake encounters to cover up their inadequacies in building proper legal cases.



Rather than protecting the public, they inflict unimaginable pain on innocent lives. This mockery of justice cannot be tolerated in a society that aspires to uphold the rule of law.

The fact that high-ranking officers, including DIG Javed Jaskani and SSP Asad Chaudhry, are implicated in this crime is

alarming. These are the very individuals who are supposed to uphold justice, yet they have turned their back on it. Accountability is non-negotiable. Those responsible for the death of Dr. Shahnawaz must face the full force of the law.

Extrajudicial killings are a gross violation of human rights and serve to erode public trust in the police. It is imperative that the government takes decisive action to dismantle this culture of encounters and ensure that law enforcement officers operate within the boundaries of the law. Only then can we restore faith in our justice system and prevent such tragedies from occurring again.

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Residents of Goods Naka are blocking the main road and are burning tires while holding a protest demonstration against prolonged electricity load shedding in their area.-RT

### MPA Pir Mujeebul Haq visits different towns of Dadu district



**By Javed Laghari** Sharif, and village Anhdh Chandio, he offered prayers and condolences with various communities. MPA Dadu Pir Mujeebul Haq also attended tea parties organized by different communities, visiting various wards to assess the planting of blocks. He participated in mourning and tea gatherings in different cities.

During his visit to Phulji Station, Sita Station, Pat Dawach and other local leaders.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Jinnah Colony are holding a protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

### Nisar Khuhro advocates for judicial reforms and constitutional amendments

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a press conference, Sindh Assembly Public Accounts Committee Chairman and PPP Sindh President, MPA Nisar Ahmed Khuhro emphasized the need for constitutional amendments to establish constitutional courts for judicial reforms. He urged all political parties to support the Pakistan People's Party in this endeavor. Khuhro mentioned ongoing discussions with various leaders, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman, to build consensus on the amendments, which require a two-thirds majority.



He highlighted the necessity of strengthening judicial institutions, stating that Pakistan needs robust judicial systems to reduce the burden on the Supreme Court. He referenced the 18th Amendment, stressing the importance of its implementation and rejecting any attempts to undermine it.

On the issue of water rights, he criticized the IRSA Act, calling it damaging to Pakistan's water distribution review.

### No police officer or Maulana Umar Jan Sarhandi arrested in Dr Shahnawaz's murder case

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: In the case of the murder of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar in a fake encounter, no arrests have been made so far. Former DIG, two SSPs and Maulana Umar Jan Sarhandi have not yet presented themselves. The Sindh Police has only submitted an FIR to the Anti-Terrorism Court in Mirpurkhas regarding the incident.

In a related case, nine suspects involved in the burning of Dr. Kumbhar's body have been arrested and presented in court, where they were remanded to police custody for four days. Additionally, in a case of rioting and setting a police vehicle on fire in Umerkot, nine more suspects have been sent to jail.

### Registration of cases against former Taluka Nazim Lala Muhammad Ayub Khan and others condemned

By Mumtaz Thahim

TANDO ADAM: A protest was held in Tando Adam against the filing of a case against former PPP Taluka Nazim and his son, Lala Osama Khan, and Panhwar Para. Demonstrators shouted slogans against the police, demanding the withdrawal of the case filed against PPP leaders Lala Muhammad Ayub Khan, his son, along with former General Counselor Lala Osama Khan, among others. The tension arose after a dispute two days prior over agricultural land near the B-Section police station, involving Osama Khan and members of the Baloch community, with hundreds of vehicles stranded.

The case, filed by Fa-met reed Baloch at the B-Section police station, accused Lala Muhammad Ayub Khan and his son, along with former General Counselor Lala Osama Khan, among others. In response, protests were organized on various roads, with demands for the immediate dismissal of the alleged false charges. Protesters warned of more intense demonstrations if their demands were not met.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Husri are holding a protest demonstration against the hunchedness of their area's influential people, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

### HESCO Lineman tortured in Qazi Ahmed



**By Mumtaz Soomro** attacked him sticks near village Ramzan Rahu when he was going to his office. He demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter said that he has been subjected to torture by Ghulam Sarwar Lund. The police have registered the initial report and Anwar Rind, who

### Rickshaw driver killed in a fatal road accident

By AQ Khilji

Hashim Larik on the leading to a commotion. Upon receiving the news, his relatives arrested and took the body cargo rickshaw to shaw overturned after a tire burst, resulting in where necessary procedure was completed causing the accident that led to his death.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Hindu Community are holding a protest demonstration against land grabbers, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

# SPORTS



## Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr picks pace in Saudi Pro League



The Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo grabbed the spotlight once again after achieving a new milestone by securing his third victory with Al-Nassr in the 2024 Saudi Pro League. In a thrilling fixture, Al Nassr achieved a 2-0 win against Al Wahda at the Al Awwal Park. Al Nassr secured their third spot on the table, only behind Al Ittihad and Al Hilal. The Ronaldo-led side opened the match with Brazilian footballer Angelo Gabriel smashing the first goal in the 41st minute of the fixture. Making a comeback, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner smashed the second goal for the team with his "superkick" in the 56th minute of the fixture. After this match, the 39-year-old has bagged 903 goals of his career on penalty after Sultan Al-Ghannam was fouled inside the box. Ronaldo later celebrated the third win of the season with a post on his Instagram handle as he shared a glimpse of celebration on the ground along with a caption, "Three wins in a row." The Al Nassr is all set to face Al Orobah in the fourth fixture of the league scheduled on October 5. It is worth noting that the Al Orobah has won only one match of the league and stands at the 12th position on the points table. Previously, the most-followed celebrity revealed that he is aiming to smash 1000 career goals before his retirement. —Agency

