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## PM Hails Landmark Decision As Five IPPs 'Voluntarily' End Contracts, Saving Consumers A Whopping Rs60 Billion Annually

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that five independent power producers (IPPs) have "voluntarily" agreed to cancel their power purchase agreements with the federal government, providing Rs60 billion in annual relief to inflation-hit consumers, following extended talks with the authorities.



"By voluntarily agreeing to terminate their contracts prematurely with the government, these five IPPs prioritised the nation's interests over their own," the premier said addressing the Cabinet. "The 'take or pay' contracts with the independent power producers have been fully terminated, and they will only receive the outstanding amounts owed by the government, without any interest."

ther, saving the national exchequer Rs411 billion a year, creating more fiscal space for the cash-strapped country.

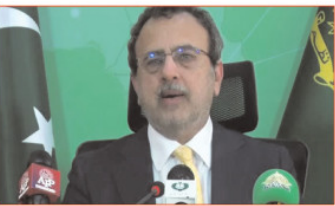
PM Shehbaz said: "The rate of inflation was more than 30% [in the same month during the previous year], it now stands at 6.9%." The prime minister commended the five IPPs, stating they were the first rindrops in the effort to bring relief to the public. An official, who was part of the task force on the power sector, told The News that the modalities were being settled, and once finalised, all five IPPs would sign the documents to terminate the contracts. The development came after PM Shehbaz's administration, last month warned the IPPs' owners of "consequences" for failure to voluntarily terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs). "The entire cabinet, including me, is grateful to these IPP owners," he added, further men-

tioning that the task force established for the reform of the power sector and the members of the federal cabinet deserve praise for this effort. He also highlighted the record increase in remittances from overseas Pakistanis. "Record remittances of \$8.8 billion in the last quarter reflect the confidence of overseas Pakistanis in government policies." During the cabinet meeting, the details of the agreement between the task force and the owners of the IPPs — including Hubco, Lalpur, Saba Power, Roush Power, and Atlas Power — and the process of concluding the agreements with them were presented before the cabinet. Out of these IPPs, Roush Power was established under a build-own-operate-and-transfer agreement, which will be privatised by the Privatisation Commission after the transfer of its ownership to the government.

The PM said that in the first phase, five IPPs were ending deals with the government, however, revision of PPAs with other IPPs would gradually lower the tariff fur-

## Government Targets Massive Rs8-10 Per Unit Power Tariff Cut As Five IPPs Terminate Contracts

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awasi Leghari said on Thursday the government was aiming for an Rs8-10 per unit tariff reduction as five independent power producers (IPPs) cancelled their contracts, a move expected to save the national exchequer Rs411 billion.



"We will reduce the power tariff in mutual consultation with generation companies," Leghari said while addressing a press conference after the federal cabinet's meeting in Islamabad.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, earlier in the day, announced that five IPPs have "voluntarily" agreed to cancel their power purchase agreements with the federal government, providing Rs60 billion in annual relief to inflation-hit consumers.

The high cost of electricity has become a contentious political issue, with

opposition parties leveraging public dissatisfaction to criticise the incumbent government's handling of the energy sector and agreements with independent power producers (IPPs).

The burden of high electricity tariffs falls disproportionately on the middle and lower-income segments of society, fueling public outrage and eroding trust in the government's ability to manage the economy.

Analysts noted that a successful renegotiation with both local and interna-

"The decision would provide Rs60 billion annual relief to the electricity consumers and cumulatively save Rs411 billion to the national exchequer," Leghari said.

Hoping to achieve the target of reducing the power tariff by Rs 8-10 per unit in a few months, the minister said the government was undertaking various measures to ease the burden on the masses.

He also thanked Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Muneer for his assistance in re-negotiating the agreements. "We will now look forward to working with remaining IPPs," he added.

The energy minister also mentioned the establishment of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO), which he termed a "major win" for his ministry. "After its operationalisation, consumers

will be able to buy electricity like shares," he said.

A day earlier, the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCE) approved the establishment of ISMO, an independent multiparty market, for power generation and purchase to create a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity.

"We are creating an independent environment for the sale and purchase of electricity," Leghari said, adding that the power purchasers will not be dependent only on the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-P). Furthermore, he said the government was considering introducing a programme, which he said would increase the usage of electricity in winter. "In this regard, a decision will be made after taking all stakeholders into confidence," he added.—RT/Agency

## PML-N And PPP Reach Groundbreaking Consensus On Crucial Constitutional Amendments

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have held discussions during which the two leaders reached an agreement on constitutional amendments.



Bilawal called on Nawaz Sharif at the Punjab House, where the former Prime Minister welcomed the PPP leader. The two leaders also exchanged views on the country's political situation.

The discussion primarily focused on judicial reforms and constitutional amendments.

They decided to present these amendments in Parliament following further consultation, with the timeline for this process to be determined in consultation with other political parties.

Maryam Aurangzeb, Rana Sanaullah, Pervaz Rashid, Irfan Siddiqui, and Ahsan Iqbal attended of the meeting from the PML-N.

Meanwhile, the PPP delegation included Yousaf Raza Gillani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Khurshid Shah, Murtaza Wahab, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Naveed Qamar, and Palwasha Khan. Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to attend a dinner in honour of a Saudi delegation later tonight.—RT/Agency

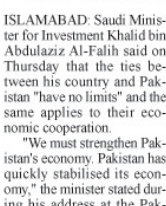
## Security Forces Take Down Four Terrorists In High-Stakes KP Intelligence-Based Operations



RAWALPINDI: Security forces have neutralised four terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) districts on October 9 and 10, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday. Two terrorists were killed after an intense exchange of fire during an IBO in Janikhel area of Bannu District on October 9, the statement read. In another operation, security personnel effectively engaged terrorists' location in Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan district on October 10. After an intense gunfight, two more terrorists were killed in the operation. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as abductions and target killing of innocent civilians, said the military's media wing. Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as security forces are determined to

wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, it concluded. Pakistan has experienced a spike in terrorism since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Most terror incidents are reported in provinces bordering the neighbouring country — Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Besides a spike in terrorist activities within the borders, Pakistan has also witnessed a significant surge in cross-border attacks from the neighbouring country targeting security forces in recent months. Islamabad accuses Kabul's new rulers of failing to root out militants sheltering on Afghan soil as they prepare to stage assaults on Pakistan. Against this backdrop, the federal cabinet in June this year approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism.—RT/Agency

## Pak-Saudi Economic Ties Have No Limits, Declares Saudi Investment Minister Al-Falih



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al-Falih said on Thursday that the ties between his country and Pakistan "have no limits" and the same applies to their economic cooperation.

"We must strengthen Pakistan's economy. Pakistan has quickly stabilised its economy," the minister stated during his address at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum in Islamabad, where he is on a three-day visit.

The minister's comments were echoed by the World Bank, which has said that Pakistan saw a quick recovery while noting that its economy would grow by 2.8% in the current fiscal year.

A high-level 135-member Saudi delegation, led by the investment minister, landed in Islamabad a day earlier and is expected to sign agreements worth \$2 billion with Pakistan.

Speaking at the event, the Saudi dignitary underscored the rich history shared between the two countries and said: "We are family, not friends [...] Pakistan, Saudi Arabia [relations] do not need any [formal] agreement [to prove themselves]."

"Our economy and social values are linked together [...] As many as 2.5 million Pakistanis are working in Saudi Arabia, he added.



Referring to his interaction with President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Muneer, Al-Falih recalled that the former has emphasised the development and expansion of Pak-Saudi friendship, whereas the latter assured of the establishment of a single window in the Kingdom for Saudi investments in the country. Noting the significance of facilitation by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for his country, the Saudi minister said that the army chief has insisted on turning the red-tape bureaucracy into a "red carpet" for the Kingdom. Providing details of his visit, the investment minister said that as many as 27 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) will be signed between Riyadh and Islamabad. Highlighting that the Kingdom has increased its cooperation and investment in Pakistan, he said while reaffirming his country's resolve to support

Islamabad.

Furthermore, Al-Falih acknowledged the Ministry of Commerce's commitment to enhancing trade relations between the two countries, noting that bilateral trade has already surged by approximately 80%, rising from \$3 billion in 2019 to \$5.4 billion. He also expressed enthusiasm about the announcement from the Saudi Crown Prince regarding a \$5 billion investment in Pakistan, revealed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit shortly after he took office. "I'm delighted to have the Public Investment Fund (PIF) represented among us," he remarked. "With the vision, determination, and dynamic private sectors of our leaders and peoples, along with investors from both sides, it is an honour to be part of this Saudi delegation and to engage with our Pakistani partners," added the dignitary.—RT/Agency

## Mustafa Nawaz Demands Full Transparency In Constitutional Amendments Process

ISLAMABAD: "We don't want to restrain the Parliament from its right to amend the constitution," former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar said on Thursday.



In a statement, Mustafa Nawaz, a former PPP senator, said that we are only pleading to bring transparency in the issue of the proposed constitutional amendments. "The government should be directed to make the constitutional bill draft public and get feedback from people," Khokhar said. "Thang God, Maulana Sahib (Fazlur Rehman), has impeded the constitutional amend, people lauding his stance," he said.

Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar has also filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) recently, seeking an order to make the draft of the proposed constitutional amendment public and to allow

people to voice their opinions before it is passed.

In his petition, Khokhar named the federal government as respondent.

The petition points out that the National Assembly's own rules require any proposed legislation to be published in the official gazette, and at least eight weeks should be given to the public to offer feedback on the amendment.—RT/Agency

## Ji Praises Bold Move To Cancel Contracts With Five IPPs, Applauding Government's Decision

LAHORE: Jamaat-Is-lami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has welcomed the termination of contracts with the IPPs, calling it a positive step.



Speaking a press conference in Lahore, he said the saved capacity payments should be used to reduce electricity bills for the public.

He stressed that his party's protest movement will continue, maintaining pressure on the government. Hafiz Naeem also called for an end to taxes on electricity bills, reducing the fuel levy and tax-

ing large landowners.

