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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

# Imran's Sisters Among 30 Arrested As PTI Uprising Paralyzes Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as mobile networks and internet services remain suspended in Islamabad and Rawalpindi amid a planned PTI rally at the capital's D-Chowk. The PTI today shared updates of its caravans departing various cities, despite being warned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day ago not to hold any rally in Islamabad due to several high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries. Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl Maulana Fazlur Rehman, with whom the PTI has been in frequent amicable contact recently, has also urged the party to postpone its planned gatherings till the foreigners have left. The police have blocked all entry and points to the cities and tear gas shelling has also begun in an attempt to disperse protesters. Talking to the media at

lamabad and Lahore earlier this month, the government had issued a set of strict guidelines, which the PTI failed to follow fully, sparking clashes between its workers and the authorities. The PTI today shared updates of its caravans departing various cities, despite being warned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day ago not to hold any rally in Islamabad due to several high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries. Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl Maulana Fazlur Rehman, with whom the PTI has been in frequent amicable contact recently, has also urged the party to postpone its planned gatherings till the foreigners have left. The police have blocked all entry and points to the cities and tear gas shelling has also begun in an attempt to disperse protesters. Talking to the media at



D-Chowk, Islamabad Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said: "Proceedings are under way wherever there are attempts to hurt police or damage property. Till now, there have been over 30 arrests. We are updating the exact numbers. It is very clear that we will not allow the law to be taken into own hands." Footage shared by the PTI showed arrests of its supporters. "Release Imran! Release Imran!" dozens of protesters chanted, holding pictures of Imran and PTI flags, less than a kilometre from the red zone. Visuals also showed Imran's sister Aleema Khanum being taken away by the police while the party claimed that she was arrested. KP government spokesperson Barrister Saif alleged that Uzma Khanum was also arrested. The party also alleged that the police had laid caltrops on the roads, sharing footage as well.

According to a media correspondent in Islamabad, mobile network and internet services have been suspended across the twin cities since the morning, causing problems for the public, especially those relying on them for their work. As of 4:42pm, outage tracking website Downtide reported that roads leading to the Red Zone and D-Chowk were sealed from all sides, including at Serena, Jinnah Avenue, Nadra Square, Marriott Hotel and Zero Point. Entry points of the twin cities, Srinagar Highway at Bus Stop 26, Faizabad Chowk, Sanjani Toll Plaza, Margalla Road, and 9th Avenue were also closed.

Rawalpindi City Police Officer (CPO) Khalid Hamdani said in a statement that security was on high alert and pillion-riding was banned, adding that mobile network and metro bus services were suspended indefinitely. The officials also said that other routes within Islamabad were likely to be blocked after 2pm to prevent the entry of PTI workers. Islamabad Police also posted a reminder on its X account of Section 144 being "in force" in the federal capital. "Citizens are requested not to be part of any illegal activity. The law will act against those who disturb peace and order," the police said, adding that police should observe traffic advisories for road closures while travelling. On Wednesday, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)

authorities had enforced Section 144 and the Peaceful Assembly Act across the federal capital, prohibiting gatherings and processions in restricted areas as part of tightened security measures. According to the ICT police, the high-security zone, Red Zone and surrounding areas have been designated as restricted. Meanwhile, Naqvi said no one would be allowed to damage public property. "We have made arrangements for the security of our foreign guests. Apologies for the inconvenience to the citizens of Islamabad. Protesters should take stock of their senses. Visitors should feel that they are visiting a safe country," said a statement issued by state broadcaster PTV. He visited D-Chowk with the Islamabad police chief and instructed personnel to maintain law and order. The interior minister also conducted an aerial

inspection to review the overall security arrangements and expressed his satisfaction with them. He gave instructions to strictly deal with any miscreants. "No one will be allowed to disturb the law and order situation in the capital. Islamabad administration and police are ready to deal with every possible situation. All possible steps will be taken to maintain law and order and protect lives and property of the citizens," he said. Separately, the federal government authorised the army's deployment in the federal capital from Oct 5-17 for the security of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and to maintain law and order. The notification from the interior ministry said the exact area of deployment along with the number of troops would be determined later.—RT/Agency

## Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar Set To Attend Pivotal SCO Summit In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Minister of External Affairs of India S Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government (SCO-CHG) meeting, scheduled for October 15 and 16. "The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on 15 and 16 October," said Randhir Jaiswal, a spokesperson for Indian foreign ministry, but did not say if Jaishankar would meet any Pakistani leaders on the sidelines. This will be the first visit by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly a decade. Speaking to media, Indian journalist Umashankar Singh, citing an Indian external ministry spokesperson, affirmed that Jaishankar would attend the SCO summit in the federal capital of Pakistan. However, according to Singh, Indian foreign ministry official in his statement also emphasised that Jaishankar's upcoming visit should be seen in the context of regional summit.



Islamabad extended invitations to all the government heads of the member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the upcoming SCO-CHG meeting in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch confirmed in a statement in July. Pakistan currently holds the rotating Chairmanship of the SCO-CHG, which is the regional organisation's second-highest decision-making forum. "Islamabad has also received some confirmations for the moot to be hosted by Pakistan on October 15-16," Baloch said addressing a news briefing. Last year in May, the then-foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari visited India to attend the two-day meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers.

It was the first visit to India by a top Pakistani official since then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif attended Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in in 2014. "Pakistan downgraded its ties with India after the Modi-led government unilaterally changed the special status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in August 2019 — the decision that Islamabad believed undermined the environment for holding talks between the neighbours. Islamabad has linked its decision to normalising ties with New Delhi with the restoration of the special status of the IIOJK. Despite the frosty ties, the two countries agreed to renew the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) in February 2021.—RT/Agency

## Israel Wouldn't Dare Challenge Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan is an atomic power and therefore Israel can't even think of launching an attack on us. In a statement issued on Friday, he said that the PTI founder is fulfilling the agenda of Israel in Pakistan. "The PTI founder is working on the agenda of Jewish lobby," he said. Khawaja Asif said that PTI had staged sit-in in Islamabad when Pakistan was signing the agreements related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2014. "They have once again started protest when Pakistan is going to host the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad," said the defence minister. He added that PTI is doing the politics of chaos and anarchy in the country.—RT/Agency



## Malaysian PM Wraps Up Landmark Pakistan Visit With Major Breakthroughs

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim departed on Friday after completing his three-day state visit to Pakistan which he said held a "great personal significance". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had received his Malaysian counterpart on his arrival on Wednesday, also saw him off at the airport, accompanied by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal cabinet members and senior officials. During the visit, Ibrahim, accompanied by a high-level delegation of ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials, held a one-on-one meeting with PM Shehbaz, led the delegation-level talks and held a "productive discussion" with President Asif Ali Zardari. Following the visit, PM Ibrahim wrote on his X timeline that the "engagements with my counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, alongside discussions with industry representatives, resulted in productive outcomes encompassing a wide array of mutual interests." He said that these interactions underscored the commitment of the highest leadership to enhance relations. Both sides signed three MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation in varying sectors. It was also agreed that Pakistan would export halal meat worth \$200 million and 100,000 tonnes of Basmati rice to Malaysia. "Certainly, there will be increased cooperation in all areas of trade and agricultural technology including meat, rice and palm oil imports by Pakistan, and the two countries will also expand cooperation in the skilled worker sector through critical areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital and semiconductor," Ibrahim added. In another X post, he said: "The state visit to Pakistan holds great significance for me and the delegation, given the longstanding history of friendship between our two countries over the past 67 years." Premier Ibrahim was also conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award by President Zardari in a special investiture ceremony. He was also conferred an honorary PhD Degree by the National University of Science and Technology, where he also delivered a public lecture. Later, PM Shehbaz said that during the visit, Pakistan and Malaysia agreed to further strengthen the bilateral relations and that the visit would usher in a new era of bilateral cooperation, according to a PM Office press release. Mentioning the positive outcome of the Pakistan-Malaysia Business Forum, he said that the enhanced bilateral trade would help boost exports and create job opportunities. Shehbaz said both countries signed MoUs to promote trade and investment. Pakistan would increase its processed meat and rice export to Malaysia and ensure ease in the process.—RT/Agency



## Toshakhana-II Scandal: Court Serves Notices On Bushra Bibi's High-Stakes Bail Plea

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court has issued notices to respondents on Bushra Bibi's bail plea in Toshakhana-II case. IHC Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard Bushra Bibi's post-arrest bail plea. The court has also sought response from the parties in the case until next week by issuing notices to them. Bushra Bibi's lawyer contended that Bushra Bibi was detained in this case since July 13 and the trial court had rejected the bail plea of Bushra Bibi. The applicant has requested the court to fix the plea for hearing on upcoming Monday. Justice Aurangzeb mentioned that the arrest of the leader was unfair with false allegations and



blackmailing witnesses to record statements against her in the Toshakhana case. It was added that the case based on mal-intent and FIA had violated law. It is worth noting that IHC for post-arrest bail in Toshakhana-II case yesterday. The application mentioned that the arrest of the leader was unfair with false allegations and

blackmailing witnesses to record statements against her in the Toshakhana case. It was added that the case based on mal-intent and FIA had violated law. It is worth noting that IHC for post-arrest bail in Toshakhana-II case yesterday. The application mentioned that the arrest of the leader was unfair with false allegations and

## ECP Delays Crucial Tribunal Change Case Hearing To October 9

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday adjourned the hearing of a case of changing the election tribunal to decide the polling matters of Islamabad's three constituencies till October 9. A three-member bench, headed by ECP Member Nisar Durani, gave the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a final chance to submit their arguments and evidence by October 9 or otherwise a decision would be announced. The ECP Member warned the counsel of PTI candidate Shoaib Shaheen that the non-submission of reply would result in termination of their rights. The counsel assured



the ECP Member that they would submit the replies before the next hearing. Counsel for winning candidates of PML-N Anjum Aqeel Khan, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Khuram Nawaz appeared before the bench. However, the lawyers of PTI candidates Ali Bukhari and Amir Mughal were absent. Anjum Aqeel's counsel stated that the PTI candidate from NA 46 Amir Mughal was required to respond to their supplementary application, but he did not appear today. Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry's counsel expressed concern that the opponents had not replied to their supplementary application.—RT/Agency

## Government Summons Emergency APC On Gaza Crisis, Declares 'Day Of Solidarity With Palestine'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman at the Prime Minister's House on Friday to address the escalating situation in Gaza and Palestine. The political leaders decided to express national solidarity with the Palestinian people by observing a "Day of Solidarity with Palestine" on October 7. Nationwide events, including gatherings and seminars, will be held to protest Israeli aggression and show support for Palestinians during the ongoing violence. In the meeting, the leaders resolved to raise their voices against the brutalities inflicted on Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, and announced an All Parties Conference (APC) to discuss the crisis in depth. The APC will be hosted



by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. A committee was also formed to oversee the arrangements for the solidarity day and the APC. The committee includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nabyar Bukhari. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari welcomed the decision, condemning the "ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Gaza and Palestine." He warned that "the war, which began with the brutal massacre in Gaza, now threatens to engulf the entire region, including Lebanon." He urged the nation to unite against the "imperialist Zionist agenda." The meeting also acknowledged Jamaat-e-Islami's strong stance in support of Palestinians. Both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will participate in the upcoming APC.—RT/Agency



# THE HEARTLAND



## MNA Rafique Ahmed Jamali Oversees Preparations For Monumental October 18 Hyderabad Rally

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: In Johi, leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its affiliated organizations held a large meeting to discuss arrangements for the planned October 18 rally in Hyderabad, commemorating the Karsaz tragedy. The meeting was chaired by PPP MNA and District President Rafiq Ahmed Jamali.



