

# REGIONAL TIMES

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## Jaishankar Touches Down: India Gears Up For High-Stakes SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar arrived at the Noot Khan Airbase on Tuesday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held here on Tuesday and Wednesday.



He was received at the airport by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officers. Jaishankar reached Pakistan by a special plane from the capital New Delhi.

The SCO member states will be represented by the prime ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran and External Affairs Minister of India.

Meanwhile, the prime minister of Belarus also arrived in Pakistan to attend the SCO conference, where Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar welcomed him.

The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit begins in the federal capital on Tuesday amid heightened security. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the main event.

The SCO summit is anticipated to serve as a key platform for fostering regional cooperation, bolstering trade and investment besides enhancing socioeconomic and cultural linkages among its member states.—RT/Agency

## Chinese PM Stands Strong: Vows Unwavering Support For Pakistan's Sovereignty

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang reaffirmed China's unwavering support for Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and prosperity during a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad on Tuesday.



The meeting took place as part of Premier Li's visit to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, where he was honoured at a luncheon hosted by the president.

Under President Xi Jinping's leadership, the strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will continue to deepen, and both nations will elevate their partnership to new heights," Li said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir also attended the event, underscoring the importance of Pakistan-China ties.

Premier Li hailed the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, stating, "Pakistan and China are not just neighbours but also brothers, partners, and friends." He praised President Zardari's role in strengthening bilateral relations and highlighted the countries' mutual support despite global challenges.

Both leaders expressed their commitment to deepening strategic cooperation in key areas such as the economy, investment, and regional connectivity. They also stressed the need to ac-

celerate the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

future of the Pakistan-China relationship, saying it would grow even stronger in the coming years.

Additionally, Premier Li appreciated Pakistan's consistent stance on key Chinese issues such as Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and the South China Sea. He reassured that China would maintain its support for Pakistan's sovereignty and prosperity.

President Zardari reiterated the importance of Pakistan's close ties with China, describing the friendship as a central pillar of the country's foreign policy. He called for exploring new avenues of cooperation, noting that there remains ample scope to expand bilateral relations further.

During the meeting, Zardari highlighted the significance of enhancing trade and public links through all-weather roads. He encouraged Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's stock exchange and seize the opportunities presented by CPEC and Gwadar Port. The president also announced plans to visit China in November to further strengthen ties.

## Pakistan and Russia Join Forces: 'Druzhba-VII' Counter-Terror Drill Kicks Off

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and Russian militaries have commenced bilateral exercise titled Joint Exercise Druzhba-VII — the seventh bilateral joint exercise in the counter-terrorism domain, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday.



According to the military's media wing, the two-week-long exercise commenced on October 13 at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi with participation of Light Commando Troops ex Pakistan Army and Russian Military Contingent.

"Participating troops are looking forward to benefit from mutual expertise experience," read the statement.

The commandant of the National Counter Terrorism Centre graced the opening ceremony of the exercise as chief guest, the statement added.

On October 13, Pakistan and United States navies also conducted a bilateral exercise in the Arabian Sea with the aim to enhance interoperability and demonstrate their resolve towards regional maritime peace.

The exercise, the ISPR stated, is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the friendly countries.

The collaborations have proved benefitting in countering menace of terrorism, piracy, narcotics, and human trafficking in the region and beyond, it added.—RT/Agency

## COAS Takes Charge: Eyeing Stronger Military Ties with Belarus



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has expressed desire to further strengthen military relations between Pakistan and Belarus.

He was talking to Belarussian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko in Islamabad on Tuesday.

During the meeting, discussions were held on regional dynamics and the enhancement of bilateral security and defence cooperation between the two nations.

COAS also reaffirmed Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs.

## Bilawal Calls For Unprecedented Pak-India Collaboration On Climate And Terror

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday expressed hope that India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will not only engage with Pakistani media alongside SCO Summit in Islamabad, but the two countries will eventually engage on pressing common issues like climate change and terrorism prevention.



In an exclusive media talk with media, Bilawal Bhutto maintained that both India and Pakistan should learn from the success of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as the inherent multilateralism helps all the member countries deal with vital issues rather than engaging on bilateral differences. "A conversation is necessary, whether today or tomorrow, both countries have their opinions on differences but why should we forget that Pakistan and

India are the two most stressed countries due to climate change. Terrorism is also a reality, whether they (India) blame us (Pakistan) and we blame RAW (India's intelligence agency) but the issue exists, so if we engage, we will somehow reach a common point and save precious Indian and Pakistani lives," said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The PPP chairman said that the future of both the countries will not depend on us if we do not engage on issues like climate change. Bilawal Bhutto also expressed hope that the Indian MEA will not shy away from talking to Pakistani media and answer their questions like he (Bilawal) did while he visited India in 2023 for SCO Summit, adding that the Indian minister may raise terrorism allegations on Pakistan that suit the Indian narrative during this multilateral summit like SCO but Pakistan, being the host will not respond to make this issue-driven meeting a success.—RT/Agency

## Gohar Confirms Imran In Good Spirits After Health Check-Up

ISLAMABAD: After a team of doctors from the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) visited Adiala Jail, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday shared an update on incarcerated party founder Imran Khan's health, saying, "Khan Saab is in good health and had exercised for an hour today."



Gohar's statement came after his party deferred its protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk on the SCO summit's inaugural day after the Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured the party that a team of doctors would examine the PTI founder's health at the Rawalpindi central jail.

share with you, InshaAllah." He also expressed gratitude to the PTI workers and supporters who were concerned about the party founder's health.

The PTI chairman confirmed that two doctors — an ENT specialist and a medical specialist — visited Khan at Adiala Jail at 4pm today.

However, Khan's personal physician Dr Asim Yusuf was not allowed to meet him despite he waited outside the jail for more than an hour and also submitted his credentials to the security staff.

"We were informed a while ago that Alhamdulillah, Khan Saab is in good health and had exercised for an hour today," he said in a message on X, adding, "We shall get medical reports from them soon and I will

sources that a team of Pims' doctors would visit Adiala Jail to examine the former prime minister. Additionally, Khan's private physician would also be permitted to meet him, the sources added. However, Khan's personal physician Dr Asim Yusuf was not allowed to meet him despite he waited outside the jail for more than an hour and also submitted his credentials to the security staff.

## Bilawal Hits Back: Opposition To Constitutional Courts Driven By Personal Vendettas



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday that the opposition of certain parties to the establishment of the constitutional courts was based on their personal likes and dislikes.

In a statement shared on his X, the PPP chairman said, "The PPP has fought every election since 2007 with the manifesto pledge of implementing judicial reforms including but not limited to establishing federal constitutional courts. Please see attached relevant sections of 2006 Charter of Democracy, 2013 manifesto and 2024 election manifesto."

## Nationwide Protests Loom As Lawyers Rally Against Constitutional Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers across Pakistan have come together on a unified platform to oppose proposed constitutional amendments, warning of a nationwide movement if the government proceeds with the changes.



At a convention held by the Karachi Bar Association at City Court on Tuesday, prominent legal figures, including officials from the Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, and other regional associations, gathered to voice their concerns.

Forum protested the event. The convention organisers emphasised that the meeting was held for the benefit of lawyers, not to serve any political agenda.

Attendees included Munir A. Malik, Hamid Khan, and Abid Zuberi, among others. However, no representatives from the Sindh High Court Bar Association attended the event.

Former federal law minister Shahida Jamil advised caution, stating, "Everyone has their version of the amendments, but we must tread carefully. What happens if there's a clash between the constitutional court and the Supreme Court?" Lawyers agreed that the government's secretive approach to these amendments would not be tolerated, with calls for transparency in the legislative process.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



## Fares Too High? Transport Boss Holds Crisis Meeting



**By Khuda Dino Kachhai** follows: Regional Transport Authority to monitor adherence across all transport services. He underscored that any transport service found not to comply with these regulations would face stringent penalties, including hefty fines and the potential seizure of vehicles.