He criticised the sugar mafia's influence and raised concerns about the looming food crisis due to reduced wheat cultivation.—RT/Agency

## FO Cautions Diplomats To Limit Movement During High-Stakes SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office has advised all the diplomats to consider limiting their movements during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which is scheduled to take place from October 15 to 16 in Islamabad.



Islamabad is all set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting next week with major foreign leaders, including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the country.

To ensure law and order situation in the federal capital during the forthcoming SCO summit, the federal government has deployed Pakistan Army's troops in Islamabad from October 5 to 17, under Article 245 of the Constitution.

In a letter, addressing all resident diplomatic missions, UN agencies, funds, and international organisations based in Islamabad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said

the government had instituted heightened security measures to ensure safety of incoming dignitaries and delegates as well as success of the summit. The FO requested the diplomats to limit their movements during the international event, both within and outside the city. It further advised them to confine their activities "primarily" to the Diplomatic Enclave and Red Zone areas. It said the missions may follow the daily traffic updates by Islamabad Traffic Police, which are shared through po-

lice's various channels including social media handles.

"In case of any assistance that may be required, the missions may reach out to the ministry's Control Room (operational 24/7 - till the conclusion of SCO Summit) at the following contact numbers: 051-9207301, 051-9204374." The ministry greatly appreciates the understanding and cooperation of all diplomatic missions in this matter and looks forward to their continued support in ensuring the success of this event.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



## Adi Faryal Talpur Unveils State-Of-The-Art Skin Hospital In Naudero

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The newly established Government Skin Hospital in Naudero was officially inaugurated by Adi Faryal Talpur, the central president of the Pakistan People's Party Ladies Wing and a dedicated Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA). This significant addition to the local healthcare system is aimed at addressing the pressing need for dermatological care in the region. Under the vigilant supervision of the District Health Officer of Larkana, Dr. Shaikat Ali Aho, a team of experienced specialists in skin diseases—including Dr. Naem Soomro, Dr. Sanuallah Kalhoro, and Dr. Samreen—will offer free treatment to patients suffering from various skin ailments.

On the very first day of operations at the Outpatient Department (OPD), an impressive 750 patients were examined and provided with necessary medication, underscoring the immediate demand for such services in the area. The hospital's opening is expected to alleviate the burden on the Larkana Civil Hospital, particularly for residents of rural communities who have historically faced challenges accessing specialized healthcare.



During the inauguration ceremony, a number of notable officials were in attendance, including the Chairman of the District Council Larkana, Aijaz Ahmed Laghari, Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, and several prominent local leaders such as Muhammad Anwar Buriro, MPA Sohail Anwar Sival, Gulam Mustafa Laghari, and Syed Arshad Shah. Their presence highlights the community's collective support for this vital initiative.

In her remarks, Adi Faryal Talpur emphasized the primary objective of the skin hospital: to provide essential medical care to the residents of Naudero and surrounding rural areas who may have previously struggled to access treatment. She expressed

## MPA Nawab Taimoor Talpur Presides Over Crucial PPP Umerkot Meeting

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) held a meeting regarding the Karsaz rally at Manjharh Kunri, chaired by PPP MPA Nawab Muhammad Taimoor Talpur. The meeting included the Acting President of PPP, Sufi Nawaz Soomro, District Information Secretary Burhanuddin Kumbhar, District Chairman Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli, and various local leaders. Significant attendance was noted from party officials, including the president of Taluka Kunri, Shah Nawaz Junejo; Town Committee Kunri Chairman Shakeel Ahmed Bajwa; City

Umerkot President Ghan-sham Das; Taluka Umerkot General Secretary Muhammad Ameen Pali; City Kunri President Mahar Gulam Mustafa, Vice Chairman of the Municipal Committee Kumar Talwani; along with numerous members, officials, and dedicated workers. The meeting resolved that PPP would participate vigorously in the PS-51 Umerkot Karsaz rally. The PPP convoy from Kunri will depart at 10 AM on October 18, joining the district convoy at Shadi Palli and proceeding towards Hyderabad. This report was issued by Burhanuddin Kumbhar, Information Secretary of PPP, Umerkot District.

## PPP Naushehro Feroze Holds Power-Packed General Body Meeting



By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: In Naushehro Feroze, a general body meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was held at Chandio House, chaired by acting president Dr. Noor Hussain Moro. The meeting saw participation from PPP Division Shaheed Benazirabad General Secretary and MPA Mumtaz Ali Chandio, District President Haji Suhail Akhtar Abbasi, General Secretary Masroor Ahmed Rajper, Information Secretary Khan Muhammad Awan, and other dignitaries. Leaders expressed their commitment to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy by participating actively in a rally on October 18 at Hyderabad's Hattar Bypass, led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Attendees included Nawab Khan Mari, Pir Khalid Saifulah, city president Fatima Shehnaz Ansari, and many party workers.

## MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Empowers Kumb With Solar Panels In Groundbreaking Initiative

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: In a significant initiative aimed at improving the quality of life for residents of remote areas, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani recently distributed over a thousand solar panels to local women at the PPP office. This initiative is part of a broader commitment to tackle the pressing issue of electricity shortages that have long plagued these communities, particularly during the sweltering summer months when families face extreme heat and prolonged darkness. During the distribution event, Dr. Jilani expressed her concern for the hardships faced by families in these regions. She stated, "Many families are suffering due to a lack of electricity, which affects their daily lives and well-being." She emphasized the PPP's promise to deliver essential facilities directly to the doorstep of the public, which includes not only electricity but also vital services such as health care, education, clean drinking water, and job opportunities.



Dr. Jilani elaborated on the various basic development projects that have been initiated in the area, highlighting key improvements in infrastructure and services. "We are actively working on drainage and sewage systems, electricity provision, and the establishment of schools and dispensaries," she said. "Additionally, we have launched vocational training programs for women and schools specifically designed for special children." She noted that a significant portion of these projects is already underway, and she assured attendees that the PPP would fulfill its promises to the people.

Moreover, Dr. Jilani took pride in the fact that her party has also been proactive in providing job opportunities to educated youth from underprivileged backgrounds. "We believe in empowering our youth, and I am confident that they will perform their duties effectively and contribute positively to society," she stated.

The MNA underscored that these initiatives are being carried out under the able leadership of Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. "Our leadership is deeply committed to addressing the issues faced by the public, and we will continue to work tirelessly to implement solutions that improve the lives of our citizens," she concluded.

The distribution of solar panels marks a crucial step towards sustainable energy access in Kumb, promising to bring light and hope to many households and paving the way for further development in the region.

## DC TMK Shahzeb Shaikh Addresses Rice Growers' Urgent Concerns In Major Meeting



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Shahzeb Shaikh chaired a meeting to address complaints from local rice growers and mill owners, attended by assistant commissioners, market committee chairpersons, Kashif Hussain Shah, and other stakeholders. Farmers raised issues including moisture deductions in rice, receiving 41 kilograms instead of the standard 40 kilograms per mound, excessive labor charges, and poor treatment from mill owners. The Deputy Commissioner also listened to mill owners' concerns. The meeting concluded with several decisions: mill owners will accept 40 kilograms per mound instead of 41; no deductions will be made for moisture levels up to 21%; while 200 rupees will be charged for 15% moisture, and labor costs will be reduced from 20 to 16 rupees per mound. Standard machines will be replaced with better equipment for moisture checks, and fair prices will be ensured for farmers. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that respect is a fundamental right, urging mill owners to improve their conduct towards farmers. He noted that Tando Muhammad Khan has nearly 100 rice mills, some of which will be visited for surprise inspections to address legitimate concerns and ensure fairness for farmers.

## Sindh's Top 6 Students Set To Pursue Education In China On Prestigious Scholarships

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: In an inspiring development for the youth of Sindh, six students from rural areas of the Sukkur Division have embarked on an educational journey in China, thanks to a scholarship for a one-year diploma course. These students, who previously traveled to Yunnan Province last year, are now set to pursue specialized studies that will enhance their skills and open doors to new opportunities.



Israr Ahmed Gaho, Waheed Ali Bhangro, Kamran Mangrio, and Jahanzab Channa will complete their diplomas in Road and Bridge Technology (Civil) at the Yunnan Communications Vocational and Technical College, part of a collaborative diploma exchange program. Meanwhile, Rashid Ali Laghari will focus on Mechanical Technology, and Faraz Ali Lark will delve into the field of Artificial Intelligence.

The backgrounds of these students highlight their determination and resilience. Israr Gaho hails from Darya Khan Gaho village in Kotdiji, Waheed Bhangro is from Salehpat, Kamran Mangrio comes from Kot Qilla Mohalla in Kotdiji, Jahanzab Channa is from Altaf

Germany, Italy, the USA, Laghari is from Dad Laghari village in Daharki, and Faraz Larik is from Bahar Larik village in Khanghar. Notably, Rashid Laghari's father works on a daily wage, and Kamran Mangrio has faced the hardship of losing his father. Despite their challenging circumstances, both students remain committed to their studies and aspire to build a better future. Professor Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Vice Chancellor of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University of Technology and Skill Development, expressed optimism about the potential of Sindh's youth. He emphasized that through technical education, young individuals can achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society. Dr. Mahar pointed out the increasing demand for skilled manpower in countries like

## Mysterious Disappearance Of Youth In Tando Jam Ignites Furious Protests

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In Tando Jam, a young man has mysteriously gone missing after going to a water channel, leading his family to accuse irrigation officials of abducting him. Relatives held a protest in front of the Irrigation SDO office, demanding the recovery of the missing youth.