During the meeting, Rafiq Ahmed Jamali emphasized that the district of Dadu will send thousands of vehicles to the rally, showcasing a historic turnout of PPP supporters. He highlighted the party's enduring sacrifices and its clear stance against elements that threaten the country. Jamali stated that the PPP remains a guardian of democracy, countering conspiracies within the country.

He urged the public to distance themselves from conspiratorial groups, asserting that these factions only aim to mislead the people.

Jamali assured that the rally would feature historic addresses by PPP Chairman Bileval Bhutto Zardari and senior party leaders, paying tribute to the sacrifices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He criticized opposition parties for failing to offer relief to the public, stating that they were merely wasting resources to confuse the populace. Jamali reiterated that the PPP prioritizes the edu-

ated youth in job opportunities based on merit.

The party leaders instructed workers to arrive on time for the rally, with all caravans departing from Dadu to Hyderabad. The meeting concluded with a directive to intensify outreach efforts for rally participation. Other leaders also addressed the meeting, including Gulam Dastagir Gorar, Dr. Sajeela Manzoor Laghari, and others.

## SUC Condemns Martyrdom Of Syed Hassan Nasrallah In Mass Protest

SHAHDADKOT: In Qubo Saeed Khan, the Shia Ulema Council of Pakistan organized a protest rally in response to the martyrdom of Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah, following the directives of the Jaffaria community leader, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi. The rally culminated in a demonstration in front of the press club.



Key figures, including Khadim Hussain Jagirani, Syed Subhan Ali Shah, Mirza Khari, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Nazir Ahmed Chandio, Muhammad Punhal Kori, Dilbar Chandio, and Syed Muharam Shah, addressed the gathering. They expressed that the martyrdom of Syed Hassan Nasrallah is a significant loss for the Muslim world, evoking

widespread sorrow among Muslims globally. The speakers emphasized that Shaheed Nasrallah dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of Muslims, asserting that he was unjustly martyred by Zionist terrorists. They made it clear that such acts of aggression would not deter the movement for justice.

The protesters demanded immediate action against Israel and its supporting forces involved in the incident, calling for justice for the blood of the martyr. The rally highlighted the community's solidarity and determination to continue their struggle for the rights of oppressed Muslims worldwide.

## Jacobabad Journalists Rally For Justice Following Ihsan Chang's Tragic Death

By M. Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, journalists from the Azad Media Press Club and the National Press Club held a protest rally against the failure to arrest influential individuals who attacked journalist Ihsan Chang of Jamnab. The rally started from the Azad Media Press Club and proceeded through various city streets, with demonstrators carrying placards de-

manding protection for journalists and the arrest of those responsible for the attack.

Protest leaders, including Nawab Ali Langah, president of the Azad Media Press Club, and Muhammad Ali Surhio, president of the District National Press Club, addressed the crowd at the DCO gate. They emphasized that journalists in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, face increasing insecurity. They called on the SSP of Khair-

pur to swiftly apprehend the assailants and ensure they receive severe punishment.

The speakers highlighted that a powerful mafia aims to silence the voices of truth-telling journalists in the region. Numerous journalists, including Shahryar Jakhrami, Zulfikar Soomro, and others, participated in the rally, expressing solidarity for their colleague and advocating for press freedom.

## MNA Mahesh Kumar Malani Steps In Amid Badin Students' Uproar Over MDCAT Protest

By Ashraf Kunbahr



MITHI: A meeting of the National Health Services Regulation and Coordination Committee was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, MNA of the Pakistan People's Party. During the meeting, the committee received a briefing from the PMDC regarding the admission test for medical and dental colleges for the year 2024. They also directed an inquiry into the issues faced by students during the entrance test.

## Badin Students Stage Uproar Over Anticipated MDCAT Results

By Raja Zafar Iqbal



BADIN: Students protested in front of the press club against the release of MDCAT results, demanding that a case be filed against their classmates.

During the protest at the Badin Press Club, student leaders stated that educational tests in Sindh have become a joke. They emphasized that children from poor backgrounds, who strive to get an education despite immense challenges, end up in despair and face unemployment despite their skills.

## Tando Allahyar Police Swoop Down, Arrest 10 In Sweeping Crackdown

By Afaque Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: In a series of intensified operations, Tando Allahyar Police, under the directives of SSP Abrez Ali Abbasi, has been cracking down on drug dealers, criminals, and illegal substances. Recent efforts have led to the arrest of multiple suspects and the seizure of significant quantities of narcotics. According to the details, 13 packets of Royal King gutka, 590 mainpuri, 880 packets of mawa gutka were recovered by the police, beside arresting 11 suspects. 9 cases were registered at different police stations in the government's name. The arrested men included Shakil, Sain Bux, Gulzeb, Muhammad Owais, Muhammad Anif, Asif, Walid, Rohi Das, Mushtaq Khaskheli and Naem Ahmed. These operations highlight the police's commitment to tackling drug-related crimes and ensuring public safety in the region.

## Shia Ulema Council Rises In Peaceful Protest Against Israeli Aggression

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: In Thari Mirwah, the Shia Ulema Council organized a significant peaceful protest to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and to denounce the brutal actions of the Israeli occupation forces. This event was inspired by the martyrdom of Shaheed Syed Hassan Nasrullah and was conducted under the directive of the leader of the Jaffaria community, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi.



The protest, which took place in the heart of Thari Mirwah, was chaired by General Secretary Syed Gulam Abbas Dasti. Prominent figures present included Maulana Qalab Abbas Hajano, Dr. Syed Nadeem Abbas Shah, and the district president, Maulana Zahoore Hussain Roohani. Maulana Nabi Bakhsh Danish and other local leaders also participated, demonstrating a strong collective front.

Participants of the protest carried placards and chanted slogans ex-

pressing their support for Palestine, emphasizing their commitment to take decisive action against the aggressors. The event concluded with a prayer to raise awareness about the ongoing struggles faced by the Palestinian people and to condemn the violent tactics employed by the Israeli forces.

During the protest, leaders highlighted the importance of unity among the Muslim community in the face of adversity. They reiterated their unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and called upon the international community to stand against the oppressors. The demonstration not only marked a day of solidarity but also strengthened the re-local leaders also participated, demonstrating a strong collective front.

## MWM, SUC Lead Massive Protests Against Palestinian And Lebanese Muslim Genocide



By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: In Dokri, a rally was organized by the MWM and the Shia Ulema Council in response to Israeli aggression. Led by Divisional President Zakir Hussain Bughio, alongside prominent figures like Allama Irfan Haider, Allama Nasir Abbas, and others, the rally commenced from the central Imambarah al-Hussaini and marched through the city.

During the rally, leaders addressed the participants, condemning Israel for its systematic killings of innocent

Palestinians and recent bombings in Lebanon, which they described as an act of genocide against Muslims. They asserted that the Muslim Ummah would not tolerate such aggression and vowed to respond vigorously, similar to Iran's stance.

The speakers emphasized solidarity with Hamas and Hezbollah, stating that Muslims worldwide stand united against Israeli aggression. They pointed out that the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, backed by American support, has only strengthened their re-

demands were met. The leaders called on the United Nations and the International Court to halt the bombing of innocent Palestinians and Lebanon and to hold Israel accountable for its crimes against humanity. Additionally, a prayer was held for the absent funeral of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah. The participants urged the international community to raise their voices against Israel, warning that protests would continue until their demands were met.

## Umerkot Rally Calls For Unbreakable Unity Among Religious Groups

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Various religious parties, including Umerkot Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan and Pakistan Sunni Tehreek, organized a rally in Umerkot titled "Tajdar Khatm-e-Nabuwat and Stabilization Pakistan Peace March." Thousands of participants from across Sindh gathered for the event.



Prominent leaders from TLP and Sunni Tehreek Pakistan, including Mufti Munibur Rehman, Pir Abdul Khaliq (Mian Mitho), Mufti Jan Muhammad Naemmi, and others, attended and addressed the gathering.

Umerkot, known as a land of love, peace, and mysticism, is home to people who honor the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). The rally emphasized that efforts to incite religious discord in Sindh are unwelcome. The speakers con-

demned factions at-tempting to sow chaos and disrupt peace in the name of religion, asserting that the law of the land provides for the punishment of those who act insolently. They expressed concern over the arrests of religious leaders and the social media campaigns that seek to

incite unrest. The overwhelming participation in the rally demonstrated the commitment of Sindh's people to peace and their love for the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW), reinforcing the idea that true victories lie in unity, not division.

## Foundation Laid For Groundbreaking New Facilities At LUMHS



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Prof. Dr. Ikramuiddin Ujjan, laid the foundation stone for a New Girls Hostel, Library,

Cafeteria, and Academic Block at the Jamshoro campus.

Prof. Dr. Ikramuiddin Ujjan emphasized that development work is progressing rapidly across the campus, aimed at creating an excellent educational environment for students. Nursing within the LUMHS campus.

## Mosquito Infestation Sparks Malaria Crisis In TBK

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: The residents of Thana Bula Khan and surrounding areas are suffering due to a severe mosquito infestation, which has led to a spike in malaria cases among adults and children. This has resulted in overcrowding at both government hospitals and private clinics, as many seek treatment. Due to inadequate medical facilities in the region, people are forced to bear high costs to travel to Hyderabad or other

cities for care, adding to their distress. Local citizens report that for an extended period, the Town Committee and Union Council chairmen have not conducted malaria spray operations in both urban and rural areas, exacerbating the mosquito problem. Livestock is also falling ill due to the infestation, further heightening the community's worries. Residents are urging immediate mosquito spraying in all towns and villages within the Kohistan Taluka to alleviate their suffering.



# METRO KARACHI



## Murad Vows To Resolve Pakistan Business Council's Key Concerns

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah assured a delegation from the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), led by Shabir Diwan, that he is actively working to address their outstanding issues with both the provincial and federal governments on a priority basis.

The meeting included Minister of Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, CM Secretary Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of Industries Yasir Shar, and Secretary of Finance Fayaz Jatoi, alongside PBC members Ms. Zeelaf Munir, Ehsan Malik, Arif Habib, Ziad Bashir, and Samir Amir.

The Chief Minister emphasized his commitment to fostering industrial growth, creating jobs, and strengthening the economy by enhancing existing trade and industry and attracting investment through essential support.

In a proposal, the PBC requested a reduction in the infrastructure cess from 1.8% to 1.2%. The Chief Minister agreed to review this request and instructed the Secretary of Finance to provide recommendations.

The delegation also expressed concerns about rising power tariffs affecting the industrial sector and suggested a package for industrial support. In response, Mr. Shah highlighted positive economic indicators and proposed that the federal government consider special power rates for industries operating night shifts to boost production and employment.

Both the Chief Minister and PBC representatives agreed to schedule another meeting to further discuss their concerns and formulate an action plan.—RT

## PSX Rings In World Investor Week 2024 With Ceremonial Gong To Promote Financial Literacy



KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), in collaboration with the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) and the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), commemorated the start of World Investor Week (WIIW) 2024 with a gong ceremony at the PSX Trading Hall. This year's theme, "Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy," highlights the importance of investor education and runs from October 7 to 13, 2024.

Key participants at the event included representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs), securities brokers, asset management companies, and the Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA). Chairperson of PSX Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Acting CEO Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, and other senior members of PSX were also in attendance.