**SANGHAR:** In a proactive effort to alleviate the financial burden on commuters, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Imran-ul-Hasan Khawaja convened a crucial meeting with the owners of various public transport vehicles, including air-conditioned coaches, non-AC buses, and vans. This meeting was prompted by a recent decrease in petrol prices, leading to the announcement of reduced fares for passengers.

During the meeting, Dr. Khawaja outlined the new fare structure, which aims to provide more affordable transportation options for the community. According to the official notification issued following the meeting, the revised fares are as follows:

- From Sanghar to Karachi: Non-AC buses will now charge PKR 730
- Air-conditioned coaches will charge PKR 870
- From Sanghar to Hyderabad: Non-AC buses will charge PKR 270
- Air-conditioned buses will charge PKR 320
- From Sanghar to Nawabshah: The fare is set at PKR 180
- From Sanghar to Mirpurkhas: The fare is also PKR 180
- Dr. Khawaja emphasized the importance of compliance with the newly established fare rates, instructing all Assistant Commissioners and officials from the

## New Boss Takes Charge at Sindh Textbook Board – What’s Next?



**By Shaikh Sindhi** stressed the critical importance of working with integrity and dedication. He encouraged his team to prioritize transparency and accountability in their roles, underscoring that these values are essential for fostering public trust in the educational materials provided by the board.

**KOTRI:** Muhammad Saleem Jatoi has officially assumed the role of Secretary of the Sindh Textbook Board in Jamshoro, marking a significant step in his career as a former PCS officer. With his extensive experience in public service, Jatoi is poised to bring fresh perspectives and dedicated leadership to the board.

Upon taking charge, Jatoi wasted no time in familiarizing himself with the operations of the Sindh Textbook Board. He conducted thorough visits to all departments within the board, engaging directly with department heads to discuss ongoing projects and initiatives. These initial meetings served as a platform for him to outline his vision for the organization and to understand the current challenges and opportunities facing each department.

During these discussions, Muhammad Saleem Jatoi

## Outrage: JSQM Demands Male Staff Transfers from Girls’ School



**By Khair Muhammad Golo** Qureshi addressed the effective education of young girls in the community, expressing their strong opposition to the presence of male staff in a girls’ educational institution. JSQM officials warned that their protests would continue until their demands are met, highlighting the seriousness of the issue and their commitment to advocating for the rights of female students.

**THUL:** The Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) has been staging protests for the fourth consecutive day, demanding the transfer of male staff from the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Thul. Demonstrators gathered at the JSQM House before marching to Rahbar Chowk, where they blocked the road and chanted slogans calling for the appointment of female teachers at the school.

During the protest, key leaders including Mama Shaman Soomro, Comrade Liaquat Sarki, Waseem Qureshi, Akhtar Jaffari, Bashir Lashari, Gulmeer Burro, and Dado

## Game On Sports Festival Gets Green Light from DC Abrar Jaffar



**By Hashim Brohi** JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abrar Jaffar has officially announced the upcoming Jacobabad Sports Festival, scheduled to take place from October 18 to October 26. The festival will feature a variety of sports competitions aimed at promoting physical fitness and community engagement.

In preparation for this event, DC Jaffar convened a meeting with officials, including Assistant Commissioners and committee members, to discuss logistics and arrangements.

During the meeting, Jaffar highlighted the vital role of sports in fostering a healthy society. He pointed out that in areas with active sports facilities, hospitals tend to be less busy, suggesting a direct correlation between physical activity and overall well-being. He emphasized that sports not only contribute to physical health but also play a crucial part in nurturing so-

## Rallying Cry: Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput Leads National Conference

**By Irfan Ali Khushk** TANDO JAM: Khalifa Muhammad Tasleem Rajput, the central chairman of Asan Jo Ailan Pakistan, was warmly welcomed during his visit to Tagar village near Tando Jam for the Wafa-e-Pakistan Conference. The reception was marked by the presence of key local leaders, including UC 56 Chairman Ali Akbar Tagar, President Deedar Ali Tagar, Khabar Muhammad Tagar, and General Secretary Asghar Shah, all of whom played a significant role in organizing the event.

As part of the traditional hospitality, guests were presented with shawls, symbolizing respect and admiration for their contributions to the community. The conference attracted considerable attention, with significant participation from notable figures such as Provincial Press Secretary Hafiz Irfan Rehmani, Dr. Khaleeq Ogahi, Muhammad Saleem Bhatti, and

## Top Education Official Makes Surprise School Visits in Shahdadt



**SHAHDADKOT:** In a dedicated effort to enhance the quality of education in the region, Taluka Education Officer for Male Secondary, Abdul Qayoom Soomro, recently conducted a thorough visit to the Government Boys Single Section High School. This visit took place on a busy school day as he aimed to inspect various ongoing classes and assess the educational environment firsthand.

During his visit, TEO Soomro actively engaged with the students, gathering valuable insights about their learning experiences. He asked students about the subjects they were studying, the courses they were enrolled in, and the textbooks they were using. To gauge their understanding, he posed questions directly related to their course material and took the time to review the completed assignments recorded in their fair books.

This interactive approach allowed him to assess not only the academic progress of the students but also their engagement with the curriculum. Following the classroom observations, TEO Soomro

## Major Deal Signed: BISE Shaheed Benazirabad to Share Student Data



**By Samad Ayaz Dahri** NAWABSHAH: In a landmark move to modernize educational verification, the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Shaheed Benazirabad has signed a significant data-sharing agreement with the Inter Board Coordination Committee (IBCC). This agreement facilitates the online verification of educational certificates, aiming to streamline and enhance the verification process for candidates’ qualifications.

The signing ceremony took place at the conference hall of the Shaheed Benazirabad Board, attended by key officials from both organizations. Ehsan Illahi Bhutto, the Controller of Examinations for BISE Shaheed Benazirabad, and Ghulam Ali Mallah, the Executive Director of IBCC, officially inked the agreement, marking a progressive step forward for educational standards in the region.

During the event, Ghulam Ali Mallah addressed attendees and media representatives, highlighting that the Shaheed Benazirabad Board is the first in Sindh to initiate such an agreement for online

## Beloved Banker Irshad Ali Shaikh Passes Away – Tributes Pour In

**By Ibrahim Farooqi** BADAH: In a tragic turn of events, Irshad Ali Shaikh, a second officer at the National Bank branch and brother of PPP Badah City’s President Muneer Shaikh, passed away suddenly due to a heart attack. The incident shocked the community, as neighbors rushed to assist him, quickly taking him to the Badah Rural Health Center. Unfortunately, doctors confirmed his death upon arrival.

The news of Irshad’s passing sent a wave of grief through his family and the local community. As his body was brought home, mourning enveloped his loved ones, highlighting the profound impact he had on those around him.

Friends and family gathered to pay their respects, reflecting on the loss of a dedicated professional and beloved community member.

Irshad Ali Shaikh’s sudden demise serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of life, leaving a significant void in the hearts of those who knew him. The community extends its condolences to the Shaikh family during this difficult time, standing in solidarity as they navigate their profound loss.

## Civil Society Demands the Return of Shah’s Historic Library



**By Ayaz Burro** KN SHAH: In a spirited demonstration of civic engagement, a protest rally was organized in Khairpur Nathan Shah by a coalition of youth organizations, political groups, and social activists. The rally aimed to highlight the pressing issue of the Wafa Nathan Shahi Library, which, despite being completed, remains closed to the public.

The protest commenced at the Government High School and culminated at the local press club, with participants displaying banners and placards that bore slogans condemning the inaction of the Sindh Culture Department. The demonstrators voiced their frustration over the library’s closure, asserting that access to education is a fundamental right. They passionately argued that the absence of this essential resource is preventing local youth from engaging in constructive learning opportunities.