During the protest, residents Muhammad Juman Samo, Muhammad Usman Samo, Hari Kolhi, Ramji Kolhi, and others spoke to the media, stating that the missing young man, Pancho Kolhi, was taken away by irrigation officials including Sub-Engineer Zohaib Jamal and Inspector Ghulam Sarwar Khoso, along with unknown individuals, while he was working on agricultural land. Despite three days passing since the incident, there has been no trace of him, and the Tando Jam police station remains oblivious to

the situation. They further expressed that they have been protesting for the past three days for the recovery of the missing youth but no action has been taken. The alleged abduction has left Pancho Kolhi's wife and mother in a state of distress and fainting spells due to the shock of his disappearance. The family lamented that they have visited the irrigation office multiple times to inquire about the young man, but no one is willing to provide information. They have appealed to elected officials, including Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Minister for Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, to take notice of the situation and help recover the youth. The relatives warned that if the young man is not found, they will block the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas road in front of the Tando Jam police station.

## PPP Tando Allahyar Rallies To Honor Karsaz Martyrs With Grand Tribute Plans



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A significant meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) executive committee for Tando Allahyar convened at the People's Secretariat Piti House to discuss arrangements for honoring the martyrs of the Karsaz incident on October 18. Chaired by District President Raees Zaheer Abbas Khan Piti, the gathering focused on preparations for the upcoming public rally in Hyderabad, which will be led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the brave son of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

During the meeting, committee members emphasized the importance of warmly welcoming Bilawal Bhutto and ensuring strong partici-

patron from local supporters in the Hyderabad rally. Raees Zaheer Abbas Khan Piti instructed the presidents of the three talukas—Chambar, Jhando Mari, Tando Allahyar, and City Tando Allahyar—to hold separate meetings to effectively organize and prepare for this pivotal event.

The meeting also included heartfelt prayers for the late Mir Muhammad Ghulam, affectionately known as Mir Pappu Talpur, a revered senior PPP leader and chairman of the District Council Tando Allahyar, whose contributions to the party and community are fondly remembered.

Key attendees included PPP District General Secretary Ghulam Muhammad Baghi, Information Secretary

Muhammad Juman Laghari, as well as taluka leaders from Tando Allahyar, Chambar, and Jhando Mari. Various other local party officials and youth leaders were also present, showcasing a united front in honor of the party's legacy and the sacrifices of its martyrs.

The preparations for the tribute event reflect the PPP's commitment to commemorating those who lost their lives in the Karsaz tragedy while rallying community support and strengthening party ties.

As the date approaches, enthusiasm among party members continues to grow, highlighting the enduring impact of Benazir Bhutto's leadership and the ongoing legacy of her vision for Pakistan.

## Thatta's Paddy Growers Struggle Against Market Monopoly, Facing Unfair Challenges

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The paddy market in Thatta district is currently besieged by a troubling monopoly involving hoarders, middlemen, and mortgagees, particularly those engaged in bulk paddy purchases. These entities have tightened their grip on the market, resorting to tactics that include slashing prices and manipulating the standard 40 kg bag by reducing its weight by 3 to 5 kg. This exploitation is causing significant financial distress for local farmers, cultivators, and landlords, who are already struggling to make ends meet.

The President of the Thatta Agricultural Council, Faqir Shah Nawaz Brohi, along with prominent figures such as Ghulam Mustafa Magsi and Abdullah Magsi, have

voiced their deep concerns regarding the drastic fall in paddy prices. Reports indicate that prices have plummeted from Rs. 70,000 per mound to just Rs. 48,000, making it increasingly challenging for farmers to sustain their livelihoods in the face of such overwhelming economic pressure.

Adding to this already dire situation is a dual crisis in the region: severe water shortages coupled with damage from recent rains. These factors have led to a substantial decrease in crop yields per acre, further exacerbating the challenges faced by local farmers.

Traders are compounding the issue by deducting an additional 4 to 5 kilograms from each mound of paddy, significantly reducing farmers' earnings and pushing many to the brink of financial collapse.

To make matters worse, a recent surge in forest fires has devastated additional crops, plunging farmers deeper into financial despair. With their livelihoods hanging by a thread, the agricultural community in Thatta is now calling for urgent intervention to address these issues and restore fair pricing in the paddy market.

The situation demands immediate attention from local authorities and agricultural departments to protect the interests of farmers and ensure a sustainable future for the agricultural sector in Thatta. Without timely support and action, many farmers may find themselves unable to recover from these compounded adversities, threatening both their livelihoods and the region's agricultural heritage.

# NATIONAL



# SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## IHC Orders CDA To Reopen KP House In Bold Move

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday ordered to de-seal the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in the federal capital, two days after the Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed it.

The court's orders were issued by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq during the hearing of a plea filed by the KP government.

Justice Farooq told the CDA lawyer that the authority can issue notices to seal the property according to the law. "Don't make it seem like you are targeting someone."

Presenting arguments during the hearing, the authority's lawyer said that illegal construction has taken place on the property and some dues are also still pending with the first notice given to the KP administration in 2014.

The lawyer insisted that the lease of the property expired in 2014.

"When did CDA issue notices?" asked the IHC chief justice, insisting that a notice should have been issued even before sealing the house.

The judge further remarked: "It is a provincial house. [It] is shameful to seal it."



The KP government, a day earlier, filed a plea against the provincial house being sealed by the CDA.

In its petition, the provincial government maintained that the house - a property of the KP government - had been sealed "illegally".

The plea added that when the KP administration moved the Peshawar High Court (PHC) against the CDA's action, it was told to take the matter to the IHC which was termed as the proper forum for the case.

The court was requested to declare the sealing of the house and the act of taking the KP government's vehicles into custody "illegal", while seeking to reopen the property.

The matter came in the fore after the CDA, in an unprecedented move, on

## Mullick Slams IIOJK Elections, Calls On Legal Community To Champion Kashmiris' Fight For Self-Determination



ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushal Hussein Mullick on Thursday condemned the recent elections in illegally Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), calling them staged under military oversight.

Addressing the Islamabad High Court Bar Association, she voiced concerns over the elections in IIOJK, labeling them as fake and held under the supervision of the Indian Army.

She emphasized that Pakistan's lawyers should step up and advocate for the people of Kashmir in their struggle for self-determination.

Criticizing the legitimacy of these elections, Mullick argued that diplomats should not be involved in election monitoring.

She further claimed that during the corona pandemic,

## Khawaja Muhammad Farid Koreja Praises Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani For Reviving Annual Urs Of Khwaja Muhammad Farid (RA)

By RT Correspondent

RAJANPUR: The Chairman of the Senate and former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani is thanked for his role in reviving the annual Urs of Faqir during his recent visit to Rajanpur, which has connected the livelihoods of thousands. The employment issues for both local and distant communities have been resolved.



These thoughts were expressed by Khawaja Muhammad Farid Koreja, son of the head of the interfaith harmony committee in Pakistan and coordinator of the Nipa Academy, South Punjab Jails, during a press conference at the Darbar Farid. He stated that miscreants have occupied the Visitors Complex at the Darbar Faqir. The district administration has failed to vacate this complex

despite several written orders issued by the Secretary of Religious Affairs Punjab. Now, with the expansion project, the Visitors Complex has become part of the Darbar Faqir, yet these individuals are exploiting visitors by charging for entry, leading to accommodation issues for pilgrims during this year's Urs. He urged the Secretary of Religious Affairs and the Deputy Commissioner of

## Gujranwala Women Police Arrest Husband In Dramatic Domestic Abuse Case

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: A man named Mansoor Hussain subjected to torture his wife Rubina Kausar and dragged her by her hair due to which her clothes were torn and she was injured. SHO Women Police Station Madiha Irshad after taking notice of the incident registered a case against the accused and ensured his immediate arrest. SHO Madiha



Irshad said that the accused at all. Strict action will who torture women and be taken against such accused. SHO Madiha

## Islamabad ATC Reserves Verdict On Extended Remand Of Aleema And Uzma Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad has reserved its decision on the request for extending the physical remand of Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan.

During the hearing, the court was reviewing the case related to the vandalism at D-Chowk during a PTI protest. Both Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were presented after the completion of their two-day physical remand.

Advocate Niazullah Niazi argued that the cases against PTI leaders and workers were politically motivated.

Judge Abu Al-Hasanat Zulqarnain remarked that political victimisation should be condemned by both sides, adding that he personally opposed such actions and emphasised the need to think about the country and move forward together.

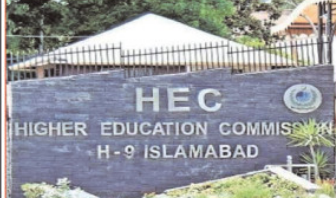
Prosecutor Raja Naveed requested an additional 15-day remand, presenting testimony from co-accused



Adnan, who claimed that Aleema and Uzma Khan had provided explosive materials. He further alleged that the two women had planned to use explosives near the Parliament at D-Chowk as part of an anti-state conspiracy.

Lawyer Salman Safdar said that Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were not arrested from the scene; they were not involved in the incident. "If unlocking the phone is all it takes, then do it and be done with it." The court has now reserved its decision on whether to grant the prosecution's request for an extended remand of the two women.—RT/Agency

## Governance And Quality Assurance Pose Major Threats To Higher Education



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) has said that governance and quality assurance are the key challenges faced by the higher education sector of Pakistan.

Talking to media persons at HEC Secretariat in Islamabad on Thursday, the Chairman urged all the stakeholders including university leadership, faculty and the relevant government departments to take immediate steps to address the governance issues of public sector universities, which ultimately affect the quality of education and research.

"Let us be very clear about it. More we focus on improving governance mechanisms of our higher learning institutions, more will it enhance the quality of education and research and also resolve the financial challenges that many universities are grappling with," said the Chairman.

He said that despite these challenges, the higher education sector has shown re-

## Punjab Police Youth Internship Program Wraps Up Successfully In Gujranwala



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The closing ceremony of the 18th batch of the Punjab Police Youth Internship Program was held at Ashraf Marth Shaheed Police Line in Gujranwala. SSP Operations Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Tanveer

distributed certificates and Friends of Police badges to the participating students. This program was initiated to bridge the gap between the police and the public, during which senior officers of the city police provided students with insights into various police depart-

ments over the two-week period. Dr. Tanveer emphasized the importance of involving the youth to improve policing. Students expressed their gratitude to the Punjab Police for the successful program, stating that this initiative will aid in promoting community policing.