## PCB chief Naqvi directs for formation of committees for Champions Trophy 2025

LAHORE: PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has instructed the immediate formation of essential committees for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 tournament, media reported on Saturday. The directive was disclosed during a meeting held at the National Cricket Academy, Lahore, chaired by Naqvi, where key preparations for the international event were reviewed. During the meeting, detailed discussions took place regarding the ICC Champions Trophy, along with an update on the Champions One Day Cup, currently being held in Faisalabad. Additionally, the progress of the stadium upgradation project was assessed. Naqvi emphasised the urgency of creating the required committees for the tournament, with clear responsibilities assigned to ensure a swift start to operations. "With some of the world's top teams set to compete, our arrangements must be flawless," he said. The PCB chairman also highlighted the importance of accelerating the pace of work on the stadium renovation project. He stressed that all efforts should be made to ensure the upgrades are completed within the stipulated time, enhancing the viewing experience for cricket fans. "Once the renovations are done, the spectators will enjoy the matches even more," Naqvi added. He praised the enthusiasm shown by the people of Faisalabad during the Champions Cup matches, hinting at the possibility of holding Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the city. The meeting was attended by PCB officials, including Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Chief Financial Officer Javed Murtaza, all PCB directors, and other relevant stakeholders. It must be noted Naqvi is expected to meet Jay Shah, the chairman of the International Cricket Council. The two officials are set to meet in October during the final match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup - set to take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, in order to confirm logistical arrangements, the PCB is awaiting the final approval of the Champions Trophy's schedule. —Agency



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## Asim Khan makes it to final of Charlottesville Open Squash



Pakistan's squash player Asim Khan has made it to the final of the Charlottesville Open Squash tournament after defeating Mexico's Cesar Salazar in the semi-final. Continuing his remarkable form, Asim triumphed after falling behind two straight sets of 11-5, 11-5 and 11-4. His victory in the semi-final has earned him a spot in the final where he will face England's Nick Wall for the title. The Charlottesville Open, being played in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, features top players from around the globe. The tournament boasts a total prize fund of \$28,750. With his sights set on claiming the title, the Pakistani player is hoping to bring another international squash championship home to the country. Earlier in the tournament, Asim had qualified for the semi-final after overcoming Egypt's eighth-seed, Aly Hussein in straight games, securing an 11-3, 11-5, 11-9 victory. Before that, the squash player had staged an impressive comeback after falling behind two games against Brazil's Diego Gobbi with a 3-2 victory despite losing the first two games 5-11 and 9-11. Asim rallied to win the next three games 11-8, 11-8, and 11-8. It is to be noted that in July, Asim clinched the Jones Creek Open Squash Championship title in the US where he defeated his fellow countryman Ashab Irfan. Apart from this, the ongoing year has already brought two notable achievements for him including the Wild Card Challenger in Washington and the Squash Inspire Challenger titles. —RT/Agency

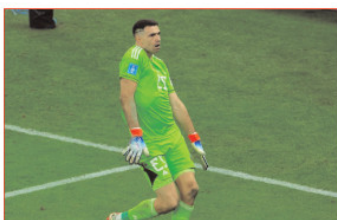
## Sri Lanka sniff series victory as New Zealand trail by 315 after follow-on

GALLE: Sri Lanka launched a ruthless spin attack which powered them to move five wickets away from a resounding victory over New Zealand in the second Test. The touring side were 199/5 at the Stumps on Day 3, still trailing by 315 runs after the home side imposed a follow-on, having booked them on a meagre 88 in the first innings. Wicketkeeper batter Tom Blundell was unbeaten on 47 and Glenn Phillips on 32 when bad light forced an early close to an eventful day of action at the Galle International Stadium. The touring side had a shaky start to their second



innings as experienced opener Tom Latham bagged a six-ball duck in the first over. Devon Conway was joined by second-ranked Test batter Kane Williamson and together they raised a fighting 97-run partnership for the second wicket. Dhananjaya de Silva broke the threatening partnership by getting rid of Conway, who scored 61 off 62 balls. Williamson soon followed suit as he fell victim to Nishan Peiris after scoring 46 off 58 deliveries. The touring side slipped further to 121/5 with Daryl Mitchell (1) and Rachin Ravindra (1) perishing cheaply before Blundell and Phillips hung on. Earlier in the day, New Zealand resumed their first innings at 22/2 with skipper Williamson and nightwatchman Ajaz Patel. New Zealand's batting unit struggled against a ruthless Sri Lanka spin attack with their best partnership being 20 runs, added by the last pair of Mitchell Santner, who top-scored with a gritty 29 and William O'Rourke (2). Prabath Jayasuriya was the star with the ball for Sri Lanka, taking six wickets, followed by debutant Peiris, who bagged three. —Agency