During the rally, participants lamented that young people are increasingly drawn into non-productive activities, often spending their time in hotels and other social venues due to the lack of a dedicated space for study and intellectual growth. The library, they contended, would serve as a vital hub for knowledge, creativity, and academic pursuit.

Key figures addressed the crowd, including Imtiaz Mallah, Zahid Hussain Zangoji, Mushtaq Chando, and Advocate Shaban Mallah, among others. They emphasized the detrimental effects of the library’s closure on the community’s youth. Their speeches resonated with a collective sense of urgency, calling for immediate action to ensure that the library is

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## Celebrations as Syed Salal Hussain Shah Marks Birthday at Sweet Home

TALHAR: In a heartwarming event held in Ward No-1 of Tando Ghulam Hyder, the birthday of Syed Salal Hussain Shah, President of the Youth Wing of Tando Muhammad Khan, was celebrated at Pakistan Sweet Home, an institution dedicated to abandoned and orphaned children. The celebration was graced by the presence of special guest Syed Shaban Shah Bukhari.

During the festivities, Syed Salal Hussain Shah distributed tablets to the children, emphasizing the importance of education and technology in their lives. He also shared a meal with the orphans, creating a joyful atmosphere filled with laughter and camaraderie. In his remarks, Shah highlighted that the true purpose of life lies in supporting the poor, orphans, and those in need, calling on everyone to come together in solidarity to uplift these vulnerable children.

The event saw participation from several notable guests, including Syed Ahsan Ali Shah, Assistant Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Babu Irshad Jagsi, Mahboob Ali Notkani, Imran Rajput, Sardar Gul Hassan Keerio, Khamiso Korai, and others. Their presence underscored the community's commitment to supporting initiatives that benefit orphaned and abandoned children.

As the birthday celebration unfolded, it served not only as a personal milestone for Syed Salal Hussain Shah but also as a reminder of the collective responsibility to care for those who are less fortunate. The event successfully fostered a spirit of generosity and compassion, encouraging attendees to continue their efforts in supporting the welfare of children in need.—RT

## Civil Society Takes to The Streets Councilor Murtaza Buriro Accused of Humiliating Jogi Community

By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: In protest against the violence and humiliation inflicted upon Jogi community people by councilor Murtaza Buriro near the Lyari stop in Kotdiji, local social workers and journalists staged a protest demonstration.



Details reveal that on the previous day, councilor Murtaza Buriro publicly targeted the Jogis with violence. Led by social workers Muhammad Malook and Niaz Shar, a rally was organized, which marched through the streets before culminating in a protest at the National Press Club in Thari Mirwah. During the protest, Niaz Shar condemned the councilor's actions, describing him as a bully who humiliates poor women and girls. He stated that such behavior violates human dignity and morality. He warned that as long as this councilor remains influential, such incidents would continue, endangering the safety of many women. The protest concluded with demands to the DIG Sukkur and SSP Khairpur to register an FIR against the councilor. Failure to do so would result in further protests.

## 'Save Our Press' Funds Urgently Needed for Kumb's Press Club

KUMB: Naz Solangi, the President of the Awami Press Club, has made an urgent appeal to the Secretary Information and the Director Information of Sindh, emphasizing the pressing need for funds for the Press Club. Solangi pointed out that it has been ten years since the Press Club was officially registered, with its registration valid until 2027. However, despite this, no financial support has been provided by the Sindh government.



Highlighting the disparities in funding allocation, Solangi noted that while media centers and the residences of influential figures have received support based on political affiliations, the Awami Press Club has been overlooked. He emphasized that repeated requests have been made to the Chief Secretary of Sindh and senior officials within the Information Department, yet there has been no response or acknowledgment of their plight. For over 40 years, the members of the Awami Press Club have dedicated themselves to serving the nation, earning accolades such as the Best Writer Award from various private institutions. Despite their contributions, Solangi lamented the lack of recognition from the government. In his statement, Solangi urged the authorities to release the necessary funds to ensure justice and support for the Press Club, allowing them to continue their vital work in serving the community and the nation. He called on the government to acknowledge the contributions of local media and to prioritize equitable funding for all media organizations, regardless of political connections.—RT

# METRO KARACHI

## Italian Aircraft Carrier Docks In Karachi: A Power Move to Bolster Defence Ties

KARACHI: In a landmark visit aimed at enhancing regional maritime security and defence cooperation, the Italian Navy's Carrier Strike Group, including the aircraft carrier Cavour and the frigate Alpino, arrived in Karachi on Monday for a three-day stay. This marks the first-ever visit by an Italian aircraft carrier to Pakistan.



The Italian fleet was welcomed by senior officials from the Pakistan Navy and Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armellini. According to a statement by the Pakistan Navy, the visit will be followed by a bilateral naval exercise between the two nations.

A delegation led by Ambassador Armellini and Rear Admiral Stefano Barbieri held discussions with Pakistan Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Abdul Munib on enhancing interoperability and ensuring regional security, and our defence relations play a pivotal role in this partnership."

She further added, "Italy's presence in the Indo-Pacific region, including this visit, reflects our commitment to deepening cooperation with key partners like Pakistan, ensuring the security of international maritime routes. Our defence industries have been active participants in the IDEAS exhibitions, and I will be joining them again at this year's event in November."—RT

## IGP Sindh Takes Action: New Committee Formed To Probe Shocking KPC Incident

KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, has set up a high-level committee to investigate the police's handling of journalists and protesters outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC), following reports of alleged brutality. The three-member committee, led by DIG Special Branch and including SSP Aviation and SP Investigation, has been tasked

with probing the incident involving alleged police mistreatment of journalists and protesting women. The committee has been directed to submit its findings within five days. A formal notification has been issued. This action follows directives from Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar, who instructed the IGP to ensure an impartial inquiry into the alleged police misconduct and to deliver the investigation report within three days. The minister also called for details on the officers suspended in connection with the incident. DIG South Asad Reza confirmed that disciplinary measures are underway against the police personnel involved in the violence, which has drawn widespread condemnation from the media community.—RT/Agency

## Legal Aid Society & ADC-II: High-Stakes Meeting Held in Dadu



By Javed Laghari

DADU: A delegation from the Legal Aid Society Dadu met with Additional Deputy Commissioner-II, Fatima Ghalu, where details of their project were presented. The meeting included Field Officer Qamar Abbas and Community Lawyer Muhammad Tasleem Qureshi. The delegation discussed the ongoing projects in Dadu district, focusing on incidents of child abuse and harassment of women. ADC-II Fatima Ghalu listened to the referral procedures and praised the work of the Legal Aid Society, assuring her support and promising to visit the Legal Aid Society's office soon for further collaboration.

## Terrifying Raid: Armed Men Storm Rice Mill in Bulri Shah Karim

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A robbery occurred at a rice mill in Bulri Shah Karim, where thieves made off with 6 million rupees. Following the incident, a delegation of rice mill owners, led by Farooq Cheepa and Mohan Lai Israni, met with SSP Abid Baloch at his office. SSP Baloch assured the delegation that the suspects would be apprehended within 48 hours. The mill owners expressed their confidence in his commitment to justice and integrity, hopeful that the culprits would be caught soon.

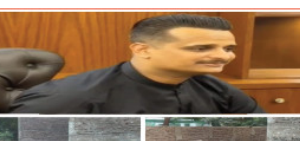
## Furious Locals Demand Urgent Construction of GGHS Phulji Station



By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: A protest was held at Government Girls High School Phulji Station, organized by the Public Social Welfare Association, against the stalled construction of the school building for five years. Political, social, and nationalist leaders joined citizens, teachers, and students in raising strong slogans. Demonstrators demanded immediate action to restore education, criticizing corrupt contractor Bagir Alkhani for abandoning the project. They highlighted that, despite five years, the building remains incomplete, leaving over a thousand students in distress. Currently, students are receiving education in temporary classrooms at a higher secondary school, which has ceased repairs, confining girls to their homes for the past month. Students expressed that the lack of a permanent building has forced over 200 to dropout, while others attend tuition due to their parents' financial struggles. Protesters called on DC Dadu and higher authorities to expedite the construction of the school building to save the future of their education.