## Punjab Government Enforces Section 144 As Tensions Rise Ahead Of PTI Protests

LAHORE: In response to the opposition's call for protests across various cities, the Punjab government has imposed Section 144, banning public gatherings for three days in eight cities. The decision comes ahead of demonstrations planned by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as part of a broader campaign.

On Tuesday, PTI announced a fresh wave of protests in several districts of Punjab, including the provincial capital, Lahore.

The party's political committee announced simultaneous rallies in six districts between October 11 and October 14, demanding the supremacy of the Constitu-



tion, judicial independence, and the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, who remains imprisoned in Adiala Jail.

In response, the Punjab government has once again enforced Section 144 in Multan, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Vehari, Pakpattan, Okara, and Wazirabad.

## Fawad: Constitutional Amendment Dead In Rhe Water Without Fazlur Rehman's Support

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Thursday that it was very difficult for the government to bring constitutional amendment without Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's support.

Speaking to media, Chaudhry said that if Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were actual democrats, then things would have been different. He lashed out at the PPP's 17-year stint in power

## Shocking Daylight Murder: Female Teacher Gunned Down In Cold Blood

MULTAN: Punjab police

has successfully arrested the man behind the gruesome murder of a female teacher in a broad day light, media reported on Thursday.

The police officials stated that the arrested man, identified as Aun, is responsible for the murder of a female teacher, named Safara Taimur, in Multan's Gulzab Colony area.

Authorities revealed that Aun, a resident of the victim's neighborhood, committed the crime after Safara refused his marriage proposal.



The tragic incident occurred as Safara was on her way to school in the morning when Aun shot her in the head, which resulting in the death of the female teacher.

## Two Police Heroes Martyred In Ruthless Attack On Tank Police Vehicle

TANK: At least two cops

martyred, and two others sustained injuries in an attack on a police vehicle near Pathankot Tank, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, media reported.

As per details, the police mobile was on routine patrolling in the area when unknown assailants attacked

station's warehouse room, where a large quantity of explosive material recovered from terrorists was stored.

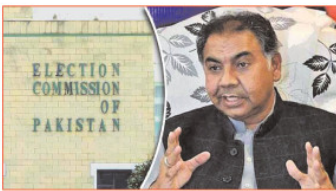
According to District Police Officer Haroon Rasheed, the explosion was apparently triggered by a short circuit, causing multiple detonations.—RT/Agency

## Explosive Reference Against PTI Senator Abro Sent To ECP

ISLAMABAD: A reference against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Saifulah Abro was forwarded to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Sources revealed that the Senate Chairman forwarded the reference, which was initially filed by a private citizen.

The PTI senator faces allegations of faking his credentials to meet the experi-



ence criteria required for upper house of the parliament.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Friday, October 11, 2024



## The Muslim Ummah Prevails, But When Will Pakistan?

Pakistan's recent agreements with Saudi Arabia, worth \$2.2 billion, provide a much-needed lifeline at a time of economic instability. The support from Saudi Arabia, and the broader Muslim ummah, is a reminder of the strong bonds that unite us, helping Pakistan to weather difficult times. This show of solidarity is praiseworthy, and the goodwill demonstrated by Saudi Arabia is invaluable. However, this also raises a larger, more critical question: How long will Pakistan continue to rely on foreign aid and loans to stabilize its economy?

The relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been a cornerstone of our foreign re-

lations, but our nation's continued dependence on external financial support, whether from Saudi Arabia or institutions like the Interna-



tional Monetary Fund (IMF), reflects deeper structural weaknesses. While such support can provide temporary relief, it cannot serve as a long-term solution to Pakistan's economic woes.

At what point will Pakistan be able to stand on its own two feet? For too long, we have been caught in a cycle of borrowing to keep the

economy afloat. This is not sustainable. Economic sovereignty requires more than just international goodwill; it demands sound policy, governance, and reform. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's acknowledgment that he hopes this IMF program will be the last one is welcome, but the reality is that the path to true economic independence requires consistent effort.

Pakistan's potential is immense, from its strategic location to its human capital, but until we address the fundamental issues hindering growth, the dream of a self-sufficient Pakistan will remain just that—a dream. We must seize this opportunity to reform, so we no longer have to rely on others to secure our future.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Oversees Major Preparations For Honoring Karsaz Martyrs

By Javed Laghari

DADU: President of the Pakistan People's Party Sindh, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, and the party's spokesperson, Ajiz Dhamrah, visited Jamali House in Dadu to meet with party workers and officials regarding the arrangements for the upcoming Karsaz rally. During this meeting, Rafique Jamali, President of the PPP Dadu District, announced a strong participation in the rally to be held in Hyderabad.

Nisar Khuhro stated in a conversation with media representatives that this rally will be the first major gathering of the party following the general elections, intended to commemorate the 180 workers who lost their lives in the Karsaz tragedy on October 18, 2007. He further mentioned that meetings are being held in the districts to finalize the preparations for the rally. He underscored the importance of respecting democratic institutions, stating that attacks on democracy are insults to these institutions. He noted that the



government had imposed Section 144 to maintain law and order.

He encouraged those coming to D-Chowk to promote democracy rather than undermine it and stressed the need for judicial reforms, asserting that constitutional issues should be addressed by the constitutional court while public matters are to be handled by the people's court.

Reiterating the call for robust participation in the Karsaz rally, Khuhro remarked that the Sindh government has always taken steps to protect the rights of the province. He reiterated that the PPP's stance on the IRSA Act aligns with the

## FFC Hosts Seminar On Maximizing Sugarcane Profits For Farmers



By Mansoor Laghari

SANGHAR: An agricultural seminar on profitable sugarcane cultivation was held in Sanghar Taluka with the support of the FFC. A large number of farmers attended the seminar, where FFC agricultural experts Abdul Hameed Lodhi, Muhammad Ali Anis, Salman Abbas, and Agricultural Services Officer Bagh Ali Abro provided valuable insights. They informed the farmers about the various agricultural services offered by FFC, including free soil

and water analysis. Farmers were encouraged to take advantage of these facilities to enhance their crop yield per acre.

They emphasized the balanced and effective use of fertilizers, particularly potassium and other essential nutrients. Additionally, they discussed the importance of timely planting and protecting the sugarcane crop from pests and diseases to maximize benefits. At the end of the program, Bagh Ali Abro thanked all the attending farmers.

## Former District Officials In Hot Water Over Shocking Allegations Of Ties To Khairpur Land Mafia

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A troubling scandal has emerged in Khairpur, where former district officials are accused of colluding with land mafias to unlawfully seize properties associated with significant cultural and religious sites, including the historic Gharib Shah shrine, Masjid Ali, Imambargah, and a local cemetery. The allegations center around former Deputy Commissioner Sharjeel Noor Channa, former Assistant Commissioner Safdar Mirani, and former Mukhtiar Abdul Hakeem Dharejo, who are said to have forged false reports to facilitate the illegal takeover of these properties.

According to sources familiar with the matter, these district officials played a crucial role in obstructing access

to the homes of long-time residents, prompting widespread protests from the community. The situation escalated further when Nawaz Ali Shah, the custodian of the Shaheed Badshah Shrine, reportedly appointed a fake mystic named Safdar Mangi in exchange for a bribe of Rs 25,000. Mangi is alleged to have sold the shrine's kitchen property to a fraudster named Ali Dino Shaikh for Rs 5 million.

Subsequently, Shaikh constructed shops on the illegally acquired land, which has infuriated local residents.

The community has rallied together, demanding an impartial investigation into the unlawful occupation of the shrine, mosque, and Imambargah properties. Residents have been vocal in their calls for the cancel-

ation of all fraudulent agreements and are urging the Auqaf Department, Sindh Local Government, and Revenue Department to take decisive action against the implicated officials and powerful individuals involved in these transactions.

As frustrations mount, locals have issued warnings that protests will intensify if their demands for justice and accountability are not addressed. The unfolding situation in Khairpur highlights not only the issues of corruption and misuse of power but also the profound impact on the cultural and religious heritage of the community. Residents are determined to fight for their rights and protect their heritage from further exploitation.

## DC Yasir Bhatti Leads High-Stakes Meeting Between Growers And Rice Millers

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting was held in Darbar Hall under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti regarding the purchase of paddy from rice mill owners and farmers. It was decided by consensus that the moisture limit would be set at 21%, and rice mill owners would not purchase paddy from outside districts but would continue to buy from local farmers. The remaining conditions were already established in a previous meeting on September

26, and both mill owners and farmers agreed to strictly abide by these conditions.

While addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti stated that the price of rice is linked to the international market, which causes fluctuations, so the price cannot be fixed during the meeting. Attendees included Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Rajesh Dalpat, Deputy Director Agriculture Ramesh Meghwar, Assistant Commission-

ers from all talukas, rice mill leader Abdul Shakur Memon, former General Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party and farmer Haji Sain Bux Jamali, farmer Amir Azad Panhwar, farmer Khuda Dino Shah, president of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture Shahnawaz Khan Jamali, General Secretary Wafa Latif Jokhio, taluk president Hafiz Qasim Chandio, business leader and president of the Fertilizer Dealers Association Intiaz Ali Memon, and many other farmers who participated in large numbers.

## Crime Wave In Mehar Sparks Alarm And Rising Public Outcry

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: The escalating crime rate in Mehar has raised serious concerns among residents, as the local police struggle to maintain order and security in the area. Recent incidents, including a brazen attack by armed individuals on traders near Raj Wah Mori on the Indus Highway, have highlighted the increasing lawlessness. During this alarming incident, the attackers held traders hostage, robbing them of motorcycles, mobile phones, and thousands of rupees in cash. Tragically, two traders sustained injuries while bravely resisting the assailants, who further com-

pounded the chaos by blocking the road and robbing passengers. The growing sense of insecurity has sparked widespread alarm among residents of Mehar and neighboring villages. Reports indicate that in just the past month, over 15 incidents involving motorcycle thefts, mobile phone thefts, and cash robberies have occurred across various roads, towns, and villages under the jurisdiction of the Mehar police station. This surge in criminal activity has left both urban and rural communities feeling vulnerable and distressed.