## Argentina goalkeeper Martinez banned for 'offensive behaviour'



ARGENTINA: Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez has been banned for two matches by FIFA for "offensive behaviour", the Argentine Football Association (AFA) announced on Saturday. The 32-year-old Aston Villa star was also found guilty of "violating principles of fair play" in two separate episodes. Martinez was found to have violated FIFA's code of conduct when holding a replica of the Copa America trophy to his groin after the World Cup qualifier win over Chile on September 5. It is not the first time Emiliano Martinez has performed such an action having also done it with the Golden Glove trophy for best goalkeeper after Argentina beat France on penalties in the 2022 World Cup final. FIFA also sanctioned him for hitting a TV cameraman's camera with his gloves after their 2-1 defeat by Colombia on September 10. The AFA expressed their dissatisfaction with the FIFA ruling. "It should be noted that the Argentine Football Association expresses its absolute disagreement with the decision taken by the FIFA disciplinary committee," they said in a statement. As a result of the decision Emiliano Martinez - also a key member of the Argentina side that won the Copa America in July, as well as the 2021 edition - will miss the World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela on October 10 and Bolivia on October 15. Argentina are top of the South American qualifying table with 18 points after eight matches. Colombia are just two points behind. —Agency

## Shakib's dream of a home-ground Test retirement may remain unfulfilled

DHAKA: Due to the current political situation in Bangladesh, star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's dream of retiring from Test cricket on his home ground may remain unfulfilled. According to media reports, the star cricketer announced his retirement from international cricket before the start of the Kanpur Test yesterday, though he will continue representing the team in the One-Day International (ODI) format. The Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in Pakistan next year, will be his last ODI tournament, after which he will retire from International cricket by March 2025. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Farooq Ahmed chaired a 4-hour-long meeting on September 26, which included discussions regarding Shakib Al Hasan's future. The board stated that due to the current political tensions, they cannot guarantee whether Shakib will play his last Test match on his home ground, as they are unable to provide security. The all-rounder must decide his future himself, as security is not in their control. It is possible that Shakib's final career match will be the last Test match of the series against India. Meanwhile, the Bangladeshi all-rounder is going through one of the toughest periods of his life, as he faces charges of fraud and murder. It is noteworthy that Shakib Al Hasan, who is associated with the party of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is facing murder charges in Bangladesh. —Agency



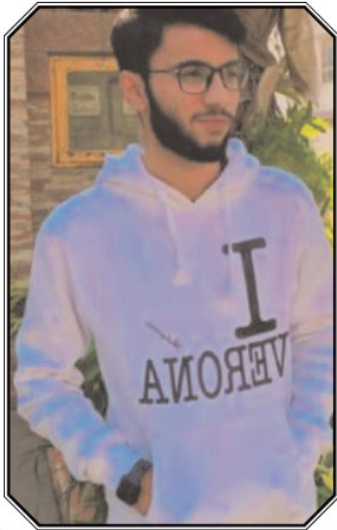
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## Real Madrid receives good news ahead of Atletico Madrid clash



MADRID: France's Eduardo Camavinga is set to make a comeback in the forthcoming derby against Atletico Madrid. The 21-year-old was on a hiatus following an injury to his left knee while he was training for the European Super Cup. As per MARCA, Camavinga has been considered about his condition, and is putting efforts to heal his injured knee lately. In regard to this, the latest medical reports are optimistic about his condition. This news comes as a relief for Real Madrid after Kylian Mbappe got injured on Tuesday. In regard to this, the French captain is expected to be on hiatus for three weeks, leading him to miss games with Lille in Champions League and Villarreal in La Liga and the international break with France. Moreover, Madrid regained a crucial piece in their midfield puzzle. However, the final decision on whether Camavinga plays is to be decided by Carlo Ancelotti. Despite Frenchman's positive medical reports, the coach of the Real Madrid is still in doubt regarding whether to bring Camavinga back in squad. It is worth noting that the Spanish club has monitored his recovery process to keep a check on his condition. In addition, Luka Modric, Camavinga, and Arda Guler are in the option to be selected as the fourth midfielder. —RT/Agency

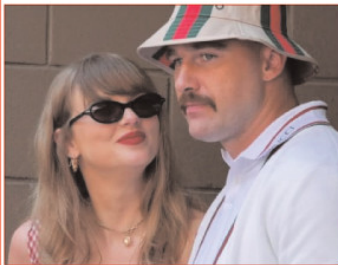
## Face of the Day



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

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Taylor Swift takes Travis Kelce to be her new 'muse'



Taylor Swift's new music is reportedly going to be inspired by Travis Kelce. As per an insider privy to Life & Style, "She loves the idea of integrating Travis into her creative life." They went on to add, "He's already inspired her so much. He's definitely her new muse," noting, "But she thinks he's got the potential to be a lot more than just a muse." "He's got a really good natural rhythm and an eye for lyrics. She's convinced he's the type of person that would flourish in the studio," the source remarked before signing off from the chat. It was earlier reported that the NFL player is enjoying the stardom that is being with Taylor Swift. According to a second insider "Travis is living like a rock star" with Taylor Swift. At the time, the confidante explained that the NFL player "sees no reason to rock the boat," and is getting used to the spotlight. "Nobody's saying he doesn't love Taylor," the source dished, then. Before signing off from the chat, the source insisted, "But he really loves the life she's given him!"