## Municipal Chairman Syed Shahnawaz Mohsin Shah Bukhari Declares War on Encroachments



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The municipal committee's shops are being illegally occupied by land grabbers, who have started selling debris from these shops. This act of damaging government property is illegal, and legal action will be taken soon against it. Municipal Chairman Syed Shahnawaz Mohsin Shah Bukhari stated in a conversation with the media that the land grabbers are occupying municipal properties and selling debris coming from the shops, which is unacceptable. He emphasized that such illegal activities will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The municipal committee administration has the right to take legal action against such activities, and no one will be allowed to encroach upon government properties.

## Malir District Administration Kicks Off Bold Anti-Encroachment Campaign



KARACHI: Following the directives of Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam Mirwani, Assistant Commissioner Murad Memon, along with Mukhtiar Kar Murad Memon and the anti-encroachment team, conducted operations to remove encroachments. The actions took place in Doh Garhi Khairo and Deh Malha, where 150 acres of government land were vacated in Garhi Khairo, valued at billions of rupees. Additionally, the anti-encroachment team, along with revenue officials, removed encroachments from Arisha Cattle Farms, GFS Farms, and SS Farms in Deh Malha. The operation involved the anti-encroachment force, local police, and TMC Gadap teams. Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam Mirwani stated that operations to remove encroachments in Malir are ongoing, emphasizing that the land mafia will not be allowed to occupy government lands. He warned that any attempts to obstruct the removal of encroachments will result in legal action.—RT

# CENTRAL PUNJAB

## DC Reviews Shortcomings In Gujranwala's Civic Facilities



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed conducted emergency visits in Gujranwala as part of the governance initiatives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. His inspections covered areas including the railway line by the GT Road Flyover, Nowshera Sansi Road, Khalifa Aslam Park, and various government facilities.

He emphasized the need for standard resources at Special Education Centers and ordered improvements in employee attendance and sanitation. Ahmed warned shopkeepers against littering and stressed the importance of proper waste disposal, while directing the Gujranwala Waste Management Company to enhance cleanliness efforts. During visits to Khalifa Aslam Park and the Vegetable and Fruit Market Khali, he addressed maintenance and fair pricing, ensuring compliance with government directives to alleviate inflation impacts. In his inspection of the Government Maternity Hospital Satellite Town, he checked medical facilities and staff attendance, instructing them to provide quality patient care and maintain cleanliness. He stressed that negligence would not be tolerated.

## Students Stage Fierly Protest Against College Assault In Lahore

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Students from a local college in Gojra staged a protest outside their campus in response to an alleged assault on a female student at a private college in Lahore. The protesters chanted slogans against the college administration and the government, demanding accountability. Local political figure Chaudhry Haris Waraich addressed the crowd, urging them to remain peaceful and assuring them that he would relay their concerns to higher authorities. During the protests in Toba Tek Singh, students attempted to block Rajana Road, leading to the detention of six students by police. Those detained included Muhammad Umar, Mubashir, Abdullah, Ibrahim, Ehtisham, and Hassan Mustafa. They were later released after their parents provided written assurances.



## ADC Zeeshan Labha Masih Takes Charge In Bakery Price Fixing Showdown

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, a meeting on price fixation of bakery items was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labha Masih. The meeting was attended by DO Industries Arif Hussain and officials of the Bakery Association. The prices of bakery items were determined after consultation in the meeting. The new price for 400 grams of bread will be 100 rupees, while the price for 700 grams of bread will be 170 rupees. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labha Masih said that ensuring the provision of food items at affordable prices is among the priorities of the Punjab government. In this regard, all price control magistrates of the district are active. He also instructed bakery owners to prominently display the price list and ensure the sale of bakery items according to the official rates.



# REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

## ASP Shehrbano Dismisses Shocking 'Rape' Allegations Against Lahore College Student

LAHORE: Punjab police have refuted the claims related to the alleged rape of a private college student, saying that "there is no victim" linked to allegations that sparked a violent protest in Lahore a day earlier.



A group of students gathered outside a private college on Monday after reports of the alleged rape of a female student went viral on social media platforms.

At least 28 people suffered injuries as the protest turned violent and clashes erupted between the students and police.

Later, the protest was put off and it was decided to resume the demonstration today again.

It may be noted that the police had arrested a security guard of the college, who was being accused of raping the student and launched an investigation into the matter.

However, the suspect denied the allegations, while the police also couldn't find the evidence to prove them.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Defence Shehrbano Naqvi said while speaking to "Geo Pakistan" hosts on Tuesday that the girl who is being named was hospitalized 10 days prior to the day that is being claimed as the day of the incident.

"Her medical reports are available, the record of the hospitals she has been admitted to are also available, and information about the way she fell while getting away from registering an FIR"—RT/Agency

The ASP noted that two girls in the college had the same names, one of them was completely fine, while the other one was the girl admitted to the hospital.

Apart from them, if there is any other victim, the police have already announced that they have several platforms for reporting such cases, she said. "Any family, who thinks that there's a victim [should come forward]. Why would the police shy away from registering an FIR?"—RT/Agency

## CM Maryam Assembles Emergency Committee To Investigate College Incident

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday constituted a fact-finding committee to ascertain truth into the matter of a private college incident.



Sources said the committee would provide a detailed report to the chief minister within 48 hours.

According to the notification, the committee would be headed by the Punjab chief secretary and include the home secretary, Punjab advocate general, higher education secretary, special education secretary and specialised healthcare and medical health secretary as its members.

The authorities said the committee could also add other members for assistance. The committee would glean information and evidences in the case while recording statements of college students, teachers and administration. The committee would examine all aspects of the matter including quick response from the college administration and treatment of police. Meanwhile, CM Maryam in her statement on the 'Rural Women Day' reaffirmed her unwavering commitment to bring rural women on par with their urban counterparts. She also paid tribute to rural women for their tireless determination and hard work.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, October 16, 2024



## Imran Khan's Health Must Not Be a Political Bargaining Chip!

The health and well-being of incarcerated individuals, regardless of their status, is a basic human right that must be upheld by the state. This principle is particularly crucial when it involves a popular political figure like Imran Khan, whose every move impacts millions. While recent reports suggest that Khan is in good health, the refusal to allow his personal physician access to him raises serious concerns.

Despite assurances, Khan's private doctor, Dr. Asim Yusuf, was denied a meeting with his patient, even after waiting for over an

hour outside Adiala Jail. Such actions send a troubling message about how the state perceives its responsibility towards those in its



custody. Denying any prisoner proper medical care is inexcusable, but when the person in question is a leader of Khan's stature, it risks sparking wider unrest. Millions of his supporters are closely watching how he is treated, and any perception of neglect or mistreatment could lead to nationwide instabil-

ity. The government must understand that ensuring Khan's well-being is not merely about his health; it is about maintaining the country's political equilibrium. Denial of his basic rights could fan the flames of unrest among his followers, jeopardizing peace at a time when Pakistan is already navigating complex political waters. If there's one thing Pakistan cannot afford, it is to allow the health of a national leader to become a political tool. It's time for the authorities to act responsibly and make health care a priority, not just for Imran Khan but for every person behind bars.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Top Scores Khairpur Students Dominate Sukkur Board Exams

KHAIRPUR: Students from Jamia Arabia Sultan-ul-Madaris and Oriental College Khairpur have demonstrated remarkable academic prowess in the Sukkur Board's Oriental Colleges Examinations for the 2023-24 academic year. The students from Sultan-ul-Madaris achieved exceptional results, with many securing A-One and A grades, showcasing their dedication and hard work.



Among the standout performers, Muhammad Mithal Rad earned an impressive A-One grade, while Raza Abbas Mehr, Zaheer Abbas Shar, Ghulam Qammar Mahar, and Abdul Ghaffar Shar all achieved A grades. These accomplishments not only reflect the students' academic capabilities but also highlight the quality of education provided at the institution.