Local residents are increasingly vocal about their fears, demanding urgent action from law enforcement to restore safety and order. The persistent rise in crime not only disrupts daily life but also poses a significant threat to local businesses and community morale. With the police unable to effectively address these issues, the community is calling for enhanced security measures and increased police presence to deter criminal activity and protect the rights and safety of the citizens.

## Three Dead, Five Injured In Devastating Road Accident

By Shams Palari

NOORIBAD: A tragic road accident unfolded last night on the motorway under the jurisdiction of the Lonokot police station, resulting in the loss of three lives and leaving five others injured. The collision involved two cars and a Mazda, marking a devastating turn of events for those involved.

The incident began when a car traveling from Karachi to Hyderabad veered off course, striking the central divider. This collision ignited a fire that quickly engulfed the vehicle. Among the passengers were two women, Fakhra-un-Nisa and her mother, Zaib-un-Nisa Khawaja, along with the deceased woman's husband, Muhammad Ali Khawaja. The family was traveling together when the catastrophic accident occurred, leaving their loved ones in mourning.

In addition to the tragic loss of life, the Mazda that was involved in the collision sustained significant damage. Five individuals traveling in



the Mazda—Muhammad Yousof, Faiza, Mariam, Zainab, and Asiya—suffered serious injuries as a result of the crash. They were promptly transferred to the Civil Hospital in Hyderabad for urgent medical treatment, where their conditions remain closely monitored.

In the aftermath of the incident, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jamshoro arrived at the scene to gather information and assess the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Local authorities are investigating the causes of the collision, aiming to prevent such tragedies in the future. The deceased individuals are reported to be residents of Gambat, and their untimely deaths have left their community in shock and sorrow. As families and friends come to terms with this profound loss, the tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for road safety measures to protect travelers on busy highways.

## LUMHS Hosts Eye-Opening Seminar On Workplace Mental Health For World Mental Health Day

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Vice Chancellor of LUMHS, Professor Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, has emphasized that workplace mental health should be prioritized, advocating for proper support and privacy for employees experiencing mental health crises, as such issues are just as significant as physical health concerns. He said that seminar commended the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry for hosting the event and underscored the importance of addressing mental health issues in the workplace.

The Vice Chancellor of LUMHS, Professor Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan delivered his message, on the eve of the World Mental Health Day. A seminar focused on workplace mental health was organized by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health, Directorate of Academics, Directorate of Student Affairs, and Directorate of Nursing at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro.

VC LUMHS further said that the theme of the seminar, "Prioritizing Mental Health in the Workplace," highlighted the need to foster a culture of understanding and support in work environments. He stressed the importance of developing policies and practices that promote work-life balance, employee well-being, and mental health resources. He called for collective efforts to create a healthy, prosperous, and productive society.

Associate Professor Dr. Jameel Junejo, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, expressed gratitude to all the speakers and participants. Professor Moin Ahmed Ansari, Dean of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Professor Munawar Alam, Dean of Basic Sciences, Professor Samreen Memon, Director of Academics, and Professor Muhammad Ilyas Siddiqui, Chairman of Community Medicine spoke on the occasion.

The students and experts attended seminar and shared their views and suggestions. The seminar concluded with a shared commitment to making workplaces more supportive and inclusive, fostering a culture that values mental well-being as a cornerstone of overall productivity and job satisfaction.

## Mallah Community Rises In Protest, Demanding Justice

By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: Mallah community women, who were the residents of village Ajeeb Khan Dasti staged a protest demonstration by holding Holy Qurans in their hands

against the actions of their area's influential men. A protesting woman said that the influential Dasti community men have fractured his son named Yasin Mallah's arm, who warns livelihood of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to them.

local hospital have refused to treat the boy, while Mirwah Police have refused to register a case. On the occasion, the protesting women demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to them.

# SPORTS



## England Shatters Records, Posts Jaw-Dropping Highest-Ever Innings Total Against Pakistan



MULTAN: England have now posted the highest ever innings total against Pakistan by any team, as the visitors accumulated more than 800 runs on the fourth day of the first Test match against Pakistan in Multan.

This is the second time in cricket history that any team has scored more than 700 runs in a Test match against Pakistan.

Earlier, West Indies scored 790-3 against the Men in Green in 1958.

This is the first time in the 21st century that a team has scored 800 runs, and only the fourth time in cricket Test history.

The last time Sri Lanka surpassed this landmark figure as they made 952-6 against India in 1997.

Whereas, England twice scored above 800 earlier. Once, England made 849 against the West Indies in 1930 and then 903 against Australia in 1938.

## England's Record Run Feat Will Mean Everything with a Test Win, Declares Root



MULTAN: Joe Root became England's all-time top run scorer after he surpassed batting great Alastair Cook during the first Test against Pakistan but the former captain put celebrations on the back-burner on Thursday as they wait to seal a famous victory.

Root's patient 262 in the first innings, combined with Harry Brook's blockbuster near-run-a-ball 317 propelled England to a mammoth total of 823-7 before they declared their highest test total since the second World War.

Root's knock has placed him fifth on the all-time list with 12,064 runs and Cook also backed his former teammate to surpass Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar's record of 15,921 runs.

But Root's first priority is the Test match with Pakistan reeling at 152-6. A result, that once looked improbable after nearly 1,400 runs were scored in the first innings on a flat track, now seems possible after Pakistan's top order collapse.

"They (records) are pretty cool things. It would mean a lot more if we can win this Test match. You look at the situation where they had 556 on the scoreboard and to be ahead in the game is the best thing," Root told the BBC.

"It doesn't mean a lot at the moment. I feel like I am going to play a lot more cricket for England. It's obviously nice and I am sure when I finish my career, I will look back and feel good about it.

"It will be a nice thing to look back on at the right time. I want to contribute for a long while and make big scores like this one and hopefully win more test matches for England." The celebrations were muted and the 33-year-old said there was a lack of emotion partly due to the heat. "Just the amount of energy that is taken out of you playing in these conditions is huge. It's been quite pleasing to acclimatise and just drawing that mental resilience," Root added.—Agency

## Kendrick Perkins' Company Nilly Faces Massive Backlash Over Controversial NIL Deals with College Athletes



ESPN NBA analyst Kendrick Perkins' new company, Nilly, has sparked significant criticism and concern over its business model, which offers college athletes upfront cash in exchange for a portion of their future name, image, and likeness (NIL) earnings.

While the company promotes the idea of providing financial security to athletes, critics warn that the arrangement could exploit young athletes, comparing it to high-interest loans.

According to ESPN, Nilly, co-founded by Perkins and Wall Street veteran Chris Ricciardi, offers athletes payments ranging from \$25,000 to hundreds of thousands of dollars. In exchange, the company claims exclusive rights to the athlete's NIL for up to seven years and takes between 10% and 50% of their NIL earnings. This model has raised red flags among consumer protection experts and financial advisers, who caution that such deals could prey on inexperienced athletes.

Public criticism has been swift, with many expressing concerns that the arrangement is predatory. One user on X, formerly Twitter, wrote, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself for trying to take advantage of high school kids who have no idea what they're signing up for." Another user commented, "This is predatory as f\*ck... Such a scumbag way to exploit these young athletes." Perkins, however, defends the company, stating that it offers financial security for athletes and their families by providing immediate funds. Still, the long-term impact of these deals remains under scrutiny, particularly given the significant percentage of earnings Nilly could take from athletes.—Agency

## 'King of Clay' Nadal Set to Bow Out of Tennis After Struggling with Injury in Final Chapter

PARIS: Rafael Nadal will call time on his illustrious but injury-plagued career after next month's Davis Cup Finals, the 22-times Grand Slam champion announced on Thursday, as one of the greatest players in the sport prepares for an emotional farewell.

Nadal, who won a record 14 French Open titles, had said previously he expected to retire this year after a hip injury that required surgery limited his appearances in 2023.



Open and Laver Cup over fitness concerns.

"I am here to let you know I am retiring from professional tennis," Nadal said in a video posted on social media. "The reality is it has been some difficult years, these last two especially. I don't think I have been able to play without limitations. The former world number one, Nadal, who has won two Australian Opens, two Wimbledon crowns and four US Opens plus Olympic gold and four Davis Cups on top of his multiple French Open titles, said finishing his career in Spanish colours at the team event felt right. He will link up again with four-times major champion Carlos Alcaraz after the duo played together at the Paris Games.

"I am very excited that my last tournament will be the final of the Davis Cup and representing my country," said Nadal. "I think I've come full circle since one of my first great joys as a professional tennis player was the Davis Cup final in Sevilla in 2004.—Agency

## Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan Issues Apology After Deafening Silence Amid National Unrest



DHAKA: Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has tendered an apology for his silence during mass protests in the country which saw scores of people being killed in the student-led movement that succeeded in ousting the country's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August. Taking to social media, Shakib said, "Firstly, I would like to pay my respects to all the students who sacrificed their lives, led the anti-discrimination movement, and were martyred or injured during the people's uprising." The apology comes after the experienced cricketer - who was a parliament member of the Hasina-led Awami League party - was booked in a murder case involving the death of a garment factory worker. Shakib has not been home since protests erupted in July but the Bangladesh Cricket Board has assured him he will not be harassed on his return. "I extend my deepest respect and condolences to them and their families," read the cricketer's post on Facebook. "While no sacrifice can compensate for the loss of a loved one, nothing can fill the void of losing a child or a brother, to those of you who were hurt by my silence during this critical period, I respect your feelings and sincerely apologise. If I were in your place, I too might have been upset," he added. The all-rounder is considered the greatest cricketer Bangladesh has produced but his political past places the former captain in a tricky position as an interim government supervises a power transition. He has played 71 tests, 247 One-Day Internationals and 129 Twenty20 Internationals, amassing 14,730 runs and claiming 712 wickets to establish himself as one of the leading all-rounders of his era. "I want to say goodbye with all of you around. At the moment of farewell, I want to shake hands with those whose applause compelled me to play better," the former skipper said while requesting the fans to be present for his final test match against South Africa in Dhaka starting from October 21.—Agency

## PAK vs ENG: Agha and Jamal Heroics Save Pakistan After Collapse at 152/6

MULTAN: Salman Ali Agha's and Aamir Jamal's stable partnership towards the end of the day ensured another day's play for the first Test between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Salman's crucial 41\* on 49 deliveries and Jamal's 27\* on 48 balls took Pakistan to 152/6 at the end of the day's play. The home team now trails 115 runs behind England's total of the first innings.