## Katy Perry appreciates Orlando Bloom, Kim Kardashian 'flirt'



Katy Perry reportedly has no issue with Orlando Bloom checking out Kim Kardashian. "She says she'd do the same if a hot guy stare at many partners, Katy Perry reportedly would have no issue with it," they explained. In addition to this, the source revealed that the Roar singer actually appreciates Orlando understanding why Orlando would be checking out Kim's booty. "She says she'd do the same if a hot guy stare at many partners, Katy Perry reportedly would have no issue with it," they explained. In addition to this, the source revealed that the Roar singer actually appreciates Orlando being flirty with other women as she believes this keeps the spark between them alive. "They're at a point in their relationship where they actually encourage each other to have some flirty fun, as long as it never crosses any lines into cheating territory, they feel like it actually helps to keep the spark alive," they continued. Before signing off from the chat, the source noted, "They're at a point in their relationship where they actually encourage each other to have some flirty fun, as long as it never crosses any lines into cheating territory, they feel like it actually helps to keep the spark alive."



# METRO KARACHI



## Murad Emphasizes Urgency Of Polio Eradication, Calls For Upholding Truth's Sanctity

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, expressing deep concern over the detection of another polio case in Hyderabad, lamented that while the world is advancing in numerous areas, Pakistan remains entangled in the fight to eradicate poliovirus.

Shah voiced his shock at the new polio case involving a 2.5-year-old boy, highlighting that despite the government's relentless efforts, progress has been hindered by parental non-cooperation and vaccine refusals. "Each refusal contributes to the persistence of the poliovirus in our environment," he stated, urging parents to protect their children by willingly administering the polio vaccine.

The Chief Minister noted that the recent case brings the total number of polio cases in Sindh to five and 24 nationwide. "The failure to eliminate poliovirus comes at a significant cost, impacting not only our children but the nation as a whole," he warned.

Shah reaffirmed the government's commitment to continue door-to-door anti-polio campaigns through its health department but stressed that parents must actively support these efforts to secure their children's health, education, and future. "It's now imperative that parents stand alongside the government and public workers in the fight against poliovirus," he added.



The Chief Minister directed the health department to investigate the recent polio case and provide recommendations for necessary policy adjustments. World News Day Message: On the occasion of World News Day, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah underscored the importance of the theme 'Choose Truth,' calling it a powerful message for those in the news industry.

Shah emphasized that truth must be presented faithfully, without any distortion or exaggeration, as even the slightest alteration can compromise its integrity. He remarked that in today's social media-dominated world, where everyone has the means to voice their opinions, truth is often overshadowed by falsehoods and rumors. The Chief Minister urged the media-across print, electronic, and social platforms to champion the cause of truth and make a clear distinction between fact and fiction.—RT

## Sindh Home Minister Inaugurates Online Driving License Issuance



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar inaugurated the Online Issuance of Driving Licenses in Clifton today, congratulating IGP Sindh and DIG Driving License on launching this service for the citizens.

"I commend the efforts of IGP Sindh and DIG Driving License in introducing online driving license services. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the history of Sindh Police," stated the Home Minister.

He emphasized that citizens will benefit from simplified procedures for

obtaining learning permits, international licenses, and non-commercial license renewals. Lanjar also highlighted that this modern approach to policing would enhance the image of the Sindh Police and potentially foster a more positive relationship between the police and the public.

The Home Minister noted that he had personally observed the license issuance process and found it satisfactory.

"The improved image of Sindh Police is vital, and today's achievement is a testament to the dedication of IGP Sindh and his team. This initiative will undoubtedly boost the

morale of the Sindh Police," Lanjar added.

He instructed DIG Traffic to enhance the city's parking management system and commended the IT team for their role in introducing modern policing methods. Additionally, he directed the Adl. IGP Karachi to establish model police stations in the South and City districts and to announce special incentives for the staff at these stations.

"I assure the Sindh Police of the Sindh Government's full support and will work to identify and address any shortcomings for further improvement," said Lanjar.

IGP Sindh Gulshan Nabi, speaking at the event, emphasized that the introduction of online facilities aims to reduce the number of unlicensed drivers in the city, thereby decreasing traffic accidents.

"Globally, traffic management systems are increasingly IT-driven, and it is imperative that we keep pace with these advancements. Services such as the Search App, Point Me, employee verification, online certificate verification, and Hotel Eye are already performing well under this system," noted the IGP.

He praised DIG Driving License and his team for their work on the online

services, expressing hope that such innovations in policing would continue.

The IGP also highlighted that providing home-based services would reduce the burden on driving license branches, reaffirming the Sindh Police's commitment to serving the public with maximum efficiency, with support from the Sindh government.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Additional IGs Karachi, Establishment Sindh DIGs, Traffic, Driving License Branch, South, Secretary Finance, CPLC Chief, SSP South, all DL Branch DSPs, and other officers.

## Sindh Minister Nasir Shah Reaffirms PPP's Commitment To Media Workers at PFUJ Workers' FEC Meeting

KARACHI: Sindh's Minister for Energy, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, served as the chief guest at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Workers, organized by the Karachi Union of Journalists (KUJ) Workers.