In light of these exceptional results, Maulana Ghulam Qammar, the principal of Sultan-ul-Madaris, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the students. He emphasized that Sultan-ul-Madaris is one of Pakistan's oldest re-

ligious educational institutions, deeply rooted in tradition while adapting to modern educational needs. Under the administration of the Jafaria Educational Society Khairpur, the madrasa continues to thrive, combining religious education with modern secular curricula.

In addition to its commitment to religious studies, the madrasa also operates the Al-Qaim Model School in Khairpur, which offers contemporary education. This dual approach en-

sures that students are well-equipped with both religious and secular knowledge, preparing them for successful careers and broadening their intellectual horizons in today's rapidly changing world. The achievements of the students are a testament to the effective educational strategies employed at Sultan-ul-Madaris and Oriental College, reinforcing the institution's role in shaping the future leaders of the community.

## Massive Rally in Hyderabad: Salim Khan Zardari Reveals Event Plans



By Ayaz Dahri  
NAWABSHAH: Salim Khan Zardari, President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the Shaheed Benazirabad district, held a press conference at the Nawabshah Press Club to discuss preparations for the upcoming rally in Hyderabad. He announced that a significant convoy comprising 2,000 vehicles, carrying around 10,000 participants, is expected to attend the event.

Zardari emphasized the enthusiasm of Nawabshah's workers and the public, who are eager to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz incident. He expressed confidence that attendees would warmly welcome their leader, Bilawal Bhatto Zardari, underscoring the importance of the rally as a commemoration of the sacri-

## Tragedy in Badah: Diarrhea Claims Lives of Three Children

By Ibrahim Farooqui  
BADAH: Tragedy struck the village of Babori near Badah as three young children from the same family succumbed to diarrhea, casting a pall of sorrow over the community. The heartbreaking loss included Ghulam Mustafa, aged 5, Dilbar, aged 2, and Sajjad, also aged 5. Their untimely deaths have sparked widespread grief, with family members and residents mourning the loss of these innocent lives.

As the children's bodies were brought back home, the atmosphere was filled with despair, and many women in the family fainted from the overwhelming sorrow. Relatives and community members gathered to express their anguish, pointing to the dire lack of adequate health facilities in the area as a significant contributing factor to this tragedy. Local leaders, including Ghulam Abbas Siyal, spoke

## Global Aid: Malteser International Inspects Rehab Project in Khairpur

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A delegation from Malteser International, led by Yalim Harry and Ammar, recently visited the Khairpur Rehabilitation Project to assess its progress and impact. This initiative focuses on infrastructure rehabilitation in response to the devastating effects of the 2022 floods, specifically targeting the Protection Bund in Khairpur.



The primary goal of the rehabilitation project is to safeguard vulnerable communities from displacement, migration, and health risks while also mitigating environmental pollution. During their visit, the delegation engaged in in-depth discussions with beneficiaries, gathering insights about the project's effectiveness and the needs of the community.

Jameel Soomro, a spokesperson for the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), highlighted that the delegation observed several key initiatives during their tour, including the establish-

ment of animal shelters, support for kitchen gardens for local farmers, and training programs for women artisans on using sewing machines. These projects aim to empower livelihoods and enhance the community, ensuring that the recovery process is sustainable and inclusive.

The Khairpur Rehabilitation Project is being implemented by SRSO and spans the districts of Khairpur and Mirpurkhas. The delegation also interacted with field teams involved in BMZ-funded projects of Malteser International, commending the efforts of community in-

stitutions in promoting local development and resilience. This visit underscores the commitment of Malteser International to support recovery and development initiatives in flood-affected areas, reinforcing their role in fostering community resilience and enhancing the quality of life for those impacted by environmental challenges. The collaboration between international organizations and local institutions is vital for achieving lasting change and improving the overall well-being of the communities in the region.

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: In a strong display of solidarity, the Mehar Bar Association recently organized a protest in response to the violent incidents that occurred during a peace march in Karachi. The lawyers boycotted judicial proceedings to condemn the brutal treatment of their fellow lawyers, civil society leaders, and the humiliation faced by women from Sindh.



Under the leadership of prominent lawyers, including Najeeb Mahar, Advocate Saeed Panhwar, Advocate Rahim Bux Bughio, Advocate Waheed Lashari, Advocate Riaz Dero, lawyer Ayaz Shah, lawyer Mansoor Jatoti, and lawyer Liaquat Mehboob Debar, the protest highlighted the collective outrage against police brutality. Demonstrators gathered to chant slogans condemning the actions of the Karachi police, who they accused of crossing all limits during the peaceful rally.

The protestors emphasized that the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrators, particularly the mistreatment of journalists and civil society leaders, is unacceptable. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of false cases against the women leaders involved in the march, warning that failure to address these grievances would lead to escalated protests in the future. This event not only underscores the lawyers' commitment to justice and human rights but also reflects a broader concern within the com-

## Devotion on Display: Thousands Attend Annual Urs of Hazrat Sain Shah Ismail

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Anjum Ghulam Qalandar Welfare Sindh Pakistan held a vibrant gathering to commemorate the annual Urs of Hazrat Sain Shah Ismail Shah Pahrhaj (RA). This revered event brought together a large number of devotees, all eager to pay homage to the saint and partake in the spiritual festivities.



The program featured a heartfelt recitation of Darood, setting a tone of reverence and devotion among the attendees. Spiritual speeches and prayers were led by Sain Syed Ghulam Haidar Shah Qalandari, the custodian of the shrine, who emphasized the importance of love, unity, and compassion in the teachings of Hazrat Sain Shah Ismail Shah Pahrhaj (RA). Special prayers were offered for the well-being of humanity, reflecting the saint's enduring legacy of benevolence and guidance.

In addition to the prayers, the event included recitations of naats—poetic praises dedicated to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), further enriching the spiritual atmosphere. The organizers ensured that security and logistical arrangements were well-managed, allowing attendees to focus on the essence of the celebration. Notable figures such as Sain Abdul Rehman Shah, Noor Ali Shah, Muhammad Shah, Ibrahim Halipot, Haji Sonharo, Dars Sikandar, Javed Naqarchi, Sadiq Mahar, Azhar Dhonkai, Haider Khoso, and Rafiq Hingorjo were present, demonstrating the community's deep respect for

## Lawyers Rage Mehar Protests Torture During Karachi Peace March

By Murtaza Panhwar

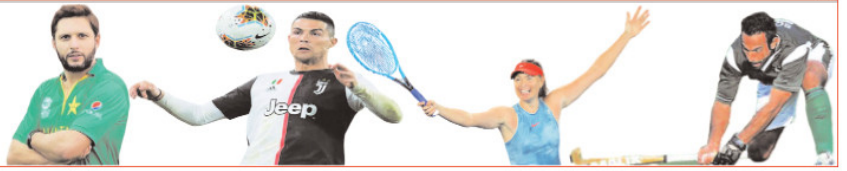
MEHAR: In a strong display of solidarity, the Mehar Bar Association recently organized a protest in response to the violent incidents that occurred during a peace march in Karachi. The lawyers boycotted judicial proceedings to condemn the brutal treatment of their fellow lawyers, civil society leaders, and the humiliation faced by women from Sindh.



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# SPORTS



## Locker Room Silence Mohammad Haris Claims Players Banned from Mentioning India



LAHOR: Pakistan Shaheens' captain Mohammad Haris has revealed that the players are not allowed to discuss the match against India in the dressing room during the upcoming ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, commencing in Oman on 18 October.

Haris-led Shaheens will take on last year's finalists India 'A' in their opening match on 19 October.

The Pakistan captain shared that he is keen on ensuring that his players do not succumb to pressure ahead of the match against India.

As a result, he has instructed the players not to engage in discussions regarding the blockbuster match.