Pakistan on the first ball of the inning on which Abdullah Safique was dismissed for a golden duck against veteran Chris Woakes.

Later on, wickets of Babar Azam, Saim Ayub and Mohammad Rizwan toppled in the next few overs, leaving Pakistan at 5/5.

Things somewhat settled for Pakistan while Salman Ali Agha and Saud Shakeel were batting but it again went downhill for Pakistan when Shakeel fell in the 24.2 over.

Earlier, England declared their first innings at a mammoth 823-7 before tea on the fourth day of the opening Test against Pakistan on Thursday for a lead of 267 runs.

Harry Brook notched up a superb 317 with a triple century and Joe Root hit 262 as

both batsmen made their highest Test scores on the flat wicket at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Resuming their innings from 492-3 on the fourth day of the first Test, Root and Brook overhauled Pakistan's 556-run total by reaching 658-3 at lunch.

The visitors built a first innings lead of 102 runs with Root on 259 not out and Brook unbeaten on 218. The score marks the highest Test score for both batsmen.

Both players took their fourth-wicket partnership to 409 off 488 deliveries at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Meanwhile, the Shan Masood-led line-up faced a setback as the team's leg-spinner Abrar Ahmad didn't come out on the field due to fever.

The spinner has so far been wicketless in his 35 overs where he conceded 174 runs.—Agency

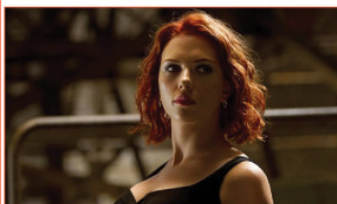
## Nooh Dastgir Stuns in Spectacular Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship Debut



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's acclaimed weightlifter, Nooh Dastgir Butt, made a remarkable international debut at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Classic and Equipped Championships, securing the gold medal in his very first participation. Nooh is set to compete in the Bench Press and Deadlift categories, where he is favoured to win two additional gold medals and claim the overall championship title in the 120kg+ category. Pakistani nation is urged to support Nooh with their prayers and well-wishes as he strives to bring home a total of four gold medals.—Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

## Scarlett Johansson Shares Eye-Opening Beauty Advice After Her Biggest Cosmetic Regret



Scarlett Johansson just opened up about a rather relatable daily-life incident. The 39-year-old actress admitted that she was left with a hole on her face after attempting to "get rid of a pimple" ignoring advice that she got from a make-up artist.

Deeming it as one of her "biggest beauty regrets" she advised everyone to not use a cosmetic injection. Johansson spoke to E! News and stated, "Never get a cortisone shot to get rid of a pimple. I was warned by a makeup artist about this years ago." The Black Widow star continued, "She told me about an actress who had a big scene coming up but had a pimple she needed to get rid of. So, she went to the dermatologist to get a cortisone shot to get rid of it and it left a huge crater!" "Stupidly, I didn't follow this advice and a year later got it done myself and I can confirm it does leave a hole!" she exclaimed.

Giving out advice after facing a setback, Scarlett Johansson said, "So, avoid it if you can. I've managed to massage it away over time but it's probably one of my biggest beauty regrets."

## Ellie Goulding Leaves Fans Speechless with Unexpected Statement Mid-Flight



Ellie Goulding admitted that she felt "wine drunk" on a flight on Wednesday.

The singer took to TikTok to share an amusing clip of herself on board after indulging in a drink, staring and smiling into the distance.

In regards to this, she captioned the post as "everything's ok when you're wine drunk on a flight."

According to Daily Mail, Goulding accompanied the video with Madonna's hit Like A Prayer.

Moreover, the clip was also a reference to her own song, Wine Drunk, which was released in 2020 from her album Brightest Blue.

Additionally, fans took over the comment section with former X Factor stars Jedward writing, "Oscar winning acting," while others wrote, "Alexa play Wine Drunk by Ellie Goulding! It's the only way to fly," and a third user penned, "I always feel the most powerful."

As per the publication, Ellie's trip came after she partied with a whole host of stars in London last week at Chiltern Firehouse's 10th anniversary party.

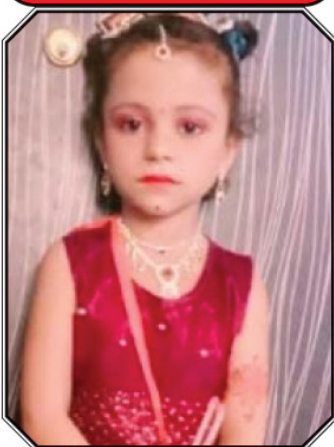
Furthermore, the singer wore a corset gown with a thigh-high slit and teamed the risqué mesh number with a pair of platform heels.

Meanwhile, Love Me Like You Do singer styled her hair into soft waves and topped off her look with a smoky eyeshadow and nude lipstick.

While uploading the photos on Instagram on Saturday, she wrote, "Thank you the Masquerade madness the other eve Chiltern Firehouse. Had the best time!"

As per the outlet, Ellie has been spending time in Costa Rica in recent months where her new surfer boyfriend Armando Perez re- sides.

## Kids' Corner



Name: Beenish Fatima D/o M. Hashim Memon  
Location: Talhar  
About me: I adore my mother!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

# THE HEARTLAND



## Nisar Khuhro Leads High-Profile PPP Jamshoro Meeting In Sehwan Sharif

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: On October 18, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is preparing for a political power show in Hyderabad to pay tribute to the martyrs of Karsaz. In this regard, a general body meeting of the PPP's Jamshoro district was held at the Sabzwari House in Sehwan, presided over by Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, the President of PPP Sindh.



The meeting saw participation from notable leaders and workers, including Secretary Information Sindh Ajiz Dhamarh, Nauman Shaikh, Syed Asif Ali Shah, MPA Hina Dastagir, Sikandar Shoro, Kulsom Chandio, and Lal Chand Akramani. Nisar Khuhro addressed

the party workers, stating that the confrontation with opponents in Sindh has come to an end. He emphasized that the upcoming rally in Hyderabad would demonstrate that there is no greater leader than Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the country. Provincial leaders Ajiz Dhamarh and Syed Asif Shah mentioned that the PPP aims to break its own record of gatherings with a historic rally in Hyderabad, expecting participation from 15,000 supporters from Jamshoro district to show solidarity with the martyrs and Bilawal Bhutto.



KARBALA: Anfal Hyder Khwaja, a boy from Talhar, offers prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) for the oppressed people of Palestine and IOJ&K.—RT

## PPP's Sardar Jam Changez Khan Unar Resolves Tense Mallah Community Clash

By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

QAZI AHMED: In Qazi Ahmed, under the leadership of PPP leader and Town Chairman Sardar Jam Changez Khan Unar, a resolution was reached regarding a violent feud between two factions of the Mallah community in the village Long Khan Soomro. Eight months ago, Shaukat Mallah was murdered by his maternal relatives, leading to an ongoing conflict between Ayaz Mallah and Shaman Mallah's factions. The decision involved a fine of 6.8 million rupees on the responsible faction, Shaman Mallah's group, along with an additional 100,000 rupees for an injured party member. Both parties were reconciled, and they were



asked to make peace. The decision was facilitated by mediators Raees Ali Bux Mallah, Pir Sharifuddin Ourban Ali Lashari, and Altaf Hussain Baladi while Sardar Jam Changez Khan Unar announced the verdict. During the proceedings, the aggrieved party forgave 1 million rupees of the fine, while the remaining amount was to be paid by the responsible party within a few months. Residents expressed their happiness over Sardar Khan Unar's efforts to mediate and restore peace in the community.

## Kadhan Police Capture Ali Muhammad Mallah's Murderers In Swift Operation

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A few unidentified suspects killed 55-year-old Ali Muhammad Mallah while he was sleeping at a grocery store near Raj Wah Pul Kadhan and escaped. As soon as the Kadhan police received this information, they conducted a post-mortem and handed the body over to the heirs, starting an investigation by registering a murder case against unknown suspects.

By examining all aspects of this blind case using technical methods, they identified the real suspects involved in the murder within a few days. They arrested the main suspect, Rasool Bux Mallah, and began interrogating him. He confessed to the crime along with his son, Shahbaz Mallah, and his neighbor, Muhammad Hanif Mallah, who also admitted their involvement in the murder. SHO Police Station Kad-

## 1 Dead, 5 Injured As Gunmen Unleash Chaos On Passenger Coach In Violent Attack



By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: In the early morning near Lanji Laro on the Indus Highway, armed assailants opened fire on a passenger coach, resulting in one death and five injuries. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Naparkot police station. A passenger, Ghulam Haider Bahkani, was killed, while the injured included driver Sher Punjabi and passengers Azhar Malik, Abdul Nabi, and Farman. Following the attack, passengers blocked the highway with hundreds of vehicles stuck on both sides. Eyewitnesses reported that over a dozen armed individuals fired indiscriminately at the coach, and de-lam Haider Bahkani, who they did not intervene.

han Sub-Inspector Muhammad Arif Jarwar, along with his team, arrested the suspects, Shahbaz Mallah and Hanif Mallah, and initiated further investigation. The murder weapon has also been recovered from the possession of the arrested suspects. SHO Kadhan Police Station Sub-Inspector Muhammad Arif Jarwar and his team have announced that they will issue certificates of appreciation for the arrests.