The event brought together key figures from the journalism community, including Dr. Saadia Kamal, Vice President of PFUJ Workers, Shahid Ali, Secretary General of PFUJ Workers, Sha-keel Kango, President of KUJ Workers, Jahangir Aslam, President of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) Workers, and Syed Bilal Izzat Naqvi, General Secretary of RIUJ Workers, among others.

In his address, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah highlighted his enduring relationship with the media and reiterated PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's directive to ensure timely salary payments to media workers. Shah reaffirmed the PPP's dedication to supporting journalists and ensuring their welfare, emphasizing that a strong media



workforce is vital for the party's and the nation's progress. He lauded the role of unions in protecting media workers' rights and pledged the PPP's continued support.

Senior journalist and anchorperson Mazhar Abbas expressed concern over the division within PFUJ and paid tribute to the late Pervez Shaukat for his integrity and contributions to the journalists' movement. Abbas underscored the need for a united and robust PFUJ, stressing that empowering media workers, rather than merely strengthening media owners, is crucial for the success of the media industry and the political stability of parties like the PPP.

During the event, PFUJ Secretary General Shahid Ali presented Syed Nasir Hussain Shah with a traditional Sindh Ajrak as a token of respect. In return, the minister gifted an Ajrak to PFUJ's Acting President, Dr. Saadia Kamal, symbolizing unity and goodwill between the leadership and the media community. The meeting emphasized the importance of solidarity among media workers and the pivotal role of unions in advocating for journalists' rights in Pakistan. The presence of prominent union leaders from both Karachi and Rawalpindi-Islamabad reinforced the collective strength of the PFUJ Workers in safeguarding the welfare of media professionals across the country.—RT

## FIA arrests three over fake US visa documents



KARACHI: Following a complaint from the US Consulate's Diplomatic Security Unit, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle has arrested three individuals attempting to obtain US visas over forged documents, media reported on Saturday.

The arrested suspects identified as Muhammad Maqsood, Abdullah Swabi, and Sufyan Khalid, residents of Faisalabad, had reportedly acquired the fake documents from agents for a fee of \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The accused had already paid \$1,500 to Security Unit, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle has arrested three individuals attempting to obtain US visas over forged documents, media reported on Saturday. One of the arrested men had also applied for a visa for his wife and two children.

The FIA has registered cases against eight individuals, including the agents, with further investigations underway.—RT/Agency

## Indonesian Consulate In Karachi Marks 79th Independence Day With A Diplomatic Reception



KARACHI: The Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi hosted a diplomatic reception to celebrate Indonesia's 79th Independence Day. The event was graced by Governor of Sindh, Mr. Kamran Khan Tessori; Culture Minister Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah; and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Mr. Hassan Noorian. The gathering also included diplomats from various foreign missions, and business leaders.

Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi, delivered a speech emphasizing the enduring friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, which has flourished over 74 years of diplomatic ties. He expressed optimism for further growth in trade, cultural exchanges, and educational collaborations between the two countries.

A highlight of the event was the awarding of door prizes to two prominent businessmen, Mr. Shamon Zaki, President of the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Forum (PIBF), and Mr. Zeeshan Lohya, owner of Consultant Group and CEO of Z Group. The prizes, generously sponsored by Emirates Airlines and Polani Group, included tickets from Karachi to Bali and Jakarta, along with three-day travel packages. The winners were announced by Governor Sindh, adding an extra layer of excitement to the celebration.—RT

## Sindh Govt To Revise Laws For Introducing Multiple Power Utilities

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah announced that the provincial government is actively reviewing legislation to introduce multiple power utilities for the production and supply of electricity, alongside the local grid system. This move aims to foster competition, which could lead to improved services and lower costs for consumers.



Speaking at the Expo Centre, Nasir Hussain Shah addressed the ongoing challenges with Karachi's electricity system, including persistent load shedding and over-billing, which have drawn the government's attention. He also announced the distribution of free solar systems, highlighting the Sindh government's commitment to addressing these issues.

The minister revealed that the Sindh government is working on a significant solar project, with plans to distribute 160,000 solar systems free of charge. These systems will come equipped with inverters and battery backups, with final details currently under discussion.

Nasir Hussain Shah emphasized that coal is the cheapest source of electricity for the national grid. He assured that relief would be provided to consumers using up to 300 units, as promised in the party's manifesto.

Additionally, the provincial energy minister announced that the Sindh government is introducing hybrid solar parks and is revising laws to establish a competitor to K-Electric. The government is also developing its own transmission and distribution system, which is expected to enhance Karachi Electric's performance through increased competition.

Shah highlighted that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have signed Memorandums of Under-

standing (MoUs) not only in Pakistan but also in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He noted that India improved its agreements after four to five years, while Pakistan's agreements remain based on outdated terms.