The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, SECP Chairman Mr. Akif Saeed, marking the official opening of the event. In his address, Mr. Saeed lauded PSX's efforts to improve financial literacy and stressed the importance of empowering investors to make informed decisions. He also highlighted the potential of Pakistan's growing youth population, noting that 67% of the population is under the age of 30, providing a significant opportunity for financial growth and inclusion.

Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO of PSX, discussed technological advancements that have made stock market investing more accessible, including the Sahulat Account, which allows individuals to open an online trading account quickly and efficiently. He also underscored the importance of prudent investing and learning about the companies before making investment decisions.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson of PSX, emphasized the exchange's commitment to raising awareness about financial literacy. She noted that in the past fiscal year, PSX held 162 investor awareness sessions across Pakistan, educating over 15,000 participants. In addition to on-ground efforts, PSX is also leveraging digital platforms to reach a broader audience through webinars and online resources.

The week-long event aims to encourage financial inclusion and equip investors with the knowledge to contribute to sustainable economic growth.—RT

## Grant Of Medical Equipment Signed For Quetta's Jam-E-Shafa Clinic

KARACHI: The Government of Japan has awarded a grant of USD 36,109 to the Jam-e-Shafa Organization for "The Project for the Provision of Medical Equipment for Jam-e-Shafa Clinic in Quetta," as part of its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) initiative.

The official signing ceremony took place on October 4, 2024, with the Consul General of Japan, Mr. HATORI Masaru, and the President of Jam-e-Shafa Organization, Dr. Mir Wais Zia, in attendance. This generous grant will support the acquisition of crucial medical equipment for the Jam-e-Shafa Clinic in Quetta.

Established in 1992, the Jam-e-Shafa Organization has been providing free and high-quality healthcare services across Balochistan, focusing on maternal and child health for vulnerable communities in Quetta. The grant will fund essential medical equipment, including an ultrasound machine, vital signs monitor, gynecological elec-



tric bed, operation light, cardiography (CTG), oxygen concentrator, sterilizer, UPS, and storage battery, all aimed at improving patient care and saving lives in the region.

Consul General Mr. HATORI praised Jam-e-Shafa for its dedication to enhancing healthcare for those in need and emphasized Japan's commitment to supporting humanitarian initiatives in Pakistan. He expressed hope that this collaboration would continue to benefit the people of Pakistan for years to come.

Dr. Mir Wais Zia, President of Jam-e-Shafa, extended heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their ongoing support, highlighting the significance of this grant in improving the lives of those most in need in Pakistan.

The GGP program, funded by the government and people of Japan, focuses on grassroots-level development projects that enhance human security. Since its inception, Japan has funded over 400 projects across Pakistan under the GGP initiative, with this project marking the 34th implemented by the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi since 2009.—RT

## Sindh To Officially Take Over Karachi's Green Line Bus Service By December 2024

KARACHI: The Federal Government is set to hand over the operations of the Green Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to the Sindh Government by December 2024. Sindh officials have confirmed that all preparations are in place for the provincial government to assume control of Karachi's first bus rapid transit project.

The Green Line BRT, operational since December 2021, currently runs 80 buses, transporting an average of 55,000 passengers daily along its 20.9-kilometre route. Despite its success, the project remains incomplete, with the final phase—stretching from Numaish to Municipal Park near Jama Cloth Market—left unfinished since the federal government cancelled the contract with the National Logistics Cell (NLC) in late 2020.

A high-level meeting chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon took place today in Karachi to review the Green Line BRT's progress. Attendees included Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Sindh Mass Transit Authority Managing Director Kamal Hakeem Dawo, Transport Secretary Shumaila Mohsin, and other key officials. During the meeting, Minister Memon was briefed on the current status of the project, and plans were discussed to link the Green Line BRT with the Orange Line BRT.

Memon emphasized the importance of completing the Green Line's connection to the Orange Line before December 2024 and called for swift action to finish the project. Discussions also covered Sindh's public transport sector, ongoing utility services, and subsidies for the Green Line.

The federal government currently provides an annual subsidy of 2 billion rupees for Green Line operations. Memon noted that this financial arrangement will be re-evaluated once the Sindh government takes over, with plans to expand the service by introducing additional buses to improve transportation for Karachi's residents.—RT

## SSU Commandos Celebrate Victory At 2024 Dungal Submission And Grappling Championship



KARACHI: The Special Security Unit (SSU) Commandos of the Sindh Police were recognized for their stellar performance at the Dungal Submission and Grappling Championship 2024, held on September 7th near the Korangi Road Fly-over, Intiaz Supermarket.

The commandos demonstrated exceptional grappling abilities, earning three gold medals in various weight categories. Police Constable Shabbir secured victory in the 70kg division, PC Arjun triumphed in the 68kg category, and PC Zeeshan excelled in the 65kg division.

In a special meeting, DIG Security & Emergency Services Division, Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, commended the commandos for their achievements, awarding them commendation certificates for their hard work and commitment. He expressed pride in their success and highlighted the importance of physical fitness and discipline in both their professional duties and competitive pursuits.

DIG Dr. Maqsood Ahmed also encouraged the commandos to strive for continued excellence in future competitions, underscoring the values of teamwork and resilience that are crucial to their roles in the SSU.

## Closure Of Arif Alvi's Clinic Sparks Legal Battle In Sindh High Court

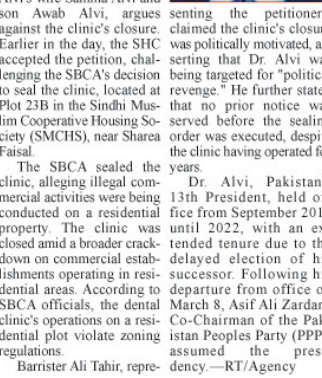
KARACHI: The decision by the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) to seal the dental clinic of former President Dr. Arif Alvi in Karachi has been contested in the Sindh High Court (SHC). On Friday, a two-member bench of the court took up the case, issuing notices to the provincial government, SBCA, and the Sindh Healthcare Commission, seeking their responses by October 7.

The petition, filed by Dr. Alvi's wife Samina Alvi and son Awab Alvi, argues against the clinic's closure. Earlier in the day, the SHC accepted the petition, challenging the SBCA's decision to seal the clinic, located at Plot 23B in the Sindh Muslim Cooperative Housing Society (SMCHS), near Sharea Faisal.

The SBCA sealed the clinic, alleging illegal commercial activities were being conducted on a residential property. The clinic was closed amid a broader crackdown on commercial establishments operating in residential areas. According to SBCA officials, the dental clinic's operations on a residential plot violate zoning regulations.

Barrister Ali Tahir, representing the petitioners, claimed the clinic's closure was politically motivated, asserting that Dr. Alvi was being targeted for "political revenge." He further stated that no prior notice was served before the sealing order was executed, despite the clinic having operated for years.

Dr. Alvi, Pakistan's 13th President, held office from September 2018 until 2022, with an extended tenure due to the delayed election of his successor. Following his departure from office on March 8, Asif Ali Zardari, Co-Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), assumed the presidency.—RT/Agency



## NATIONAL BISP And WFP Extend Benazir Nashonuma Programme For Two More Years



ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have renewed their partnership for an additional two years under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.

The agreement was signed today at BISP Headquarters, with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP, in attendance alongside Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, BISP Secretary, and Ms. Cocco Ushiyama, WFP Country Director.

This collaboration addresses the urgent issue of malnutrition in Pakistan, where nearly 40% of children under five experience stunting due to inadequate nutrition. The Benazir

Nashonuma Programme aims to reduce stunting among pregnant and lactating women and children under two by providing additional cash support to BISP beneficiary families, with quarterly payments of PKR 2,500 for boys and PKR 3,000 for girls.

Chairperson Rubina Khalid highlighted the importance of the agreement in the fight against malnutrition, reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring a healthy start for every child. The second phase will expand to cover 157 districts with 562 facilitation centers, concluding in June 2026, following the successful completion of the first phase in June 2024.—RT

# SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## DC Naem Sindhu Presides Over High-Stakes Board Of Governors Meeting In Toba Tek Singh



By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A meeting of the Board of Governors of Divisional Public School and College, Toba Tek Singh, was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu. The meeting was attended by Punjab Provincial Assembly member Amjad Ali Javed, Principal Rao Muhammad Siddique, and other members. Principal Rao Muhammad Siddique briefed the attendees on the ongoing educational activities, development projects, teacher training programs, student enrollment, and administrative matters at DPS.

With the unanimous approval of the Board of Governors, it was decided to extend the services of retired teachers for an additional three years to benefit from their experience. The decision regarding fee increases was postponed until the next meeting. Additionally, it was agreed to enhance the capacity of the solar power system at the school. The Board members commended Advocate Rai Ehtesham's decision to donate 10 solar panels to the school.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu emphasized that DPS is committed to providing quality education to all and will not compromise on discipline. He urged all Board members to offer suggestions for further improving the educational system at DPS and to play a constructive role.

Punjab Provincial Assembly member Amjad Ali Javed expressed satisfaction with the performance of DPS School and College, Toba Tek Singh, and noted the teachers' dedication to the teaching process. He stated that DPS is delivering high-quality education to students and is ranked among the top educational institutions in Punjab. He encouraged even greater effort and commitment in educating students in the coming year so they can contribute significantly to the nation's future development.

## Muhammad Shehbaz Ansari Takes Helm As Chiniot District's New Information Officer

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to a notification from the Information Department, Muhammad Shehbaz Ansari has been given additional charge as District Information Officer of Chiniot. Previously, he served as Information Officer in Toba Tek Singh. District Information Officer Muhammad

Shehbaz Ansari is regarded as a hardworking, capable, and dedicated officer. He stated that he aims to strengthen relations between the administration and media representatives in Chiniot and enhance the presentation of the Punjab government's public-friendly policies.



## Gujranwala Police Launch Aggressive Blitz On Drug Rings And Arms Syndicates

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In September, the Gujranwala Region Police conducted extensive operations against drug dealers and illegal arms, leading to the arrest of 1,700 suspects in 1,687 cases. Authorities recovered over 637 kilograms of hashish, 10.6 kilograms of opium, 3,275 liters of alcohol, and 12.7 kilograms of ice. Additionally, they seized 32 Kalashnikovs, 71 rifles, 37 assault rifles, 12 bore shotguns, 698 pistols, and 4,683 rounds of live ammunition.

Under the leadership of Regional Police Officer Tayeb Hafeez Cheema and

for their efforts in combating social evils and emphasized the importance of creating a drug-free society for the safety of the youth. He congratulated officers on their commendable performance.



## Rashid Latif Khan University Shines Spotlight On Breast Cancer Awareness With Pioneering Event

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Rashid Latif Khan University Medical College hosted an important Breast Cancer Awareness event under the esteemed supervision of Principal Prof. Dr. Arif Siddiqui and Vice Principal Prof. Dr. Faheem Mahmood. The audience had the privilege of hearing from distinguished speakers Dr. Hassan Shoukat from Lahore General Hospital and Prof. Dr. Tahir Chaudhary (Head of Surgery, RLKUMC), who shared their expertise and personal stories to emphasize the importance of early detection and support.

This meaningful event aimed to empower the community with knowledge and resources, fostering a culture of awareness and care. Together, we strive to spread knowledge, unite in support, and make a difference in the fight against breast cancer.



## Maryam Unveils Pakistan's First State-Run Autism School

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz laid the foundation of Pakistan's first government-run autism school and launched the Himat Card program, which aims to support differently-abled individuals.

Both initiatives reflect her commitment to improving the lives of those with special needs across the province.

During her visit to the site of the autism school, CM Maryam Nawaz was briefed on the state-of-the-art facilities being constructed.