"Talking about India is banned in the dressing room," said Haris. "Players feel pressure when thinking about the match against India and we don't want to put them under pressure."

Haris also shared that the team is not only focusing on India but also on Pakistan as well and is preparing for each team according to their strengths and weaknesses.

"The preparations for the tournament are in full swing," he added. "Our focus is not only on India, we have matches against other teams too and we will have different plans for each team."

Mohammad Haris then went on to claim that the experience of leading Stallions in the Champions One-Day Cup will come in handy in the upcoming ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024. "PCB has appointed me as captain for different teams. Captaining the emerging team is a different experience. I have previously captained senior players in the Champions One-Day Cup," said Haris. Pakistan Shaheens' second outing in the tournament will be against hosts Oman on 21 October, followed by their final group match which will be against the UAE on 23 October. The top two sides from each group will qualify for the semi-finals scheduled to take place on 25 October. The final will take place on Sunday, 27 October.—Agency

## Mbappe Hits Back Slams Swedish Media's Rape Allegations as 'Fake News'

Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappe said he was the victim of "fake news" after a Swedish newspaper reported that an investigation had been opened for rape following a visit by the French footballer's entourage to Stockholm.



Mbappe, 25, claimed in a post on X that there was a link between the report in the Aftonbladet tabloid and his hearing before a French league committee on Tuesday in his bitter dispute over unpaid wages with his former club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

"FAKE NEWS!!!! It's becoming so predictable, on the eve of the hearing, as if by chance," wrote Mbappe. His entourage called the report a "slanderous rumour" and threatened to take legal action.

Mbappe claims he is owed \$60 million by the Qatari-owned French champions.

The 2018 World Cup winner was not selected for France's Nations League fixtures last week, and spent Thursday and Friday in the Swedish capital where he dined at a restaurant with a group of people.

According to Aftonbladet's report, the French footballer then went to a nightclub, according to Aftonbladet's report.

The newspaper said a rape was committed "in Stockholm city centre", citing a formal complaint made to police on Saturday that it had seen.

Aftonbladet said the complaint was made after the alleged victim had sought medical attention but did not say who was named in the accusation.

"A probe is under way into a crime that was reported on October 10 in the centre of Stockholm," a prosecutor investigating the accusation told AFP.

Swedish police refused to give any further details.

"In general, if we have received a complaint and decided to conduct interviews and we make it known (to the public), those involved in the case may take actions that delay and complicate the investigation," said police spokeswoman Carina Skagerlind.

The Swedish newspaper published photos on its website on Monday showing police officers in front of the hotel where Mbappe and the group with him had stayed.

Mbappe's entourage said in a statement sent to AFP: "Today, a new slanderous rumour is starting to spread across the web from the Swedish media Aftonbladet. These accusations are completely false and irresponsible, and their propagation is unacceptable."

"In order to put an end to this methodical destruction of (the) image (of Kylian Mbappe), all necessary legal actions will be taken to re-establish the truth and pursue any person or media involved in the moral harassment and defamatory treatment that Kylian Mbappe is suffering repeatedly," the statement added.—Agency

## Shock Suspension Bangladesh Coach Hathurusingha Accused of Assaulting Player



DHAKA: The Bangladesh Cricket Board said Tuesday it had suspended head coach Chandika Hathurusingha for misconduct including an alleged assault of a player.

Trinidadian former all-rounder Phil Simmons has been appointed stand-in coach and will take the team up until the ICC Champions Trophy, set for Pakistan in February 2025.

"You can't assault a national player physically," BCB president Faruque Ahmed said in announcing Hathurusingha's suspension, without giving details of the alleged incident.

There was no immediate response from Hathurusingha.

The 56-year-old former Sri Lanka batsman was hired in 2023 for a second time as head coach, after a largely successful tenure with the side between 2014 and 2017.

The suspension follows Bangladesh's tour of India, where they lost both Tests and all three T20s.

Bangladesh next play South Africa at home, with the first of two Tests starting on October 21.

They travel to the United Arab Emirates for three ODIs against Afghanistan starting November 6.—Agency

## Babar Azam's Praise Party: Kamran Ghulam Stuns with Century on Test Debut

MULTAN: Pakistan's ace batter Babar Azam congratulated Kamran Ghulam on scoring a well-crafted century on Test debut.

Kamran Ghulam was included in Pakistan's Playing XI for the second Test in place of star batter Babar Azam and he made an immediate impact with a century on his debut.

He came into bat with Pakistan struggling at 19-2 inside ten overs and helped the team recover with an under pressure in his 149-run stand with Saim Ayub for the third wicket.

His defiant knock The star batter



posted a picture of Kamran, celebrating his maiden Test century and the caption on the picture read, "Well played, Kamran!"

With his maiden Test century, Kamran Ghulam became the 13th player from Pakistan to cross the three-figure on debut.

The last Pakistani player to achieve this feat was Abid Ali, who scored a century against Sri Lanka in December 2019.—Agency

## Day 1 Thriller: Kamran Ghulam's Debut Ton Powers Pakistan to 259/5 Against England

MULTAN: Pakistan ended day 1 play at 259/5 with the aid of Kamran Ghulam's debut century, who came in as the replacement of star batter Babar Azam, and steadied the hosts' innings in the 2nd Test against England at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan scored 259/5 at the conclusion of Day 1 play with Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha on the crease to drive the team's innings after they opted to bat first after winning the toss.

Kamran completed his century off 192 balls containing nine fours and one six.

He became the 13th Pakistani batter who smashed a ton on his debut followed by Javed Miandad, Saleem Malik, Muhammad Waseem, Ali Naqvi, Azhar Mahmood, Younis Khan, Taufeeq Umar, whereas, Yasir Hameed was the only batter who scored a



ton in both innings.

Additionally, Fawad Alam, Umar Akmal, and Abid Ali were among the batters who slammed a ton during their debut test matches.

Subsequently, he also became the 2nd Pakistani to score a century debut while batting at number 4. The only other Pakistani to score a debut century at 4 was Malik in 1982.

There are only 5 batsmen in Test history who made their debut at 4 and scored centuries. The last one to reach three figures on such an occasion was Aminul Islam of Bangladesh in 2000.

Nawab Pataudi senior 1932. Gundappa Viswanath 1969, Frank Hayes 1973 and Malik in 1982 are others in history to do so.

Kamran's top innings was concluded at 118 after he was bowled out by Shoaib Bashir.

Salman came in after

Kamran's departure and continued the innings with Mohammad Rizwan (37\*) besides scoring 5 runs till the conclusion of today's play.

Earlier, Pakistan captain Masood won the toss but was soon ruing his decision to bat first as the hosts slumped to 19-2 inside 40 minutes.

After five overs of seam bowling, England captain Ben Stokes opted for spin from both ends and the decision paid off immediately.

Jack Leach beat Abdullah Shafique's tentative prod and uprooted the off-stump to dismiss the opener for seven.

In his next over the left-arm spinner dismissed Shan for three, getting the Pakistan skipper to flick a delivery from outside the off-stump into the hand of Zak Crawley at short mid-wicket.—Agency

## Hairy Ramiz Raja Takes Aim: Blasts Babar Azam's Omission from Pakistan Test Squad



KARACHI: Former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja has raised concerns over Babar Azam's omission from the Test squad during the ongoing series against England.

Raja criticised the decision, suggesting that it should have been Babar's choice to take a break rather than the selectors' decision to drop him entirely.

Speaking during a discussion on Sky Sports with former England cricketers Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton, Raja highlighted the importance of allowing a player like Babar to make such decisions himself.