Sindh government spokesperson Saadia Javed also spoke, noting that Bilawal Bhutto is fulfilling his promise under the People's Economic Agreement by providing free solar home systems to 2.6 million households. Despite limited resources and the lack of federal support, the project is moving forward. This year alone, 500,000 off-grid households will receive free solar systems as part of this initiative.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Former Sindh Minister and Senator, Nawab Jina Karam Ali Khan visited the residence of former MNA and Chairman of the Ibrat Group Kazi Asad Ibrat, to inquire about his health as he recuperates after undergoing multiple surgical procedures.—RT



KARACHI: Kawkab Iqbal, Chairman of the Consumers Association of Pakistan, receives a memento from Ron Thomas, Managing Director of the Strategy Focused Group (UAE & NYC), at the Tree Conference held at the PC Hotel.—RT

## PPP believes in freedom of press: MPA Raja Abdul Razzaq Baloch



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Malir President MPA Raja Abdul Razzaq Baloch stated that the party believes in press freedom and acknowledged the vital role journalists play in restoring democracy. He expressed these views while talking to the media persons at the District Press Club Malir.

MPA Baloch assured ownership rights

would be granted to the villages in Malir along with lease agreements, and that mega projects would be developed with the cooperation of KMC and the Sindh government. He emphasized the party's commitment to serving the public and recognized Malir as the stronghold of the PPP, while residents have consistently supported their representatives.

He commended local journalists for their

efforts in voicing public issues and their contributions to democracy during times of dictatorship. The event was attended by PPP Malir General Secretary Imdad Jokhio, Information Secretary Shahjahan Khan, and other party leaders. Prior to the speeches, District Press Club Malir President Hanif Soomro and General Secretary Syed Rahim Shah welcomed guests with Ajrak, a traditional Sindh shawl.

## 15 arrested for stealing pipelines of K-4 Project

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Steel Town Police led by DSP Mumtaz Magsood and SHO Iqbal Asim, conducted a raid near Dargah Noor Shah Ali, and managed to arrest 15 men involved in stealing

pipelines of K-4 Project. The arrested men included Muslim, Abdul Razzaq, Muhib Hastez, Akram Anjum, Jabbar, Wazir Ali, Gul Hassan, Muhammad Farooq, Noor Khan, Ahmed,

Waheedullah and Habibullah. The police recovered 7 cutters, 10 gas cylinders and other items used in the crime from the possession of the arrested men, who were booked in a case.

"No human thing is of serious importance."

—Plato

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2024

Shehbaz and President Biden Reaffirm Commitment To Enhance Cooperation In Key Areas

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended a reception hosted by United States President Joe Biden in honour of the heads of government participating in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

President Biden and PM Shehbaz met during the reception. Both the leaders expressed good wishes for each other.

The heads of state of other countries also attended the dinner. Taking to X, the premier said: "My brief meeting with US President Joe Biden @POTUS and First Lady Jill Biden during the President's reception in New York was most warm and cordial."

"We reaffirmed our common desire to enhance cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, technology, & climate action," he added.

This is Premier Shehbaz's second meeting with President Biden as the previous one was also held at a reception hosted by



President Biden for the world leaders participating in the 77th session of the UNGA in 2022.

During the previous meeting, the premier lauded the flood relief efforts by the US and the continuous COVID-19 vaccine assistance and collaboration between the two countries.

Prior to attending the event, PM Shehbaz had addressed the plenary meeting for the UN General Debate at the 79th session of the United Nations Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

In his 21-minute address, he touched on multi-

ple regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir disputes, Ukraine war, climate change, rising poverty and debt burden particularly induced by climate change impacts.

Criticising India's policy of brutal coercion and oppression in India Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ), he said such actions have ensured, that Burhan Wani's legacy continues to inspire the struggle and sacrifices of millions of Kashmiris.

For durable peace, the premier called on India to reverse the unilateral and illegal measures, it has

taken since 5 August 2019, and enter into a dialogue "for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

PM Shehbaz also demanded an immediate end to the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza, terming it "systematic slaughter" and "bloodshed".

The prime minister asked the United Nations to work for a durable peace, through the Two-State solution.

The premier said that Islamophobia was manifested, by frequent denigrations of the Holy Quran, attacks on mosques, negative stereotyping of Muslims and acts of discrimination and violence against them.

Pakistan and the OIC would work with the UN Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to implement a plan of action to combat this scourge, he assured.

PM Shehbaz also spoke to the tragic conflict in Ukraine, and its peaceful resolution, besides reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to continue to cooperate with Africa to counter terrorism and resolve regional conflicts, including through its role in UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the region.

During his US trip, PM Shehbaz held meetings with several world leaders, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the UNGA sidelines.

The premier had also engaged in talks with UK Premier Keir Starmer, European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) founder and co-chair Bill Gates, and others. He had also addressed a high-level open debate of the Security Council on "Leadership for Peace" on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA session.—RT/Agency

Gandapur Returns To Peshawar As PTI Calls Off Rawalpindi Protest Following Police Clashes

RAWALPINDI: Firebrand Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has headed back to Peshawar as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest at Rawalpindi "called off" after violent clashes with police near Liaquat Bagh.

The Gandapur-led convoy was stuck at the interchange hours due to closure of roads as the authorities have placed containers at Burhan Interchange in an attempt to thwart PTI's protest.

Addressing the participants, the KP chief executive directed them to return back to Peshawar and castigated the government for not granting PTI its "constitutional right".

He regretted that the police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the protesters, vowing that they will come back with "all resources".

"They [police] have set a precedent of firing bullets [...] We also have guns," he warned.