## DC Muhammad Arsalan Saleem Reviews Final Arrangements For Critical Anti-Polio Campaign

By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: Deputy Commissioner Naushehro Feroze Muhammad Arsalan Saleem announced the commencement of a seven-day national polio campaign starting October 28. He emphasized the collective responsibility to vaccinate all children under five against polio, urging health department officials and related agencies to play their full role during the campaign. Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to focus on training polio teams and preparing micro-plans to ensure effective implementation. He also directed assistant commissioners to monitor the training programs of polio teams in their respective areas and maintain the cold chain for vaccines during the campaign.

District Health Officer Ghulam Qadir Chandio and polio focal person Dr. Vijay Kumar informed that from October 28 to November 3, the district aims to vaccinate 342,312 children against polio, along with administering vitamin A supplements. A total of 1,025 teams will be formed, including 893 mobile teams, with additional support centers established to facilitate the campaign.

## PPP Sanghar Gears Up For Monumental Rally In Hyderabad On October 18

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: A meeting of PPP district council members was held in Sanghar District Council Hall under the chairmanship of PPP Sanghar President Ali Hassan Hingorja to ensure robust participation from the district in the PPP rally in Hyderabad, commemorating the martyrs of Karsaz. The meeting was at-

tended by District Chairman Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, PPP Sanghar General Secretary Jahangir Junejo, Information Secretary Shakeel Ahmed Mari, Javed Shoro, Waqas Junejo, Mir Mehtab Talpur, Wadero Khadim Burro, Salim Abro, Raees Sher Ali Mari, Muhammad Ali Laskani, and other members. During the meeting, important decisions were made to prepare for participation in the rally on October 18 and to launch a public outreach campaign to ensure community involvement. Speaking at the meeting, Ali Hassan Hingorja and Syed Riaz Hussain Shah emphasized that the October 18 rally would be historic, asserting that millions from Sanghar would attend to demonstrate that the Bhutto family still reigns in the hearts of millions of people.

## Mayor Abdul Rasheed Bhatti Steps Up, Offers Lifesaving Financial Aid To Journalist Bux Ali Jamali



By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BE-NAZIRABAD: Mayor of Shaheed Benazirabad Municipal Corporation, Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, visited the press club to meet President Bux Ali Jamali and present the annual grant cheque from the corporation. The event was attended by Deputy Mayor Mubashir Ali Arain, Municipal Commissioner Haji Abdul Razaq Shaikh, Superintendent Engineer Manthar Bhangwar, and others. Press club officials, including Bux Ali Jamali, Musharraf Ali Bhatti, Zulfiqar Ali Memon, and Ismail Domki, expressed their gratitude to the mayor and his team.

cluded driver Sher Punjabi and passengers Azhar Malik, Abdul Nabi, and Farman. Following the attack, passengers blocked the highway with hundreds of vehicles stuck on both sides. Eyewitnesses reported that over a dozen armed individuals fired indiscriminately at the coach, and de-lam Haider Bahkani, who they did not intervene.

## Livestock Dept Hosts Critical Veterinary Medical Camp In Thana Bula Khan

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: A free one-day veterinary medical camp was set up in the village of Mahinda Palari near Thana Bula Khan to prevent livestock diseases. Deputy Director of Livestock Development Kohistan, Dr. Abdul Aziz Rustamani, reported that over 1,500 different animals received vaccinations against foot-and-mouth disease and blackleg at today's camp. Additionally, more than 340 large and small animals were treated with deworming medicine and also received ivermectin vaccinations. It is worth noting that today's camp was organized with the cooperation of the Vice Chairman of Union Council Dhamach, Tanveer Palari. The Deputy Director advised the attendees to regularly consult with their nearby veterinary centers and vaccinate their livestock to protect them from diseases. The technical team at the camp included Dr. Mashood Ahmed, Stock Assistant Ashiq Solangi, and Stock Assistant Sajjad Raza Shah, who fulfilled their duties.



## DEO And Civil Judge Khairpur Make Special Appearance At Govt English Medium School Assembly

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: DEO Secondary Khairpur Abdul Sami Bhanbhro, Civil Judge Khairpur Abdul Haqem Sangi, and TEO Secondary Mukhtiar Ahmed Solangi attended an assembly at Government English Medium School, Cambridge System, Khairpur, where Principal Abdullah Janwri and all the teachers were

present. The school was functioning well. The performance of students and teachers was observed, along with an inspection of the school's records and infrastructure. Students were also encouraged during the visit. DEO Education Khairpur Abdul Sami Bhanbhro remarked that the Sindh government is committed to the development and enhancement of education, promoting the slogan "Reading Sindh, Growing Sindh." He emphasized that efforts are underway to improve the educational standards in the Khairpur district. He stated that the development of education is essential for the progress of the country and the nation, urging teachers to fulfill their duties with integrity and honesty to elevate educational standards.

## Naujawan Awami Ittehad Protests In Naro Over Alarming Lack Of Basic Facilities

By Gada Hussain Bhanbhro

NARO: In Naro, a protest was held by the Naujawan Awami Ittehad against the lack of basic facilities. The protest was led by lawyers Sajjad Panhiar, Mushtaq Rajar, Aijaz Ahmed Shar,

Wajid Shar, and others, who stated that schools, hospitals, and roads in Naro are in complete disrepair. Despite the presence of multinational companies like UEP Gas Field and others operating in the area, the royalty fund has not been allocated for the development of Naro. The protesters emphasized that these funds belong to the Naro tehsil and should be spent there. They called on the Deputy Commissioner of Khairpur and higher authorities to ensure that basic facilities are provided to the residents of Naro.

## Tando Adam Stripped Of Valuables In Brazen Armed Robbery

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In Tando Adam, near Imran Pump on the bypass, unidentified armed robbers, while using weapons, robbed a trader, Irfan Khosro, of his motorcycle and mobile phone. During the resistance, the rob-

bers fired their pistols, but the trader miraculously remained unharmed. An FIR has been registered at the Tando Adam City Police Station. The police stated that they have increased patrols on incoming and outgoing roads and will apprehend the culprits soon.

## Health Dept Matiari Commemorates World Mental Health Day With Key Initiatives

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: On World Mental Health Day, a walk was organized by District Health Officer Matiari, Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, on October 10, 2024. The event aimed to raise awareness about mental health, reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and promote mental well-being. The walk was led by Dr. Hussain, alongside Deputy DHO Dr. Zahid Hussain Sadar and other staff members. During the walk, Dr. Sadar addressed the people of

District Matiari, emphasizing the importance of recognizing mental health issues. This year's theme, "Mental Health for All: Greater Investment, Greater Access," highlighted the critical need for increased investment in and access to mental health services.

## Pir Jo Goth Erupts In Protest As Crime Wave Spirals Out Of Control

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: The citizens staged a protest by setting tires on fire against rising crime in Pir Jo Goth. The demonstration, held near the Rashdi Gate, was marked by strong slogans and was led

by Anwar Narejo, Akhtar Malik, Qasim Solangi, Aslam Malik, and others. Shopkeeper Anwar Narejo expressed their concerns over escalating crime, stating that thefts and robberies have become common. They highlighted a recent incident where armed men looted security guard Akhtar Malik and shopkeeper Anwar Narejo, tying them up and robbing their stores. They urged the DIG Sukkur and SSP Khairpur to take notice of the situation and restore law and order.

## Women Take To Streets Protesting Police Misconduct

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: Women from the Katchi Abadi Colony protested against the local police, accusing them of raiding their homes and stealing eight

goats, two motorcycles, and cash. Residents Saida Narejo and Shahida Narejo alleged that the police used violence without justification during the raid and failed to provide any explanation for their actions, instead threatening them to remain silent. They demanded that the authorities take notice of the police's actions and return the stolen goats, motorcycles, and cash to alleviate their distress.



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.  
—Albert Einstein

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 2024

## Grand Jirga Empowers CM Gandapur To Lead Critical Peace Negotiations In KP

PESHAWAR: A Grand Jirga organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and attended by top officials including Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has empowered Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to hold talks with dissenting parties to improve law and order situation in the province.



CM Gandapur hosted the high-level meeting at CM House on Thursday to discuss the current political and security situation in the province and reach a consensus plan of action after a three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga was announced by the banned Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM).

CM Gandapur hosted the high-level meeting at CM House on Thursday to discuss the current political and security situation in the province and reach a consensus plan of action after a three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga was announced by the banned Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). The key sitting was attended by KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister Amir Muqam, lawmakers from the provincial assembly as well as heads and representatives of all political parties. According to a declaration issued after the sitting, CM Gandapur, at the participants' request, announced the formation of a new jirga,

which he will lead, to engage in talks with dissenting parties in hopes of resolving KP's political and security crisis amicably. It further said that the chief minister thanked the Grand Jirga participants for empowering him to hold dialogue. It added that the process of formulating the next strategy and consultations for peaceful resolution of KP issues would be completed at the earliest. Sources privy to the development told media that the participants of the high-level sitting also finalised the terms of reference (ToRs) of the new jirga headed by CM Gandapur, however, members of the negotiation body were not decided yet. They added that the development came after the chief minister sought authority from the Grand Jirga participants to hold talks with a banned organisation. "I'm ready to sit on the floor with the second party for negotiations," the sources quoted Gandapur as saying at the Grand Jirga. He also referred to a clash between KP police and Maoist workers on the boundary between Khyber district and the provincial capital as the banned party announced leading a jirga from October 11. Three persons were killed and 15 injured as police faced off with the outlawed

PTM members yesterday who set up tents near Regi Lalma on the Khyber district side, close to the boundary with Peshawar, media reported.