The school will feature a ground and first floor, with 11 classrooms for the junior section and 10 for the senior section. In addition to classrooms, the school will include a cubical speech session room, therapy room, pre-vocational training room, a daily living activity room, and a computer lab.

The first floor will house three classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, committee room, library, and resource room. Notably, the building is designed to accommodate two additional floors for future expansion, ensuring capacity for growth.

Security features, such as fire alarms and a telephone exchange, will also be installed, and construction is set to be completed within one year under Maryam Nawaz's direction.

The chief minister has also instructed the immediate recruitment of autism experts and emphasized that consultation with specialists will shape the school's operational plans.

Expressing her dedication to the cause, Maryam Nawaz said that autistic children deserve "kindness, empathy, and love" and that the school holds a special place in her heart.

In addition to the autism school, CM Maryam Nawaz launched the Himat Card program, which will initially provide 65,000 deserving individuals with a quarterly allowance of Rs. 10,500.—RT/Agency





# EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, October 05, 2024



## Must We Constantly Humiliate Ourselves

The events unfolding in Islamabad, as police clash with PTI supporters ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, are nothing short of an embarrassment for Pakistan. This should have been a moment to showcase our ability to host high-level international gatherings, presenting a united and orderly front. Instead, we find ourselves in a repeat of chaotic confrontations that reflect poorly on our nation's governance and political maturity. How can we expect to gain respect on the global stage when we cannot maintain basic law and order during such critical events?

The deployment of the army for security purposes underscores just how precarious the situation has become. Relying on military

It feels reminiscent of the May 9th protests—another instance where the country's internal strife stole the spotlight. At this rate, will we ever reach a point where political parties like PTI can voice their grievances without it devolving into violent stand-offs with law enforcement? Or are we doomed to repeat this cycle of chaos indefinitely? For the sake of our future and our reputation, Pakistan must find a way to maintain law and order while allowing space for political discourse. Otherwise, we will continue to tarnish our image, both at home and abroad, at crucial moments like the SCO summit.



force to manage what should be civil affairs is a troubling indicator of our failure to strike a balance between political expression and public safety. Yes, citizens have a right to protest, but must it always descend into tear gas and arrests? Must we continually disrupt lives, shut down mobile services, and lock down cities whenever tensions flare?



### Shahrukh Anwar Siyal Leads Emergency Meeting To Address Local Crises In Darri Town

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A meeting was convened by Shahrukh Anwar Siyal, the chairman of Darri Town and brother of former provincial home minister Sohail Anwar Siyal. The meeting saw a significant turnout from vice chairpersons and members of various union committees in Darri Town.



During the session, the vice chairpersons and members informed the town chairman about the pressing issues in their respective areas. Chairman Shahrukh Anwar Siyal directed the committee members to ensure proper arrangements for lighting, cleanliness, and sanitation

within their union councils. He emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order and urged communication with senior police officials in Larkana. Siyal stressed the need to expedite ongoing development projects to

prevent any inconvenience to local residents. He declared that addressing the fundamental problem faced by citizens is the top priority, asserting that no negligence would be tolerated in this process.

### DC Naveed Rehman Larik Leads Critical Meeting On Labor Security Amid Rising Concerns

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A meeting of the District Vigilance Committee regarding the social security of laborers and bonded labor was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Umarkot, chaired by Naveed Rehman Larik. He emphasized the need to identify all brick factories and industries in the district and register the workers employed there.

Larik instructed that a team be formed to collect data on laborers and issue social security cards. He also directed the Assistant Director of the Environment De-

partment to ensure that all brick manufacturers adopt zigzag technology. Additionally, ADHO Dr. Essar Das was tasked with sending a team to provide medical treatment for workers in brick kilns. The committee decided that the Umerkot labor department and the social organization SPARK would collaborate to determine the number of workers in brick industries within a week. Reports will be presented by key officials, including District Labor Officer Gulzar Ahmed and others. Social organization SPARK representatives also attended the meeting.

### Newlywed Couple Makes Desperate Plea For Protection After Love Marriage

By Saleem Soomro

Larkana: Abida, a resident of Majeed Colony in Dadu, held a press conference at the Larkana Press Club with her husband, Muhammad Ibrahim Lakhtyoo. She shared that she eloped with Ibrahim on September 27, choosing to marry him of her own freewill. Following their marriage, they filed a protection application in the Session Court in Larkana.



Abida stated that since their marriage, her family especially her father, Muhammad Pearl Khokhar, and brothers have turned against them, threatening to kill them under the pretext of honor. She expressed that her relatives have also threatened to file false kidnapping charges against her husband and his family, which she described as acts of injustice and oppression.

Abida stated that since their marriage, her family especially her father, Muhammad Pearl Khokhar, and brothers have turned against them, threatening to kill them under the pretext of honor. She expressed that her relatives have also threatened to file false kidnapping charges against her husband and his family, which she described as acts of injustice and oppression.

Abida appealed to the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, the IG of Sindh Police, and the DIG and SSP of Larkana to take notice of the situation and provide them with protection and justice.

### Corpse of Jatoo Community Man Discovered in Larkana, Sparking Outrage

The body of Gada Hussain Jatoo, a laborer who was reportedly abducted, was discovered with signs of violence. The police have sent the body for postmortem examination. Two suspects have been arrested as the investigation into the

incident unfolds. The DIG and SSP of Larkana have taken notice of the situation.

According to reports, Gada Hussain Jatoo was abducted late Friday night from the Walid Muhalla area of Larkana city. His body was found near the Arjia Phero bypass. Relatives, including Saifullah Jatoo, stated that members of the Magso community were involved in his abduction, and they have reported the incident to the police at the Walid station. Saifullah Jatoo demanded the arrest of those responsible for Gada Hussain's murder to ensure justice. The police at the Arjia Phero station mentioned that the reasons behind the incident are still unclear, but they have arrested two individuals and are investigating various aspects of the case.

In the meantime, the DIG and SSP of Larkana have ordered the arrest of the culprits. Following the postmortem, the victim's body was handed over to the family, leading to a scene of mourning as it arrived at their home. As of the latest reports, no formal case had been registered regarding the incident.

### JSQM Launches Protest Over Lack Of Facilities, Staff Misconduct At Taluka Hospital Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In Tando Adam, the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) organized a protest against the lack of facilities at the Taluka Hospital and the inappropriate behavior of staff towards patients. According to reports, the protest was led by JSQM District Sanghar Organizer Azad Kunbhar, Taluka President Shabeer Korejo, Irshad Brohi, Sanwal Sindh, and others. They started a rally from Muhammad Chowk and held a demonstration on MA Jinnah Road.



During the protest, the leaders stated that corruption is rampant in the only taluka hospital serving a population of over 300,000. They highlighted that poor patients do not have access to adequate treatment facilities, as doc-

tors prefer to work in private hospitals and their own clinics instead of fulfilling their duties at the public hospital. They claimed that medications are given only to favored individuals and that there is a severe lack of basic facilities.

Despite having ambulances, patients do not benefit from them and are forced to undergo tests outside. The protestors condemned the staff's disrespectful behavior towards patients. They demanded that basic facilities be provided in the hospital and that action be taken against the staff exhibiting inappropriate conduct. If their demands are not met, they threatened to file a petition in the Sindh Chief Justice's court.

### Islamabad National Press Club Delegation Makes Historic Visit To Sindh



By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: A delegation from the Islamabad National Press Club, led by President Azhar Jatoo, visited Sindh at the invitation of the provincial government. During their tour of Sukkur, Gambat, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Sanghar, they received a warm welcome and cultural gifts, including Sindh Ajrak and Lungis.

The delegation, greeted by PPP leader Rajesh Kumar Hardasani, praised Sindh's infrastructure, noting the excellent roads and various government initiatives for clean water and health services. Rajesh highlighted the rights of minority communities and funding for places of worship. The journalists expressed their gratitude for the hospitality and love shown during their visit. They continued their journey to Nawabshah, where they were also warmly received.

### Sakrand Hosts Inspiring Session On Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's (RA) Timeless Poetry

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A thought-provoking session on the poetry of Sindh's great poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA) was organized at Muhammad Bux Mahar Library in Sakrand, hosted by library founder Ayaz Mahar, Azhar Mahar, and former Secretary of Sindh Adabi Sangat Muhammad Hanif Soomro. The event featured notable speaker Atta Chanhio and was attended by many young participants.



During the session, Atta Chanhio explained various aspects of Bhittai's poetry. Numerous questions regarding the poetry were posed by the youth, to which Atta Chanhio provided detailed responses. He expressed concern that instead of promoting Bhittai's poetry through

the state, the focus has shifted to presenting favored individuals at the annual Latif Award ceremony, often those with little connection to Bhittai's work. In response to a question, Atta Chanhio noted that while Bhittai celebrated seven heroes linked to Hindu culture, his thoughts transcended religious boundaries, emphasizing truth, love, principles, and honesty.

He stressed that if the state were to understand and implement Bhittai's philosophy, it could lead to a better society, although he doubted such intentions due to existing deficiencies in their approach. Chanhio encouraged the youth to read and understand Bhittai, as there is much to learn from his work. The session also saw the participation of Qazi Javed Sanai, Khair Muhammad Lakho, Bashir Lashari, Zeeshan Soomro, Gulam Nabi Mallah, and Parvez Soomro, among others.

### 725 Sacked Teachers Launch Fierce Protest For Reinstatement In Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chanodio

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, sacked teachers staged a protest rally, marching from the Station Chowk to the Press Club. Teacher leaders Khalid Bhatti, Sunil Kotak, and others informed journalists that 725 intern subject specialist teachers have been sacked by the Education Department, and they are protesting against this decision.



The leaders stated that issuing the dismissal letter on August 26 was a regrettable decision by the Education Department. The

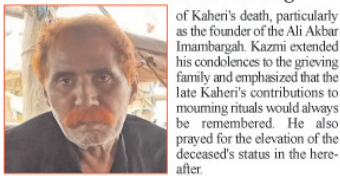
teacher leaders appealed to President Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah to reinstate the 725 teachers so they can earn their livelihood.

In response to a question, the teachers stated that if they are not reinstated, they will continue their protest.

### Syed Ghulam Mehdi Shah Kazmi Extends Heartfelt Condolences Over Lal Bux Kaheri's Passing

By Dildar Samo

TANDO ADAM: In a condolence statement, Syed Ghulam Mehdi Shah Kazmi, an official of the Shiite Ulema Council in Sanghar District, expressed deep sorrow over the passing of renowned Noha Khawan Lal Bux Kaheri. He stated that he was saddened by the news



of Kaheri's death, particularly as the founder of the Ali Akbar Imambargah. Kazmi extended his condolences to the grieving family and emphasized that the late Kaheri's contributions to mourning rituals would always be remembered. He also prayed for the elevation of the deceased's status in the hereafter.



# SPORTS



## Bangladesh Women's Team Celebrates First T20 World Cup Win in 10 Years



SHARJAH: Bangladesh's women's cricket team finally ended their decade-long wait for a T20 World Cup victory, defeating Scotland by 16 runs in a thrilling opener in Sharjah.

"A win after 10 years is very emotional. We've been waiting for this for a long time," said Joty.

"No matter how well we play, if we don't win, it feels meaningless. This victory gives us momentum, and I feel it's a step towards something bigger," she added.

The captain's emotional reaction, captured in images shared by the ICC, reflected the intensity of the moment for the team.

The victory was even more meaningful due to the circumstances surrounding the tournament.