The firebrand politician noted that the allocated deadline for holding protest in Rawalpindi has ended.



announcement drew strong opposition from the protesters as they refused to return back. The PTI workers chanted slogans against the KP chief minister and party leadership and surrounded their vehicles.

Earlier, clashes broke out between the PTI workers and police near Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh ahead of its planned protest as the garrison city was put on high alert.

The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in Rawalpindi Division for two days, banning all political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, protests and similar activities.

PTI had initially planned

to hold a public rally at Liaquat Bagh, but shifted the event to a demonstration following directives from PTI founder Imran Khan.

It also withdrawn its application seeking a no-objective certificate (NOC) to hold a rally from the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Salman Akram Raja were also detained in their way to Rawalpindi near Sector H-13 only to be released shortly.

In a statement issued earlier, the PTI said Gohar and Salman were travelling to Rawalpindi when the police stopped their vehicle near Sector H-13 and took them into custody.—RT/Agency

Pakistan-India Water Dispute: Third Meeting Held With Neutral Expert In Vienna

ISLAMABAD: The third meeting on proceedings related to the Rattle and Kishenganga hydroelectric plants discussed the competence of the neutral expert. The News reported on Saturday.

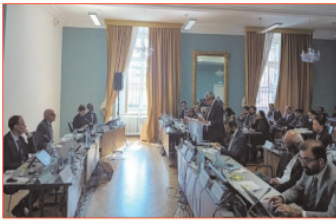
The meeting was part of the Vienna proceedings involving Pakistan and India — initiated by the latter.

As per the press release issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Michel Lino, a neutral expert appointed under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, held the third meeting after written submissions were made by teams of the neighbouring countries on the matter earlier in 2024.

"The third meeting concerned the competence of the neutral expert under paragraph 7 of annexure F to the Treaty," the press release said. Each party made opening and rebuttal submissions on this occasion.

It said the neutral expert would proceed accordingly to prepare his decision on competence under paragraph 7 of annexure F of Indus Waters Treaty.

Pakistan's submissions were made by its designated representative Ahmad Irfan Aslam, counsel Sir Daniel Bethlehem



KC, Professor Philippa Webb and Dr Cameron Miles. India's submissions were made by its designated representative and secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ms Debashree Mukherjee, and its counsel, Harish Salve KC.

Pakistan was also represented by Secretary Ministry of Water Resources Syed Ali Murtaza, Indus Waters Commissioner Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, Director General South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, legal advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Assad Khan Burki, officials from the Embassy of Pakistan in Vienna Adeel Ahmed Khan and Hassan Abbas and Ms Laura Rees-Evans and counsel Abdullah Tariq.

The parties' submissions on the neutral expert's competence under paragraph 7 of annexure F to the Treaty are now completed.

India was also represented in the meeting by Kushvinder Vohra, ex-officio secretary and chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC); Ms Uma Shekhar, additional secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA); JP Singh, joint secretary, MEA; Darpan Talwar, its Indus Waters Commissioner; Vivek Tripathi, chief engineer, CWC; Sharvan Kumar, chief engineer (Hydro-Power Planning & Investigation), Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power (MoP); Ms Chitrangna Singh, director, MEA; Naveen Kumar, senior joint commissioner for Indus Waters; Narendra Singh Shekharawat and Samarth Agarwal, director of the CWC; Dr Kumar

Abhijeet, legal officer, MEA; Vishal Kumar Saini, executive director and Shrish Dubey, general manager of NHPC Ltd., MoP; Ms Nidhi Dhiman, first secretary of the Embassy of India in Vienna; Ms Chetna Rai and Anandh Venkataramani, counsel, and Prof GR Basson and Dr Kim Wium Olesen, technical experts.

On October 13, 2022, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), pursuant to Article IX and Annexure F of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, and after consultation with each of the parties, appointed Lino as a neutral expert in proceedings commenced by India against the Pakistan concerning the KHEP and the RHEP.

The neutral expert convened a first meeting with the parties on February 27-28 in 2023 at the headquarters of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Peace Palace, in The Hague.

Following the first meeting, the neutral expert's terms of retainer were fixed on May 2, 2023. The terms of retainer also recorded the appointment of Luc Deroo as the neutral expert's technical assistant. On

June 1, 2023, the neutral expert issued supplemental rules of procedure, including a work programme, which was subsequently revised on Aug 21, Oct 11 and Nov 2, 2023, and most recently on May 29 and June 4, 2024.

On June 5, 2023, the PCA was appointed as registry and secretariat by the neutral expert. The proceedings are administered by the Vienna Office of the PCA, in cooperation with its Mauritius Office. On August 31, 2023, India submitted its memorial.

A second meeting with the parties was held on September 20-21 in 2023 at the Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna. Matters discussed at that meeting included the organisation of the first site visit, questions arising from India's memorial, and amendments to the work programme for the proceedings.

Following the second meeting, Pakistan submitted its statement under paragraph 7 of annexure F to the Treaty on Feb 1, 2024 and India submitted its paragraph 7 statement and response to Pakistan's paragraph 7 statement on June 14, 2024.—RT/Agency

COAS Munir Prioritizes Resolution Of Traders' Issues

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir met with the renowned businessmen of the city and discussed different facets of the country's economy.

During his visit, the COAS invited the traders to work hand in hand with Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the betterment of the country's economy.