"There's always debate about whether Babar will fail or make a comeback, and that keeps things interesting. Right now, I don't see any sellable commodity in this Pakistan team, and the sponsors are wary because Pakistan have been losing and there are no real superstars playing.—Agency

wanted time out of the playing XI or not", Raja said. "The general opinion was he needed rest, but it was taken out of the squad completely." The 30-year-old batsman has been under pressure following a string of disappointing performances in red-ball cricket, having failed to score a half-century in his last nine Tests. Despite these challenges, Raja emphasised Babar's importance not only on the field but also in terms of cricket's commercial aspects, particularly in attracting sponsorships for Pakistan cricket. We need to understand he sells cricket for Pakistan," Raja explained.

## Ronaldo's Secret Weapon? Roberto Martinez Spills on What Makes CR7 a Legend



Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo's national team head coach, Roberto Martinez, believes that his team's captain is an "example to his teammates."

The Portugal boss was impressed as he praised the Al Nassr striker's commitment to international football at the age of 39 as an example to his teammates.

Martinez's remarks came as hundreds of people descended on St Mirren Park, also known as the SMISA Stadium, in Paisley to get a glimpse of Ronaldo.

At the stadium, the Portugal football team was gearing up for their pre-match preparations, ahead of their Nations League clash against Scotland on Tuesday.

"When you arrive in a stadium, in a place like this, I think you get to know the iconic figure and the career of a player that is unique," said Martinez at his pre-match press conference.

"There is not another player with more than 200 caps at international level as an example, the number of goals that he's scored, the trophies that he's achieved."

"For me, it's very easy to manage a player that can help the team to win tomorrow. All the rest is something for all of us to enjoy because it's a unique case and I think we can all learn from being close to him."

The five-time Ballon d'Or award winner was often criticised after failing to score as Portugal crashed out of Euro 2024 in the quarter-finals to France. However, Martinez has continued to field for Ronaldo, who scored his 133rd international goal in Saturday's 3-1 Nations League win over Poland in Warsaw. The former Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus star started that match and Martinez assured his fans he will be involved against Scotland.—Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

## Hollywood Feud Exposed Busty Salma Hayek and Sexy Nicole Kidman's 'Battle of Egos' Revealed



Salma Hayek and Nicole Kidman have reportedly gotten over their intense encounter with each other.

As fans will be aware, the actresses indulged in heated chat at the Balenciaga fashion show.

The footage from the Paris fashion week quickly went viral and fans began to speculate that this exchange was the symptom of an inner beef between the duo.

However, an insider of Life & Style put such rumours to bed and explained that the situation was "taken out of context."

They also shared, "There is nothing to this. They are close friends." "Salma and Nicole truly love each other," the source went on to claim.

Moreover, the source declared moment was an "assertion of power" and a "battle of egos" between the two A-listed actresses.

For those unversed, a UK based lip reader Jeremy Freeman has also deciphered what the topic of discussion between Nicole and Salma when Katy Perry stepped in.

"Let's turn there, OK, here," Hayek reportedly said.

Kidman responded: "Hey, I'm fine, I'm good. There, it's enough, it's OK."

Hayek then interjected: "We have to..."

"That's fine, that's fine," said Kidman before asking Perry to look at the photographers.

## Jennifer Aniston's Secret Dating Game: Juggling a 'Roster of Guys' Like a Pro



Jennifer Aniston has reportedly found a way to keep her dates private.

According to a friend of Aniston who spoke to Radar Online, the actress has her dates at her huge Bel-Air mansion to maintain privacy.

Per the source, the Murder Mystery star "is shy about going out and would rather stay home where she can have total privacy and control over her environment. She can have the lighting set to flatter her skin, her favorite candles burning, staffers to bring refreshments."

They continued: "Her home really is a sanctuary and where she feels most secure, so at this point, she'd much rather just have her dates come to her rather than drag them down to the Sunset Tower, which used to be a favorite haunt of hers. It's not that she's trying to hide them, she just prefers to have a more low-key dating life."

"The pressure that comes with dating publicly is so intense, it can ruin a relationship before it gets off the ground," they added.

Another source said that intense media scrutiny around her marriage to Justin Theroux was the reason the duo divorced in 2018.

"Relationships are hard enough without people sticking their noses where they don't belong," said the tipster.

They also said that "Morning Show star has quit the roster of guys going," yet "none of them have managed to get her to fully commit, but she has introduced her favorites to her friends."

Jennifer Aniston's first marriage was to Brad Pitt from 2000 to 2005, and her second to Justin Theroux from 2015 to 2018.

## Kids' Corner



Name: Talha Abbasi  
Location: Larkana  
About me: I love Madinah

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

# THE HEARTLAND



## Cracker Bomb Terror Near Nisar Khuhro's Larkana Residence-Community Shaken

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A cracker bomb exploded near the residence of the Sindh President of the Pakistan People's Party and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro. Fortunately, there were no casualties or injuries from the explosion. Nisar Khuhro has requested a report from the SSP Larkana regarding the incident. He stated that such bombings will not deter him from his struggle for democracy and the people. On Tuesday afternoon, a cracker bomb was thrown at Khuhro's house located on Nazim Muhalla Road by two unidentified individuals on a motorcycle, who then fled the scene. The bomb did not enter the house due to the height of the walls and exploded near the main gate, resulting in no damage or injuries. According to Khuhro's spokesperson, Shakil Memon, he was not in Larkana at the time; he was attending a Public Accounts Committee meeting in Karachi.



Upon learning of the incident, a large police contingent, including the Bomb Disposal Squad and personnel from the Special Branch, arrived at the scene to assess the situation and gather evidence. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro contacted SSP Larkana Mir Rohail Khan Khoso by phone to inquire about the details of the bombing and instructed him to investigate thoroughly and identify those responsible. Shakil Memon stated that the police have been directed to investigate all aspects of the incident and to identify the perpetrators through CCTV footage and other modern technical means. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, responding to the bombing, emphasized in a statement that such at-

## Grand Reception Honors Promotion of SSP Mir Liaquat Talpur

By Shahid Majid



JHUDO: DSP Jhudo, Mir Liaquat Talpur, has been promoted to the position of SSP. A dignified ceremony was held at Jhudo Police Station under the leadership of SHO Shah Nawaz Khaskheli, attended by notable figures including former Chairman Shakeel Yasin Qaimkhani, Ashraf Dubai, Jhudo Press Club President Atif Latif, General Secretary Hasan Kachhi, and other respected citizens. During the event, police officers and citizens presented Mir Liaquat Talpur with traditional Ajraks and flower garlands. Senior journalist Shahid Majid congratulated him, highlighting the honor for Jhudo to have a serving DSP rise to SSP. In response, SSP Talpur thanked the attendees, expressing gratitude for the respect shown to him. The event concluded with a luncheon hosted by SHO Shah Nawaz Khaskheli.

## PPP's Syeda Marvi Rashdi Makes Bold Visit to University of Sindh

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Syeda Marvi Rashdi, MPA and Parliamentary Secretary of the Universities & Boards Department, visited the University of Sindh, where she was welcomed by Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro. During her tour, she explored various academic and cultural centers, including the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chair & Convention Center, the Institute of English Language & Literature, and the Institute of Art & Design. At the Benazir Bhutto Center, MPA Rashdi praised the facilities and acknowledged the PPP government's role in its establishment. During her visit to the Institute of English Language & Literature, she emphasized the importance of English education for global opportunities, encouraging students to make the most of available resources. At the Institute of Art & De-



sign, she admired students' creativity and recognized the significance of art and design in cultural and economic development. Finally, at the Dr. MA Kazi Institute of Chemistry, she discussed the importance of chemistry in scientific advancement and advocated for environmental initiatives, such as tree planting on campus. Rashdi concluded by commending the university's research-oriented culture and called for greater media attention to its achievements, highlighting the institution as a beacon of knowledge with 48,000 enrolled students.

tacks will not stop him from his efforts for democracy and that he will continue to speak on issues affecting Sindh and the people. SSP Larkana informed Nisar Ahmed Khuhro that the search for the attackers has been initiated. Additionally, other Sindh leaders from the Pakistan People's Party, including General Secretary Waqar Mehdi and Ajiz Dhamrah, condemned the attack and described it as a cowardly act, asserting that such incidents cannot weaken the resolve of the party's leadership. They called for the immediate arrest of those involved in the incident.