Originally, Bangladesh was set to host the event, but due to political unrest, it was moved to the UAE. Despite the disappointment of not playing in front of their home crowd, Joty emphasized the team's resilience.—Agency

## Sirbaz Khan Etches His Name in History by Conquering All 14 Eight-Thousanders

KARACHI: Pakistani mountaineer Sirbaz Khan has made history by becoming the first Pakistani to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks, a feat accomplished by only a few elite climbers globally.



Khan's latest triumph came on Friday when he scaled Shishapangma, an 8,027-metre peak in Tibet without O2, marking the completion of his 14th "eight-thousander." This remarkable achievement places him in the ranks of the world's most accomplished high-altitude mountaineers.

Hailing from Hunza, Khan began his 14-year journey in 2017 when he successfully summited Nanga Parbat, a notoriously dangerous 8,126-metre peak. This marked the start of his journey to scale all of the world's highest mountains. Over the

years, he has conquered some of the most challenging peaks, including K2 in July 2018 and Lhotse in May 2019, where he became the first Pakistani to summit the world's most accomplished high-altitude mountaineers.

In July 2019, Khan added Broad Peak to his list of accomplishments, reaching its 8,051-metre summit without the use of supplementary oxygen, a feat that would become a hallmark of his climbs. Later that same year, in September, he scaled Manaslu in Nepal, becoming only the second Pakistani to reach its 8,163-metre summit. Khan's determination was unwavering, and in April 2021, he became the first Pakistani to summit Annapurna, one of the deadliest mountains in the world. The following month, he successfully summited Mount Everest, the highest peak on the planet, standing at 8,849 metres. In July 2021, Khan led an all-Pakistani team to the summit of Gasherbrum II, standing at 8,035 metres, further cementing his reputation as a leader in high-

altitude mountaineering. Just a few months later, in October 2021, he became the first Pakistani to summit Dhaulagiri, an 8,167-metre peak. Khan continued to break barriers in 2022, summiting Kangchenjunga in May and Makalu later that month, becoming the first Pakistani to conquer both of these formidable mountains. In August of the same year, he led another successful expedition to Gasherbrum I, marking his 12th summit of an 8,000-metre peak. In October 2023, Khan added Cho Oyu to his list of conquests, becoming the first Pakistani to summit the 8,188-metre peak. Finally, with his successful ascent of Shishapangma on Friday (October 4), Khan completed his mission, becoming the first Pakistani to conquer all 14 of the world's highest peaks.—Agency

## Ancelotti Admits Lille Defeat Was a Harsh Wake-Up Call for Real Madrid

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti is hoping the shock preparation time he has had with his players following the shock Champions League loss at Lille will be enough for his team to return to winning ways.



As they prepare to host Villarreal in LaLiga on Saturday, Ancelotti said Wednesday's match was a reality check after a penalty scored by Jonathan David earned the French side a 1-0 victory over the holders, ending the 15-times European Cup winners' 36-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

"(Villarreal) are doing really well, tomorrow it's an opportunity for us to reconnect, to get back to playing good football," Ancelotti told a press conference on Friday.

"(The mood) is fine, as always. (Wednesday's) defeat is an opportunity, if we take it and react well. We are self-critical. There are times when you have to reconnect and you need to do it quickly."

"Sometimes a good run makes you think you're invincible, but a defeat brings you back to reality. We are

still not at our level, we have players who are not at their best. We are not far from where we want to be. There is a lack of defensive intensity and, offensively, a lack of ball circulation."

Coming off a remarkable 2023-24 season in which they won the LaLiga and Champions League double, Real are second in the Spanish league standings on 18 points, three behind leaders Barcelona and one ahead of Villarreal. Ancelotti expects to get Kylian Mbappe back into the starting team after the forward missed last week's 1-1 derby against Athletic and came off the bench at Lille due to a hamstring injury, which led to

France manager Didier Deschamps leaving his captain out of the squad for next week's internationals against Israel and Belgium.—Agency

## New Contenders Emerge for Pakistan's White-Ball Captaincy After Babar's Departure

LAHORE: After star batter Babar Azam's recent resignation as Pakistan's white-ball captain, speculation is rife over who will take up the mantle next.



Among the leading contenders for the role are Test vice-captain Saud Shakeel, dynamic opener Fakhar Zaman, and all-rounder Salman Ali Agha.

Reports indicate that wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and pace bowler Shaheen Afridi have slim chances of being considered for the role, despite their leadership experience in other formats.

Saud Shakeel, who recently replaced Rizwan as Test vice-captain during Pakistan's series against

Bangladesh, is seen as a potential candidate. Meanwhile, Fakhar Zaman, who has captained Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), brings his own leadership experience to the table.

However, Salman Ali Agha, the least experienced among the three in terms of leadership, has yet to captain any side at the domestic level.

This leadership transition comes after Babar Azam's decision to step down from the captaincy across all formats last November, following Pakistan's disappointing World Cup campaign.

In the aftermath, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) handed the T20 captaincy to Shaheen Afridi and the Test leadership to Shan Masood.

Babar returned as captain of the white-ball team in March of this year, but his latest resignation leaves the position once again up for grabs. Previously, following Babar Azam's resignation, Mohammad Rizwan has emerged as the top contender to take over Pakistan's ODI captaincy. Sources revealed that Rizwan's consistent performances and leadership experience make him a strong candidate for the position.—Agency

## Wasim Akram Claims Babar Will 'Soar Higher' After Stepping Down as Captain



KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricketer, Wasim Akram has expressed his support for Babar Azam's decision, stating that stepping down from captaincy will allow him to focus more on his batting and eliminate unnecessary stress.

Babar informed fans of his decision to step down as captain of the white-ball teams through a social media post in recent days.

His leadership has seen Pakistan's team underperform, which has led to appreciation for his decision.

In response to an inquiry from the Cricket Pakistan representative, Akram said that Babar must have made his decision thoughtfully.

He liked consulted with his seniors, mentors, and friends, including his father. "This would not have been an easy decision, but we should respect it. I stand with Babar. He should enjoy his cricket. With reduced pressure, he will be able to

focus more on his batting," he said.

"I believe that stepping down from captaincy will significantly improve Babar Azam's performance. He must have experienced unnecessary stress due to captaincy, and now he can fully concentrate on his game, win a few matches for Pakistan, and I am confident he will do just that," Akram said.

It's important to note that following Babar's resignation, Pakistan is now searching for a new captain for the white-ball format.

Names such as Mohammad Rizwan have come up in discussions.

The decision regarding leadership rests solely with the PCB Chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, who is currently busy with political matters and will take steps regarding this issue when time permits.

Pakistan's white-ball team is set to tour Australia next month.—Agency

## Gillespie Shares Insights on His Game-Changing Role as Pakistan's Red-Ball Coach

LAHORE: Jason Gillespie, who was appointed Pakistan's red-ball head coach in April this year, revealed that the start of his new job has not been easy.



"It's been a tough initiation, and Pakistan haven't been playing well for a while now. Look, it's a challenge. There's no doubt about that, but it's an exciting one," he told The Telegraph.

With the harsh defeat against Bangladesh by 2-0, that too at home, Pakistan's Test captain, Shan Masood has faced criticism and his leadership qualities and capabilities have been questioned.

However, Gillespie seems to be impressed with Masood's ability to communicate with his team and how

he "has got a very clear plan on how the Test side should play and we are completely aligned on that."

"There are things people don't see and I've been really impressed by his communication with the players and how he's gone about doing his job," he added.

Gillespie also listed down key points through which

chance against good teams.

"We know England are going to go hard. But if we can just keep hanging in there, keep being disciplined, strike at the right moments, get on for the gap, so to speak, and go on top in games then we can mix it with really good teams," Gillespie said.

The head coach also believes that Pakistan matches up "okay" against England, also thanking the team for visiting the country for a three-Test series.

"I'm very confident that we've got good quality players. We just need to show our faith and our belief in them, and we need to show a bit of patience," the red-ball coach stated.—Agency

## Three Pakistani Sisters Shine Bright at Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship



SUN CITY: Pakistan's Twin-ke Sohail wins the silver medal at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship in Sun City, South Africa on Friday.

The powerlifter took home the silver medal in the 84kg classic bench press category.

Earlier today, Twinkle's sisters, Sybil and Veronica succeeded in winning the gold and bronze medals at the championship respectively.

Sybil was able to achieve this after lifting the 47kg category of the classic bench press event, securing a top podium finish for Pakistan.

Meanwhile, her sister Veronica clinched the bronze after showcasing her power and lifting the 52kg category.

It is worth mentioning that the event, scheduled from October 4 to 13, will see participation from 15 Commonwealth nations.

The championships will feature teams from Australia, England, Canada, India, Isle of Man, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Wales, Singapore, New Zealand, Scotland, Trinidad and Tobago, and hosts South Africa.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's gold medalist, Muhammad Nool Dastagir Butt will also be participating in the Men's Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship.

In addition, Hasnain Raza Haider Ali and Dr Adnan will compete in various master's categories of the championship.

The aforementioned lifters are set to embark on their journey to South Africa on October 6.—Agency

## Kids' Corner



Name: Aera Asif D/O Asif Hussain Khuwaja  
Location: Talhar  
About me: I love my books!

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

## REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

### Zendaya Reflects on Career's Darkest Days



Zendaya is reflecting on her time as a contestant on Dancing with the Stars in 2013, sharing valuable insights from her runner-up experience.

During an exclusive interview with EW's The Awardist podcast, the 28-year-old actress, who came second on the show alongside professional partner Val Chmerkovskiy in 2013, confessed that she hasn't watched the programme since.

"I don't really watch Dancing With the Stars because I was on it. I don't think I was the target demographic. My

### Angelina Jolie on Edge as Jennifer Aniston's Social Circle Tightens Grip



Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston are reportedly competing for the same spot in this year's Oscars list.

The insider kicked off the topic by saying, "You'd hope for Angie's sake, after all she put herself through to make Maria, that she could neutralize this threat," per In Touch Weekly.

"But Jen's social network is incredibly powerful, it's tightly knit, and it's full of A-listers," the source also pointed out.

Reportedly, Sandra Bullock, who has done several projects with Brad Pitt following his divorce from Angelina Jolie, is also supporting the Friends veteran.

"It's not really a mystery where Sandra's loyalty is and her friendship with Jen plugs both of them into a powerful network of awards voters," the source also confessed.

They also explained, "This is the same crew that got Andrea Riseborough an Oscar nomination out of nowhere, and it's a lot easier for them to make sure somebody doesn't get nominated," after which they resigned from the chat.



# THE HEARTLAND



# NATIONAL

## Ombudsman Regional Director Tours Islamia Degree College Amid Scandalous Construction Delays

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Regional Director of the Ombudsman in Badin, Manzoor Ali Soomro, visited the under-construction college in response to complaints from students of Islamia Degree College Badin. During the visit, Principal Professor Haroon Rasheed and Associate Professor Asghar Ali Memon briefed him that 3,000 students are currently enrolled at the college. The construction, which began in March 2021 at a cost of 12.9 million rupees, was expected to be completed in



30 months, but it remains unfinished. The work has been halted for the past year and a half, and substandard materials have been used. This delay has negatively impacted the education of the 3,000 students attending the city's only boys' college, with many lacking access to washroom facilities. Written complaints have been submitted to higher authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner of Badin, but no action has been taken. The Regional Director of the Ombudsman assured that the remaining construction work will be completed as soon as possible so that students can continue their studies without any issues.