The ISPR said the COAS visited Karachi and met with business leaders to discuss important issues problems related to the economy.

Speaking to the business leaders, he said: "A year ago, I told you all not to despair, as despair is a sin. Never give up hope for the prosperity of Pakistan," adding that joint efforts have helped defeat attempts to create despair within society.

He mentioned the coun-



try's exceptional capabilities in various sectors, reiterating that the country seeks to secure its rightful place on the global stage through its own resources.

General Munir also praised the role of Pakistan's foreign allies, especially China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, for their contributions to the country's economic recovery.

"Google, Starlink and

to hold a public rally at Liaquat Bagh, but shifted the event to a demonstration following directives from PTI founder Imran Khan.

It also withdrawn its application seeking a no-objective certificate (NOC) to hold a rally from the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Salman Akram Raja were also detained in their way to Rawalpindi near Sector H-13 only to be released shortly.

In a statement issued earlier, the PTI said Gohar and Salman were travelling to Rawalpindi when the police stopped their vehicle near Sector H-13 and took them into custody.—RT/Agency

Moreover, the COAS assured the traders of the city that their challenges and concerns would be addressed on priority.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court To Announce Election Tribunals Case Judgment On September 30

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan is to announce the judgment of the Election Tribunals case on September 30.

The top court earlier reserved the judgment on Tuesday. The court had also ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to make the tribunals functional.

The Chief Justice led a five-member bench that heard the case of the ECP appeal.

During the hearing, CJF-Isa remarked "I am tired of requesting again and again.



look at the constitution and what does it say?" Chief Justice of the High Court is not an ordinary person, should end now," Said Justice Jamal Khan Munkhdel. —RT/Agency

Talal Chaudhry Criticizes Elements Engaged In Vitriolic Politics

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Talal Chaudhry said that some elements believe in the politics of vitriol.

These factions are undermining the country's progress and stability, Talal said.

Speaking to the media in Faisalabad, Talal stated there would be no leniency for such people. He alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is troubled by the nation's development and seeks to damage relations with friendly countries. He also condemned the spread of malicious campaigns targeting national institutions.

The PML-N praised Prime Minister Shehbaz



Sharif's recent address at the United Nations General Assembly, where the PM highlighted the Kashmir issue and called out atrocities by Israel and India, reflecting the sentiments of the Pakistani people.

The PML-N leader criticised the PTI for creating unrest in Punjab, accusing the party of import-

ing armed protestors and demanding an NRO. He warned that corruption under the guise of protest would not be tolerated.

Talal further stressed that government initiatives are leading to economic recovery, with international organisations recognizing Pakistan's improving financial outlook.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Rejects India's Allegations At UN Forum As Baseless And Misleading

NEW YORK: Responding to India at the debate titled "Leadership for Peace" and held under the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN termed New Delhi's allegations against Pakistan baseless and misleading.

"India continues to paddle a false narrative on this forum, relying on tactics of denial, distortion and deflection," Pakistan Counsellor Gul Qaiser Sarwani stated.

India continued to sponsor terror activities not against just Pakistan but also in other countries, he said, adding that for decades, India had been the primary perpetrator, supporter and financier of terrorism.

Referring to Indian intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), as a terrorist franchise, he said it had gone global with assassinations and attempted murders of political dissidents on North American soil.

Earlier this month, General Counsel of pro-



Khalistan group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, through his attorneys, had filed a civil lawsuit in the US Federal District Court against the Government of India and senior RAW officials for their "unprecedented attempt to assassinate a US citizen on US soil".

Legal action has been initiated at United States District Court, New York, by Pannun and his lawyers against the Indian government and senior officials of Indian intelligence agency — namely, Ajit Doval, Samant Goel, Vikram Yadav and Nikhil Gupta.

The complaint alleged

that senior officials at India's spy agency RAW, which report directly to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, engaged weapons trafficker and RAW agent Nikhil Gupta to hire assassins in the US to murder Pannun in New York. This scheme was foiled when the hitmen Gupta hired turned out to be undercover federal agents.

The Pakistan counsellor said India's sponsorship of terrorist organisations, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) had led to the loss of thousands of in-

nocent Pakistani lives. Sarwani said Pakistan had shared irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in terrorism with international community.

"The arrest and conviction of Kulbushan Yadav, a serving Indian naval officer and an operative of India's intelligence agency RAW, is irrefutable evidence of India's state sponsored terrorism against Pakistan including targeted assassinations," he said.

"India must end its state sponsored terrorism, cease its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and fulfil its obligations under international law," the counsellor demanded.

Sarwani said the UNSC through numerous resolutions had called for a free and impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

"Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, India is obligated to implement these resolutions. However, instead of honouring

its obligations, India has chosen the path of repression," he added.

The Pakistan counsellor apprised the forum that India had deployed nearly one million soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiri's legitimate right.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif shed light on those facts, which might be uncomfortable for India but it remained the truth which India could not deny.

"India has once again resorted to the tactic of deflecting global attention from its own terror activities by raising baseless accusation of terrorism. It is ironic that the country which uses terrorism as an instrument of state policy against its neighbours attempts to point fingers at others," he maintained.

However, these distortions could not alter the reality that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognised territory, he said.—RT/Agency