In today's high-level sitting, CM Gandapur requested the participants, including the interior minister, to refrain from taking any action until his permission.

Responding to Gandapur's request, Naqvi said that the federal government has no objection to holding talks hosted by the KP chief minister, the sources added.

Adviser to KP CM on Information Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif said in a statement that the heads of the political parties came on the same page to establish peace in the province.

He added that CM Gandapur has been given full authority to find peaceful solutions to the prevailing issues and expressed confidence in his leadership.

Saif detailed that consultations were underway between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan,

CM Gandapur, Interior Minister Naqvi, Governor Kundi and the parties' heads to formulate future strategy.

A day ago, Interior Minister Naqvi had expressed deep concern over the upcoming three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga organised by the recently-proscribed PTM and said that the state would not allow parallel judicial system [in the country] in any case.

He also warned that anyone found involved in facilitating the banned organisation would be dealt with iron fist. The coalition government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on October 6 issued a notification under Section 11B of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, banning the PTM, citing the group's activities as a threat to peace and security. The provincial government conveyed its reservations to the Centre over the move and complained that the ban on PTM has triggered tensions in the province.

However, the KP government yesterday announced to strictly implement the ban on the outfit.—RT/Agency

## Finance Ministry Unveils Jaw-Dropping Rs3.4 Trillion In Sales Tax Evasion Across Multiple Sectors

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Thursday that there was evasion of Rs3.4 trillion in sales tax evasion out of a total of Rs7 trillion in tax theft in different sectors of the economy.



Aurangzeb was addressing a press conference along with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial to discuss a study on sales tax evasion.

The study found that only 14% out of 300,000 manufacturers liable to register have done so, and many registered entities misreport turnover, claim excess input tax, and use fake invoices.

Sales tax in Pakistan is collected through VAT mode, relying on businesses to collect tax from buyers.

However, this trust has been breached on a massive scale, the minister said sharing findings from five sectors including iron and steel, cement, beverages, batteries, and textile.

He said malpractices were widespread, with most entities claiming excess input tax.

In the iron and steel sector, 33 large businesses, representing over 50% of total sales, evaded sales tax by

claiming Rs29 billion in excess input tax, mainly through scrap metal and coal purchases.

Likewise, in the battery sector, six active cases, representing 99% of total sales, claimed Rs11 billion in excess input tax, primarily through lead purchases while in the cement sector, 19 active cases claimed Rs18 billion in excess input tax in FY23-24, mainly through coal purchases.

In addition, the beverages sector with 16 active cases, representing 99% of aerated water sales, claimed Rs15 billion in excess input tax, mainly through sugar, plastics, and services purchases.

In the textile sector, with 228 active cases claimed Rs169 billion in excess input tax, mainly through services, chemicals, coal, and packaging purchases. Detailing steps to combat tax evasion, the fi-

nance czar said that the government has intensified enforcement measures, including arrests and criminal cases, resulting in a significant decrease in fake input tax claims in FY23-24. However, massive evasion persists, and more measures are being planned to curb it. He said that the apex taxation body has identified evidence of tax fraud in various sectors, including 11 battery sector cases, 897 iron & steel sector cases, and 253 beneficiaries of fake input claims on coal purchases. Those involved face arrest and imprisonment of up to 10 years, heavy penalties, and fines. On the occasion, the FBR chairman emphasised that input tax adjustment fraud was a serious issue, warning CFOs to refrain from signing incorrect returns, especially before the October 15 deadline.

## Saudi Minister and COAS Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation In Strategic Talks

RAWALPINDI: Saudi Arabian Minister of Investment Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir discussed initiatives to strengthen "ever-growing brotherly" bilateral cooperation in a variety of sectors, the military's media wing said on Thursday.



The development took place during a meeting between the minister accompanied by a delegation and army chief in Rawalpindi. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, said the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The high-level Saudi government cum business delegation, led by the Kingdom's investment minister, arrived in Pakistan on October 9 for a three-day visit.

The ISPR said the army chief expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude for unflinching support of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman for Pakistan. "Manifestation of one of the largest business delegations' visit to Pakistan reaffirms the enduring and fraternal ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)," he said. The COAS Munir underscored the deep respect and affection that the people of Pakistan held for Saudi Arabia, the ISPR added. Furthermore, he assured the delegation of Pakistan's full support and commitment and

conveyed his optimism for the promising outcomes that would mutually benefit both nations. Separately, the minister accompanied by the high-level delegation met President Asif Ali Zardari at the President House in Islamabad on Thursday. On this occasion, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in key areas including economy, agriculture, mining and information technology. Both the sides underlined the need to work together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the region as well as for the Islamic world, according to a President House press release. Welcoming the delegation, the president emphasised the longstanding and time-tested relationship between Pakistan and the KSA. He expressed Pakistan's desire to elevate the bilateral ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, underscoring that such collaboration would bring the two brotherly nations further closer. President

Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia. He also praised the visionary leadership of Crown Prince Salman. The president also highly commended the remarkable progress Saudi Arabia was making under Vision 2030 and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's continued support to Pakistan during challenging times. "I am happy to witness the progress and prosperity of Saudi Arabia," he said. Saudi Minister Khalid said that Saudi Arabia recognised the strategic geographical significance of Pakistan and its potential for natural resources and renewable energy. He informed that Saudi Arabia had planned to invest in the infrastructure and mining sectors of Pakistan and, in this regard, his delegation would sign 25 agreements in different sectors to boost economic cooperation between the two brotherly nations.—RT/Agency

## PIA Privatisation Stalled As Bidders Demand Full Ownership Control



ISLAMABAD: The privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has once again hit snags after the six bidding companies demanded 100% share ownership instead of the previously discussed 60%.

Concerns have also been raised regarding employee contracts, which propose a three-year tenure without pension benefits.

PIA sources indicate that the Privatisation Commission is struggling to address these concerns, causing delays in the bidding process.

Initially scheduled for October 1, the bidding date was moved to October 30. However, further issues have since arisen, leaving the privatisation initiative in jeopardy.

The government is resolute in not granting 100% shares to the bidding companies. Initially, the discussions

## PM Extends Grand Invitation To Saudi Arabia For Major Investment In Pakistan's Aviation Sector

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday invited Saudi Arabia to invest in aviation sector especially in the outsourcing of international airports of Pakistan. He was talking to Minister for Investment of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih who called on him at the Prime Minister House. The prime minister warmly welcomed the Saudi Investment Minister and his delegation to Pakistan. He said that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations were based on decades long brotherly ties and were becoming stronger with each passing day. He further said that Saudi Arabia had stood by Pakistan in every difficult situation referring to the current visit of Saudi Investment Minister, the prime minister said that this visit was an important milestone in the strengthening of investment ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, setting the stage for greater collaboration in the sectors of mutual interest be-



pressing his pleasure over the productive discussions held at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum said that the dialogue between the Pakistani and Saudi business communities had paved the way for new investments, underscoring Saudi Arabia's commitment to deepening economic cooperation with Pakistan.

He recalled his visits to Saudi Arabia, including the meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Makkah, and his participation in the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.—RT/Agency

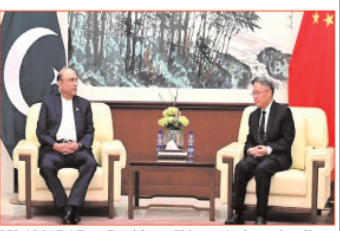
## Pakistan Charging Toward Sustainable Growth To Realize G20 Vision, Says FM Dar

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday citing the government's efforts for economic stability and existing huge potential for investment, said that the country's economy had been put on the road to sustainable growth to achieve the dream of joining the G20 club as soon as possible. The deputy prime minister, in his keynote address at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum held here, recalled that in 2017, the country had achieved the status of top 24th economy with 4% inflation, below 2% food inflation, 6% GDP, and highest foreign reserves, pursuing its journey to join the G20 which was derailed due to COVID pandemic and certain internal and external factors. The Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum was held as a high-level Saudi delegation led by Minister for Investment Engineer Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih is on a three-day visit to Pakistan comprising representatives from a wide spec-



trum of government agencies and private sector entities. The visit is aimed at exploring investment opportunities and signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) across a variety of sectors. Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed deep-rooted and time-tested relations, marked by shared history, faith and values. He thanked the Saudi leadership for unwavering support to Pakistan on multiple occasions, particularly during the recent economic challenges and reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the sovereignty and integrity of the Kingdom and stood shoulder to shoulder with it through thick and thin. He

## President Zardari Vows Unwavering Commitment To Ensuring Safety Of Chinese Nationals In Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the Chinese embassy in Islamabad on Thursday and offered heartfelt condolence over the tragic killing of Chinese nationals in a terrorist attack in Karachi.

Strongly condemning the terrorist attack, the President reiterated the resolve to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act of crime to justice. He expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Chinese brothers and sisters in this hour of grief. Talking to the

## SC Delivers Landmark Detailed Judgement In Controversial Article 63-A Interpretation Case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Thursday issued its 23-page detailed judgment in the Article 63-A interpretation case, ruling the earlier verdict against the clear language and mandate of the constitution, media reported. A five-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhalil, and Justice Naeem Afghani through a short order issued on October 2 annulled its 2022 verdict that barred lawmakers from going against party directions when voting in parliament. In its detailed judgment, the SC ruled that its earlier verdict opened the way to transform the leader of a political party into a 'dictator'.



"Nothing can be more undemocratic, the majority's judgment has opened the way to transform the leader of a political party into a dictator, simply because the party's leader can never be challenged," the de-

tailed judgment read. "The majority's judgment (in 2022) interestingly referred to decisions from a number of countries and forums, including from the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, India, and the Privy Council. Foreign legal books and authors were also quoted. But, this appears to have been done, without first ascertaining the law in the respective countries regarding defections, and the consequences thereof." The detailed judgment read that the court sought the assistance of counsel for briefing on the international position on defections and its consequences. "Learned senior counsel Mr.