## Boy Scouts Open Group Honors Achievements With Grand Certificate Distribution Ceremony

By Naz Solangi



KUMB: The Khairpur Boy Scouts Open Group held a certificate distribution ceremony at the Divisional Scouts Ground, featuring District Education Officer and District Scouts Commissioner Abdul Sami Bhambhro as special guest. Other attendees included TEO Mukhtiar Solangi and several community leaders. Scout Leader Samar Abbas Mangi received a Wood Badge certificate, and certificates were awarded to scouts for their service during Muharram at the Hajj Camp. In his address, Commissioner Bhambhro praised the group's achievements and emphasized the importance of scouting in schools and community service. The event highlighted the commitment to promoting scouting in Khairpur.

## Customs Officials Seize High-End Phones From PIA Flight Attendants At Lahore Airport

LAHORE: In two significant operations by customs officials at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport, valuable mobile phones worth millions of rupees were seized from a PIA air hostess and two passengers, media reported on Friday.



Customs officials revealed that PIA Air Hostess Nadia Batool attempted to smuggle 30 iPhones, worth over Rs 11.2 million, concealed in various parts of her body and belongings. Additionally, passengers Muhammad Arshad and his wife Fanha Amin were found with mobile phones valued at Rs 5.5 million, hidden in their luggage. All three individuals were arrested, and a case was registered. The PIA spokesperson affirmed that any employee found violating the law would face strict disciplinary actions. PIA emphasized its zero-tolerance policy towards illegal activities, stating that strict disciplinary action would be taken against the involved employees.—RT/Agency

On the other hand, after the operation against the air hostesses assigned to flight PK-204 from Dubai to Lahore, the airline immediately suspended the involved crew members as part of PIA's strict policy against employee misconduct.

## Youth Alliance Stages Bold Protest Over Lack Of Facilities At RHC Khyber

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: A protest rally was organized by the Youth Alliance from Khyber city to the office of the District Health Officer (DHO) in Matiari, in response to the ongoing shortage of medicines in the Khyber Rural Health Center.



Leaders including Zahir Khoso, Saleem Khyber, Osama Khoso, and Shaukat Khyber Chohan, along with concerned citizens, participated in the rally. They expressed frustration over the continuous lack of medicines at the government hospital, stating that poor residents are often denied medication by the hospital staff. Additionally, they highlighted that the hospital gate has been closed to restrict public access. Despite repeated complaints made to the DHO, no action has been taken, and the main gate remains shut, preventing patients from receiving necessary treatment. The leaders demanded that the Chief Minister of Sindh and the Minister of Health ensure the supply of medicines, open the hospital gate, and hand over the Khyber Rural Health Center to PPH.

They stood in solidarity with the people of Kandhkot, condemning allegations against police protesters as highly inappropriate. They further noted that the poor citizens of Thul are being harassed and threatened for money, demanding the restoration of peace in Kandhkot and surrounding areas.

## Nabi Bux Sathio Sounds Alarm Over Dubious Practices Of Rice Millers

By Abdul Sattar



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Sindh Badqar Board leader Nabi Bux Sathio has stated that rice mill owners do not have the authority to check moisture levels using moisture machines or to unlawfully deduct 3.4 kg per mound for moisture content. This authority lies solely with the agriculture department and the market committee, which can coordinate with district administration for inspections. He urged the government to take strict action against officials and agents allowing substandard rice exports, which harm Pakistan's market. Sathio called for federal and provincial governments to take appropriate measures against rice mills and ensure that landrills receive a fair price of 3,500 per mound for their paddy crops.

## Azma Declares PTI A 'Terror Group,' Demands Immediate Crackdown

LAHORE: Following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) insistence on holding a rally at Islamabad's D-Chowk today despite Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's warning against it, Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bokhari on Friday said the party was not a political party and it should be treated as a terrorist entity.



"The [PTI] is not a political party," Bokhari said during an interview private TV channel. To a query, the information minister said she heard the interior minister last day and she believed he would not let the PTI supporters enter the federal capital. Naqvi on Thursday warned the PTI against holding the public gathering as visits of foreign dignitaries were planned in Islamabad, including the Malaysian prime minister. Amid its anti-government campaign, the former ruling party - founded by Imran Khan - is holding protests for the "independence" of the judiciary and the release of the former prime minister from jail. The protest will coincide with the final day of the Malaysian prime minister's visit to Pakistan and the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The authorities have already enforced Section 144 and "the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024", regulating holding of public assemblies at certain places in Islamabad.

"The PTI's top leadership should review its protest call [...] No one will be allowed for an onrush on Islamabad," the security czar said while addressing a presser along with officials of the federal police. Meanwhile, the provincial information minister the PTI had always worked against Pakistan's development. "The country is progressing and inflation is dropping, but they cannot sit with peace," she said.—RT/Agency

## Peace March Floods Kandhkot In Support Of Citizens' Rights

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, the Jidojehad Action Committee organized a peace march in support of the ongoing protest movement in Kandhkot, demanding the restoration of law and order. The march began at the Municipal Office and proceeded through various streets and intersections before reaching Rahbar Chowk, where protesters blocked the road, temporarily halting traffic.



Demonstrators, including leaders and workers from various parties such as the SUP, STP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Sindh Adabi Sangat, and others, participated in large numbers. They chanted slogans demanding peace and security. Speaking to the media, committee leaders, including Jamaluddin Josh Burro and Abdul Razaq Sarwan Lashari, criticized the rising insecurity in the area caused by a few terrorists. They expressed that the police have failed to restore order, leaving citizens distressed.

They stood in solidarity with the people of Kandhkot, condemning allegations against police protesters as highly inappropriate. They further noted that the poor citizens of Thul are being harassed and threatened for money, demanding the restoration of peace in Kandhkot and surrounding areas.

## Shikarpur's Civil Society Erupts In Outrage Over Alarming Lawlessness

By Adeel Alvi



SHIKARPUR: Youth and citizens of Shikarpur staged a sit-in at Hazaridar Chowk against lawlessness, child abductions, robberies, and dacoities. The protest included youths such as Rashid Lashari, Ali Qureshi, Asadullah Soomro, Shoaib Sanjani, and Noor Soomro, among others. Citizens, including children, reached the protest to express their grievances against lawlessness. The protesters stated that the police have handed Shikarpur over to criminals. Innocent children are being abducted, while politicians and police remain silent bystanders, the protesters said. They have turned Shikarpur into a lawless area and imposed the law of jungle on the citizens, they claimed. There is fear everywhere, children cannot go to school, the protesters expressed. Elected representatives are absent from their constituencies; they are dear to our cries, they added. The black sheep within the police department are involved in criminal activities in the city, the protesters alleged. The SSP of Shikarpur is only busy taking notice; innocent children Walid Memon and Nasir Bakhrani have been abducted, they reported. Motorcycles are being stolen right in front of citizens' homes in broad daylight, the protesters stated. Our only demand is to restore peace in Shikarpur and provide protection to the citizens, they concluded.

## Maryam Pushes For Urgent Land Records Integration Across Departments

LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz has called for land records of various departments.



Punjab CM chaired a session to review revenue targets of the first quarter and commended departments for achieving revenue goals. She was also directed to devise a plan for effective use of government land. Punjab CM also approved the extension of Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) for various districts of the province, making ADCD and ACS independent in the PRA affairs. Maryam Nawaz also instructed for planning to increase financial resources of the province. She directed to compile authentic data of restaurants, marriage halls and bakeries across the province. Maryam asserted that collection of revenue would be increased without imposing tax on the public and tax deposited in government treasury would be used for public welfare. She stressed serving the public but limited financial resources were the hurdles. Timeline of PRA legal framework was set and revenue generation target would be met come what may, CM added. Senator Pervez Rasheed, senior provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Information Minister Azma Bokhari, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaar Rehman, MPA Sania Ashiq, Principal Secretary were present in the session.—RT/Agency

PRA legal framework was set and revenue generation target would be met come what may, CM added. Senator Pervez Rasheed, senior provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Information Minister Azma Bokhari, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaar Rehman, MPA Sania Ashiq, Principal Secretary were present in the session.—RT/Agency

## Urgent Construction Of Government Middle School Demanded In UC Boobak

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The government middle school building in the village of Haji Alan Khan Jhejo, Union Council Boobak, is in a dilapidated condition, jeopardizing the future of students.

2022, rendering the washrooms unusable as well. During a gathering, teachers and students including Javed Solangi, Muhammad Ali Otho, Muhammad Khan Memon, and others expressed their grievances to reporters, stating that despite two years having passed since the disaster, no repairs have been made. They highlighted the lack of electricity and water facilities, which has severely affected students during the intense heat. Despite repeatedly complaining to education department officials, no action has been taken. The affected teachers and students have appealed to Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and higher education officials to take notice of the situation and address the school's urgent issues on a priority basis to alleviate their suffering.

According to the reports, the walls and floor of the school were completely destroyed following the floods and heavy rains of

affected students during the intense heat. Despite repeatedly complaining to education department officials, no action has been taken. The affected teachers and students have appealed to Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and higher education officials to take notice of the situation and address the school's urgent issues on a priority basis to alleviate their suffering.

## Russian General Applauds The Unmatched Expertise Of Pakistan's Military



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation, Col General Sergey Yuravich Istrakov lauded professionalism of Pakistan armed forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by them in the fight against terrorism. The Russian military official, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, expressed the view during a meeting with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.—RT/Agency

## Dr. Musadik Reports 55% Surge In FDI, Remittances Climb by 44%

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55% while remittances have seen a 44% rise.



Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI. He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy. "These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities. He said the country is expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people. Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7% from 48.1%, while overall inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%. Pakistan's foreign reserves have been improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added. He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan. The minister also pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renewed financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market in Asia.—RT/Agency

## Jacobabad All-Party Protest Erupts Over Crippling Healthcare Crisis

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: A protest rally was organized after the All Party Conference (APC) against corruption, shortage of medicines, and lack of facilities at JIMS Hospital and the Civil Hospital. Leaders including Shaban Abro, Qari Rizwanullah Chachar, Hassan Talani, Raheel Ahmed Mangi, and Shahid Hussain and others addressed the rally, highlighting the dire conditions at both hospitals.



They stated that JIMS and the Civil Hospital are on the brink of collapse, with various departments, including the emergency ward, X-ray, and laboratory services, shut down. Corruption is rampant from nursing staff to the director and medical superintendent. It was noted that even basic treatments are being referred to private medical facilities outside, despite an annual budget of 700 million rupees. The speakers called on the Sindh government to take notice of these issues, demanding the closure of private medical facilities outside the hospitals to provide relief to the public. They warned that if these issues are not addressed, they would escalate their protests.

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# METRO KARACHI

## Murad Praises Global And Local Growers At Inaugural Pakistan International Date Palm Festival 2024

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah praised the efforts of both local and international farmers and traders at the First Pakistan International Date Palm Festival, held at the Expo Centre. The event brought together experts from around the globe to showcase their products and share their knowledge in the date palm industry.

In his speech, Mr. Shah highlighted the significance of date palms as a globally valuable cash crop, noting their nutritional and economic benefits. He pointed out that Pakistan, with over 252,000 acres of date palm cultivation, produced more than 730,000 tonnes of dates in 2022, solidifying its position as a key player in the international market.

However, he acknowledged the challenges Pakistan faces in increasing the value of its date exports. While the country ranks fifth in production and third in export volume, the trade value remains below potential. To address this, Mr. Shah stressed the need for rain-tolerant, high-yielding date varieties and the adoption of modern post-harvest technologies.

Sindh's contribution to national date production was also celebrated, accounting for 57% of the total output, followed by Balochistan at 33.5%, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 2.5%. The



Chief Minister praised Khairpur as a hub of biodiversity, with over 300 varieties of dates, including the renowned Asel variety, which makes up 70% of the national production. He also mentioned the significance of Begum Jhangi and Mozavati varieties in Balochistan, and Dhakki in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Closing his remarks, Mr. Shah expressed optimism about the festival fostering knowledge exchange and driving sustainable growth in the date industry. He reiterated the government's dedication to building international partnerships, particularly with the UAE, to unlock Pakistan's potential in the global date market.

Mr. Shah announced that, inspired by successful cultivation in Gulf countries, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), in collaboration

## PPP Plans Monumental Hyderabad Rally On October 18 To Honor Karsaz Martyrs



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, announced that the party will hold a large public gathering on October 18, 2024, at Hatri Bypass in Hyderabad to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy. Khuhro shared this while presiding over a key meeting of the PPP Karachi Division on Friday, which focused on preparations for the upcoming rally commemorating the tragic event.

During the meeting, Khuhro emphasized PPP's dominance in the last local government and general elections in Karachi and Hyderabad. He noted that innocent citizens were martyred on May 12 and October 18, 2007, in Karachi, and highlighted that the party has gained significant popularity across the city. He added that PPP candidates secured victories in 104 union committees during the local government elections in Karachi and now hold chairmanships in 13 of the 25 town municipal corporations in the city. Additionally, PPP representatives are serving in the

## Former Minister Noman Saigal Visits Khidmat Insaniyat NGO In Orangi Town



KARACHI: Former Minister and Convener of the Standing Committee on Horticulture, Muhammad Noman Saigal, recently visited the NGO Khidmat Insaniyat in Orangi Town, where he explored the diverse range of courses conducted under the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Technical and Research Authority Sindh. The students showcased their impressive achievements, completing various programs in a remarkably short period.

Upon arrival, Mr. Saigal was welcomed by Mr. Sarver Alam, Chief Advisor of the NGO, who guided him through the different training classes on-site. The NGO also provides health services, including free ambulance assistance, to the local community.

The event began with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a presentation from Mr. Iqbal, the program Incharge, who detailed the project's objectives and commended the government's initiatives. Deputy Director Mr. Imtiaz encouraged the students, praising their dedication and enthusiasm.

Mr. Sarver Alam highlighted the NGO's vision and expressed gratitude for Mr. Saigal's support, recognizing the contributions of both students and teachers in achieving success. Mr. Saigal commended the students for their accomplishments and pledged to assist them in finding suitable employment. He emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and the role of Pakistan's youthful population in contributing to national development. Mr. Saigal also requested the NGO's collaboration on future nation-building projects.—RT

## Lawyers Action Committee Launches Protest Against Controversial Constitutional Amendments

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: The Lawyers Action Committee organized a protest outside the Supreme Court Karachi Registry against threats to judicial independence, the Practice and Procedure Ordinance, the establishment of a federal court, and the notification of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as Chief Justice of Pakistan. The protest was led by senior lawyers including Advocate Muhammad Ashraf Samo, Advocate Zahooruddin Mehsud, Advocate Manzoor Bhutto, Advocate Khalid Mahmood, Advocate Ahsan Adil Shaikh, and Advocate Nazirullah Mehsud, along with leaders from PTI Women Sindh and other political figures.

The demonstrators marched from the Sindh High Court to the Supreme Court, chanting slogans that condemned the proposed constitutional amendments and labeled the federal constitutional court as an attack on the Supreme Court.

Speaking to the media, Advocate Muhammad Ashraf Samo expressed concerns over a political court being referred to as a constitutional court, which the lawyers reject. He emphasized the need for immediate notification of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's appointment as Chief Justice.

Advocate Zahooruddin Mehsud criticized the government of Form 47 for attacking the judiciary and vowed to reject any decisions made by it. He condemned attempts to establish a federal constitutional court, labeling it unconstitutional and a threat to political integrity.

Advocate Khalid Mahmood stated that any ordinance created by the current government would not be accepted, describing the prevailing law as one that favors the powerful. He highlighted issues of election delays in his constituency, asserting a betrayal of the constitution, law, and public trust.

The protestors collectively pledged to continue their movement until judicial independence, the rule of law, and constitutional integrity are restored. They called for unity among lawyers against unconstitutional actions, asserting that they would not accept any unlawful decisions imposed by the current government.

## U.S. Mobilizes Global Partners To Combat Drug-Resistant Typhoid Outbreak In Sindh

KARACHI: The United States convened a key meeting in Karachi from October 2-3 to coordinate efforts in combating the spread of extensively drug-resistant (XDR) typhoid in Sindh Province. The meeting brought together public health experts and stakeholders to devise a strategic response to this growing health crisis.



Participants analyzed the impact of XDR typhoid in Sindh, identifying the most critical and effective actions to curb the outbreak. Among the top priorities were enforcing antibiotic stewardship, restricting the sale of antibiotics without prescriptions, ensuring access to clean drinking water, and creating a provincial XDR typhoid response plan to guide future public health policies.

A multidisciplinary technical working group was also established during the meeting to lead the province's future efforts against typhoid. The group will reconvene in early 2025 to finalize strategies and implement the key

actions discussed. Attendees included Dr. Elizabeth Davlantes, Deputy Branch Chief for the Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Muhammad Afzal from the CDC Pakistan Country Office, and representatives from the Sindh Government's Health Services, Aga Khan University, and the Pakistan Medical Association. Observers from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and other health organizations were also present.

Since 2016, Pakistan has been grappling with an outbreak of XDR typhoid, which is resistant to most available antibiotics. The strain has severely impacted Sindh Province, where typhoid incidence rates have soared. Experts believe that contaminated water and food are key contributors to the spread of the disease, with Pakistan experiencing an estimated 176 cases of typhoid per 100,000 people.

The CDC's involvement in tackling XDR typhoid is part of broader U.S. efforts to improve public health in Pakistan. Other initiatives include support for polio and hepatitis control, pandemic preparedness, and enhancing the country's laboratory management systems.

For further details, visit the CDC's Typhoid Fever Information page and WHO Typhoid Resources.—RT

## TDAP Holds Mehfil-e-Milad In Reverence Of Holy Prophet (PBUH)



KARACHI: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized an in-house Mehfil-e-Milad at its headquarters to commemorate the birth month of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and reflect on His exemplary lifestyle. The event began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Naat-e-Rasool and Durood-e-Salaam offered by the participants in His honor.

During the gathering, TDAP Secretary Mr. Sheryar Taj encouraged attendees to research and develop policy proposals inspired by the Prophet's (PBUH) ethical trade and professional practices. He highlighted the importance of emulating the Prophet's (PBUH) qualities of honesty, commitment, and integrity in foreign trade, urging the business community to adopt these principles as a model for success.

The Mehfil-e-Milad concluded with prayers for Pakistan's peace, prosperity, and the well-being of its people.—RT

## MAP Hosts High-Stakes Business Luncheon With KPK Governor To Boost Economic Ties



KARACHI: The Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) hosted an exclusive business luncheon on October 2, 2024, in honor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Governor, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi. The event provided a platform for MAP members and the Governor to engage in discussions aimed at promoting business development and strengthening economic partnerships within the region.

Prominent MAP members, including Mr. Farrukh Junaidi, Mr. Mohammad Intesar Uddin, Mr. Khalid Zaman, Mr. Ahmed Zaheer, Mr. Suleman Mehdi, Mr. Athar Abbas, Mr. Rashid Siddiqui, Mr. Kashif ur Rehman, Mr. Ali Hasan, Mr. Sameer Hussain, Dr. Farhan Essa, Mr. Adnan Rizvi, Mr. Amjad Waheed, Mr. Zubair Qureshi, and Mr. Farrukh Mazhar, were in attendance. The luncheon underscored the importance of public-private collaboration to drive KPK's economic growth, particularly in areas such as innovation, infrastructure, and employment generation.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the province's vast untapped potential across multiple sectors, stressing the need for stronger partnerships between the government and the private sector to unlock opportunities and enhance infrastructure and job creation.

In recognition of his leadership and dedication to KPK's development, the MAP delegation presented the Governor with a commemorative shield.

## Murad Urges Elected Officials To Tackle Rising Polio Cases In Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed alarm over the detection of seven new polio cases in the province during a recent meeting to assess eradication efforts. The meeting, held at the CM House, included provincial ministers, health officials, and divisional commissioners via video link.

Mr. Irshad Ali Sodhar, Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), briefed the CM on the situation, highlighting cases from Karachi, Hyderabad, Sujawal, and Shikarpur. Shah emphasized

the need for coordinated actions to reach every child and eliminate polio threats. He directed Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho and Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani to enhance vaccination efforts by involving elected representatives to minimize refusals. Health Secretary Rehan Baloch and local commissioners discussed challenges and measures taken to improve immunization coverage.

Dr. Azra reported significant achievements during recent campaigns, vaccinating over 9.4 million children.

## Feroze Power Joins Forces With Maysun For Solar Panel Manufacturing Revolution In Pakistan



KARACHI: Feroze Energy Development Board Power (Pvt) Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding with Maysun Solar to establish a solar panel production facility in Karachi. This initiative aims to boost local manufacturing of clean energy equipment, enhancing renewable energy generation and alleviating pressure on Pakistan's foreign currency reserves.

FPL CEO Sohail Feroze emphasized the importance of transferring technology for local renewable energy production, marking a crucial step towards the country's self-sufficiency in the power sector. He expressed optimism about receiving government incentives and support from the Alternative En-

## Delegation Visits District Jail Malir, Highlights Vocational Training For Inmates

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: A delegation from the National Vocational Training Commission, along with the social organization PLUS, visited District Jail Malir to meet inmates receiving vocational training. The team included Executive Director Aamir Jan, PLUS CEO Altaf Hussain Khoso, Ahmad Salman, Aziz Allah Chaudhry, and Qadeer Sohu, accompanied by DIG Jai Nasir Khan and Superintendent of District Jail Malir, Syed Arshad Shah.

During the visit, DIG Jai Nasir Khan highlighted that after completing vocational training, inmates in Sindh's jails would be able to start dignified lives upon their release. He emphasized the need for similar vocational programs in all 24 jails across Sindh.

Superintendent Syed Arshad Shah mentioned that inmates at Malir Jail are benefiting from vocational training programs in collaboration with the technical institution Newtech, which are also being conducted in Sukkur, Hyderabad, and Karachi. Over 400 inmates are currently undergoing training, aiming to reintegrate into society with honorable roles after moving away from a life of crime.

The delegation praised the efforts to provide vocational education within the jail, expressing satisfaction with the training initiatives implemented for the inmates.

## Ahmed Memon Makes History As Pakistan's First Contestant In Mr. International

KARACHI: In a groundbreaking achievement for Pakistan, 25-year-old model and actor Ahmed Memon will represent the country as Mr. Pakistan at the Mr. International competition in Bangkok this December. This marks the first time in 75 years that Pakistan will compete in this prestigious male pageant, further elevating Ahmed among a new generation of Pakistani talent on the international stage.

Ahmed follows in the footsteps of Erica Robin, who last year became the

istan's growing influence in international pageantry. As Mr. International features contestants from over 50 countries, Ahmed aims to leave a lasting impact. He plans to showcase the talent of Pakistani men, encouraging them to break away from traditional expectations and pursue their passions. Ahmed's established presence in fashion and entertainment, along with his social media influence and charitable work, positions him as a prominent figure in modern Pakistan.—RT



Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.

—Albert Einstein

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 05 2024

## Russia Moves To Officially Delist Afghan Taliban As Terror Group In Groundbreaking Decision

MOSCOW: Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported.

The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamil Kabulov, was quoted as saying.

Putin said in July that Russia considered Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of war but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia.

No country has formally



recognised the Taliban-led government as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its ambassadors.

Russia added the Afghan Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan.

The Taliban's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said in a speech in

mat dialogue" with the current Afghan government.

"It is obvious that it is impossible to solve problems or even discuss an Afghan settlement without Kabul," Lavrov said.

"Moscow will continue its course on developing political, trade and economic ties with Kabul," he added, speaking at a meeting in Moscow with Muttaqi and representatives of neighbouring countries.

While he did not mention the Taliban by name, he praised the current Afghan leadership for its efforts to curb drug production and fight Daesh which is outlawed in Russia.

Muttaqi said that countries in the region should cooperate against the Daesh, which he said had established training centres outside Afghanistan.

Lavrov said the United States should return confi-

ated assets to Afghanistan and the West should acknowledge responsibility for the post-conflict reconstruction of the country.

The Russian foreign minister also called for an increase in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, and said Russia would keep sending it food and essential goods.

Russia has a troubled history in Afghanistan, where the Soviet army invaded in 1979 to support a pro-Moscow government but withdrew 10 years later after sustaining heavy casualties at the hands of mujahideen fighters.

Russia and its post-Soviet neighbours have suffered recurrent attacks from militant groups linked to Afghanistan — most recently in March, when 145 people were killed in an attack claimed by Daesh at a concert hall near Moscow.—RT/Agency

## Malaysian PM's Meeting With COAS Sparks Talks Of Strengthening Military Bonds

RAWALPINDI: In a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim stressed on the need for increasing bilateral ties particularly military relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Both the dignitaries discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security and defence cooperation in the meeting, said the military's media wing on Friday.

PM Ibrahim, along with a high-level delegation, reached Islamabad on Wednesday on a three-day visit to the country. He held crucial meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Zardari, wherein they discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Prime Minister Ibrahim praised Pakistan Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

While emphasising on enhancing military ties, the premier extended an invitation to the army chief to visit Malaysia "in the same con-



text". "The COAS thanked the prime minister for the invitation and appreciated the successful visit to Pakistan, which will help further improve the enduring and historic ties between the two countries and the militaries," said the ISPR.

COAS Munir also attended the investiture ceremony and state banquet held in the honour of the prime minister of Malaysia at the presidency.

During the special investiture ceremony, President Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon PM Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

The top civilian award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by PM Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, services chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials.

During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian prime minister was an avid reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work had been a source of inspiration for him. PM Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world.

The president also hosted a state dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian prime minister and his delegation.—RT/Agency

## ATC Grants 4-Day Remand For PTI Lawyer Accused Of Threatening CJ Isa

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad anti-terrorism court has granted a four-day physical remand for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Mustafin Kazmi, following accusations of misbehaving with Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

The ruling was delivered by Judge Tahir Abbas Supra during a court hearing on Friday.

Kazmi was presented before the court, represented by lawyers Eman Mazari and Rizwan, among others. During the hearing, prosecutor Raja Naveed read out the First Information Report (FIR) detailing the charges against Kazmi.

The defence argued that all individuals named in the FIR were lawyers, to which the prosecutor responded, "No one is above the law."

Judge Supra questioned who has the authority to determine who is above the law, following which the prosecutor requested a nine-day physical remand for Kazmi. However, the court approved a four-day remand and adjourned the case until October 8.

Kazmi's arrest came following allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards Chief Justice Isa, leading to the current legal proceedings.

Day before yesterday, lawyers belonging to the PTI gathered outside the Supreme Court to protest the formation of a bench hearing the review petition on the court's



interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution.

Inside the courtroom, PTI's counsel warned the bench of consequences if an unfavourable ruling was issued.

Despite the noisy protest outside, the hearing of the review petition continued. The case was heard by a five-judge larger bench, also including Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Mandoohail, Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhal.

During the hearing, PTI's counsel, Tayyab Mustafin Kazmi, threatened the bench, stating that 500 lawyers were protesting outside and that he would see how the bench gave the decision against the PTI.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa condemned the threat, as-

serting, "We will not tolerate insults." He asked the lawyer if he believed the country's institutions should be run through threats and intimidation, emphasizing his patience in the face of such behavior.

The chief justice then asked Kazmi, "How many members of parliament were sent to jail by former chief justice Saqib Nisar?" Kazmi replied that the current bench was not incorrect, adding, "The PTI is the victim in this case."

Angered, the chief justice called for the police.

Tayyab Mustafin Kazmi was arrested by Islamabad police on Thursday.

Kazmi was taken into custody from F-7/4 and transferred to the Secretariat Police Station following his disruptive behaviour during proceedings on Article 63-A review petitions.—RT/Agency

## Army Assumes Control Of Islamabad's Security Under Article 245 As PTI Protests Escalate



RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army units have taken over security duties in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution, following orders from the Ministry of Interior. The move comes as part of efforts to maintain law and order amid escalating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests in the capital.

According to official sources, the deployment has been completed, with army troops now stationed across Islamabad and surrounding areas. Their role includes patrolling key locations to safeguard citizens and protect public property, especially with the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in focus.

"These security measures are essential to protect lives and property, and to ensure peace during this critical period," a security official stated. The PTI protests have led to clashes with police, prompting authorities to take additional steps to control the situation.

The protests, which saw PTI workers gathering at D-Chowk, led to tear gas shelling by police to disperse the crowds. Several PTI workers were arrested at various points, including 26 Number Chungi.

"No one will be allowed to disrupt the peace or create unrest," the security source stressed, adding that the army's presence is crucial to neutralising any threats posed by the ongoing demonstrations.

Meanwhile, army units from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) have been dispatched to support security operations in Islamabad and surrounding areas, as tensions rise in the capital amid ongoing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests.

The move comes as part of heightened security measures to protect citizens and ensure the safety of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, according to security sources.

"No one will be allowed to disrupt peace or incite violence during this critical period," said a security official. "These deployments are aimed at safeguarding the public and ensuring that law and order prevail."

As the situation intensifies, authorities have tightened the noose around violent groups and armed protesters from both sides of the capital. "The army's presence is vital to neutralise any threats to public safety," the official added.—RT/Agency



NEW YORK: Pakistan has called for comprehensive global counter-terrorism reforms. Making a statement at the sixth committee of the UN General Assembly in New York, Pakistan's Acting Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, regretted that insufficient progress has been made in addressing the evolving and diverse forms of terrorism. He also highlighted that an attack on Lebanon was effort to create

widespread war in the Middle East. He emphasised Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism, noting its key contribution in dismantling Al-Qaeda and the significant sacrifices it made, with 80,000 casualties suffered in the war on terror. However, he raised concerns about state-sponsored terrorism from across Pakistan's borders, highlighting threats posed by groups like the TTP, Daesh, and the Majed Brigade.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Rising As Global Hub For Investment, Trade, And Tourism

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar emphasised that Pakistan was about to become a destination for investment, trade and tourism and PM Shehbaz Sharif's policies were achieving success.

The path to progress, development and prosperity was going on smoothly and every state was recognising the fact and hailing it, he added.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the minister announced that comprehensive arrangements were being made for the hosting of SCO heads of government Summit in Islamabad.

Minister highlighted that inflation had been reduced and recorded at 6.9 pc which was 32 pc last year, with decrease in interest rate and trade deficit and 14 pc increase in exports. These indicators would promote investment that would certainly strengthen the economy.

Tarar stated that global publications and leaders have acknowledged the PM Shehbaz's policies and efforts and the economy would take off under his leadership. The opposition must also recognise the development in the economy.

Information minister stated that PM Shehbaz Sharif's speech in the United Nations General Assembly was commended by all

Minister insisted that the World Bank MD had hailed tax reforms, tax filers had



doubled now as compared to the past when no one was used to file taxes. Minister stressed that an increase in tax collection would certainly increase the strength of public welfare projects.

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double the farems on decrease of petroleum prices and reduced inflation, other provinces must follow Punjab CM governance model and create price control committees.

Tarar suggested KP CM Gandapur to focus on his province's governance and follow Maryam Nawaz and reduce inflation and transportation fares as these publications and gatherings wouldn't create any change.—RT/Agency

## PTI Plotting Armed Attack On Islamabad During Protest Uprising

ISLAMABAD: While leadership and activists of the Imran Khan-founded party heading towards the federal capital despite roadblocks, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said everyone has the right to hold protest demonstration but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters are going to "attack Islamabad with weapons".

"This is not the right way and we will not allow this to happen," the security czar said while talking to journalists in Islamabad on Friday.

with hoards of the PTI workers are travelling towards the federal capital amid visits of foreign dignitaries.

Naqvi said he had requested the PTI a day ago as well "not to hold rally for now". The minister added that he would not let anyone damage properties.

On Thursday, he also warned the PTI against holding the public gathering as visits of foreign dignitaries, including the Malaysian prime minister, were planned in Islamabad.

Amid its anti-government campaign, the former ruling party is holding protests for the "independence" of the ju-



diary and the release of the former prime minister from jail.

The protest coincides with the final day of the Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan and ahead of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The authorities have already enforced Section 144 and "The Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024", regulating holding of public assemblies at certain places in Islamabad.

"The PTI's top leadership should review its protest call [..] No one will be allowed for an outreach in Islamabad," the security czar had said while addressing a presser along with officials of the federal police.

In today's news conference, he said the security force deployed by the government did not wield guns, whereas "you could see in videos and pictures that those coming towards Islamabad are carrying arms". "The KP chief minister [Ali Amin Gandapur] is a Pakistani. He should think what he's doing. He has an entire province under his command; he should hold protest wherever he wants," Naqvi said, adding that they had the right to hold protest, but it was not the right way to do it.

"I am clear in my stance that they are storming Islamabad," he said. Meanwhile, the interior minister said the government had taken some extra measures for security of the foreign guests. "Providing security to those guests was crucial."—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Demands Sweeping Global Counter-Terrorism Reforms In Urgent Appeal



NEW YORK: Pakistan has called for comprehensive global counter-terrorism reforms. Making a statement at the sixth committee of the UN General Assembly in New York, Pakistan's Acting Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, regretted that insufficient progress has been made in addressing the evolving and diverse forms of terrorism. He also highlighted that an attack on Lebanon was effort to create

## NA Privatisation Committee Exposes 'Out-of-Turn' Appointments In PIA Under PPP Rule

ISLAMABAD: The General Manager (GM) of Pakistan International Airlines Friday said the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) during its three tenures did 'out-of-turn' appointments in the PIA, media reported.

This was stated by GM PIA Muhammad Shafique during a meeting of the National Assembly committee for privatization that met with PPP MNA Sehar Kamran in the chair.

Mr. Shafique said every MNA was given two seats for recruitment in the PIA during PPP's three tenures of government's commitment to privatising Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) even without meeting eligibility criteria.

He further stated that no permanent appointments have been made in the Pakistan International



Airlines from 2011 to incumbent government will complete the privatization of the national carrier along with three power distribution companies (Discos) before 2024 culminates.

The privatization of PIA, initially set to conclude by October 1, has been postponed to October 31 due to lower bidder interest, ongoing court cases, aging fleet issues, and civil aviation concerns.—RT/Agency

In a separate development on October 2, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's commitment to privatising Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) even without meeting eligibility criteria.

In a recent interview with a private channel, civil aviation concerns.—RT/Agency