## Outrage in Unar Muhalla Residents Protest Against Lengthy Power Outages



TANDO ALLAHYAR: The residents of the Unar Muhalla in Tando Allahyar protested outside the Tando Allahyar Press Club against a three-day power outage. The demonstrators vocally condemned HESCO officials, expressing their frustration through slogans. Local residents, including Nawaz Badshah Khaskheli, Feroz Unar, and Irshad Khanzada, stated that it has been three days since the transformer malfunctioned, and they are exhausted from visiting the HESCO office, where they are being asked for money. They mentioned that they had previously paid to repair the transformer and felt compelled to come forward again. The protesters highlighted the lack of drinking water in their homes and even in mosques for ablution. They wanted that if the transformer is not installed soon, they would block the main road to stage a sit-in. They urged the Deputy Commissioner of Tando Allahyar and other authorities to address their concerns by installing a transformer in the Unar Muhalla to alleviate their distress.

## Schoolboy Sensation: Chess Champion Crowned in Epic Tournament

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a remarkable display of skill and strategy, Muhammad Ibrahim Yaqoob, a talented student from Hyderabad FG Public School, emerged victorious in the chess competition held during the inter-regional event organized by Federal Government Schools at FG School Karachi Cantt. This annual event is a highlight for students, featuring a range of extracurricular activities that encourage healthy competition among federal government schools across Sindh. The inter-regional competitions serve not only as a platform for showcasing students' talents in sports and other activities but also as a pathway for selecting top-performing individuals for inter-provincial contests. This year, Muhammad Ibrahim stood out in the



chess tournament, securing first place with an impressive lead over his competitors. His strategic acumen and concentration on the chessboard were pivotal in achieving this significant victory. This achievement not only highlights Muhammad Ibrahim's individual talent but also reflects the dedication and support of his school, which emphasizes the importance of extracurricular activities in developing well-rounded students. His win has been celebrated within the school and the broader community, inspiring other students to participate in such events. As he prepares for potential future competitions, including inter-provincial events, Muhammad Ibrahim's triumph serves as a testament to his hard work and passion for chess, encouraging fellow students to pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

## Disaster Strikes School Roof Collapse Leaves Two Students Injured

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: A distressing incident occurred at the Government Higher Secondary School Nawab Jatoi when a portion of the dilapidated building collapsed, injuring two students—Wahed Ali Mallah and Amir Korai. The injured students were promptly assisted by their fellow classmates and taken to the hospital for treatment.



The school administration expressed grave concerns about the state of the building, which has been deemed unsafe for use. Despite submitting multiple written requests to the relevant authorities highlighting the urgent need for repairs, no action has been taken to address the deteriorating conditions. The administration underscored that today's incident could have had far more serious consequences, potentially putting the lives of many students at risk.

## Brick Price Surge Sparks Outrage! Gambat Residents Cry Foul



GAMBAT: In the Gambat taluka, brick suppliers have begun exploiting the public by arbitrarily increasing prices, leaving the poor unable to build homes. In small and large towns of Gambat, bricks suppliers have set their own rates. What used to cost 25,000 rupees for a truckload of hatching has now surged to 60,000 rupees, severely impacting those who were already displaced by flooding over the past two and a half years. The government has yet to provide assistance to these individuals in rebuilding their homes. This price gouging by suppliers is depriving the vulnerable population of their right to affordable housing. As a result, many poor workers cannot afford to rebuild their homes. Local activists have urged the Sindh government and particularly the Deputy Commissioner of Khairpur to take immediate action against these suppliers. They demand the establishment of a fixed price for a truckload of bricks at 25,000 rupees, enforcing this rate strictly to enable displaced individuals to rebuild their homes.

## Tando Allahyar Police Crack Down Five Arrested in Major Operation

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the orders of SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, the police have continued operations against drug dealers, criminals, habitual offenders, illicit liquor, gutka, mainpuri, and absconders. According to the details, under the leadership of the SDPO City and on a tip-off, the SHO of A-Section arrested a suspect involved in drug trafficking, seizing 10 kg of raw material and 150 mainpuri, leading to the registration of a case. Arrested suspect was named Abdul Rasheed s/o Muhammad Ishaq Khaskheli. Based on a tip-off, the SHO of B-Section arrested another suspect, seizing 100 mainpuri from him, resulting in a case registration. The police arrested Muhammad Yousof s/o Mir Hassan Jamal. Under the leadership of



the SDPO Chamber, and following a tip-off, the SHO of Chamber arrested a suspect involved in drug trafficking, recovering 700 mainpuri, leading to a registered case. The police arrested a suspect named Gul Hassan alias Sajjad s/o Muhammad Ali Laghari. Under the direction of SDPO Jhando Marri, the SHO of Umar Sand acted on a tip-off to arrest a suspect involved in drug trafficking, seizing 3 packets of Indian

## Crackdown Power Theft Operation Led by SDO Zaman Bhatti

By Yousof Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: HESCO's ongoing operations against electricity theft in Nawab Wali Muhammad city and surrounding areas have intensified, with numerous illegal connections being severed. Under the directives of HESCO's Chief Executive Officer Roshan Ali Otho, along with SE Farman Ali Dahani and Executive Engineer Aziz Bhutto, SDO Zaman Bhatti of the HESCO Sub-Division Qazi Ahmed has spearheaded these efforts in collaboration with the Sindh police.

city and several neighboring villages, as part of a broader initiative to combat electricity theft, which has significant financial repercussions for the utility provider and the community. During the recent operations, many illegal connections were cut, and formal letters were dispatched to local police stations requesting the initiation of legal proceedings against those involved in power theft. Speaking to the media, SDO Zaman Bhatti emphasized that the actions taken were in direct response to the special instructions from HESCO's Chief. He noted that the crackdown on electricity thieves is vital for

maintaining the integrity of the electrical system and ensuring that resources are allocated fairly among all users. Bhatti reiterated the commitment of HESCO to pursue legal action against individuals who continue to engage in illegal practices, underscoring the seriousness of the issue and the importance of community cooperation in eradicating electricity theft. The ongoing operations aim not only to restore proper service but also to raise awareness about the consequences of power theft, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and reliable electricity supply for all residents.

## Health Crisis Disease Outbreak Spreads in Sanghar Amidst Healthcare Chaos

By Farooq Bugti

SANGHAR: An alarming outbreak of various diseases has affected many children and adults in the Sanghar district, prompting local residents to appeal for immediate government intervention. The community is increasingly concerned about the lack of effective healthcare services, which has left them vulnerable to illnesses that could be managed or prevented with proper medical support. Residents are calling for the government to ensure that medications are readily available at local government hospitals, emphasizing the urgent need

with rising medical needs. Community leaders and residents are demanding immediate action from the government, urging authorities to supply multinational medications to local hospitals and to enforce regulations that require factory owners to install filters in cotton factories. They argue that such measures are essential not only for improving public health but also for safeguarding the well-being of future generations. As the outbreak continues, the urgency for action grows, with residents hoping that their pleas will lead to tangible improvements in healthcare services and environmental regulations in Sanghar.

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## Shocking Two Suspects in Court Over Alleged Poisoning of 13 Family Members

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: In the case of the 13 family members poisoned to death in the village of Hebat Brohi, the accused Shaista Brohi and Ameer Bux Brohi were presented in the Kingri Court. The police requested an extension of the remand for both accused, and the court granted a two-day remand, ordering their appearance again on October 17. It is important to note that two months ago, 13 family members, including Gul Baig Brohi, his wife, three sons, five daughters, a brother, and two close relatives, died after consuming poisoned food in Hebat Brohi. Medical reports indicated poisoning, leading to an investigation where Shaista Brohi and Ameer Bux Brohi were arrested. They confessed to poisoning all family members due to a dispute over an unfulfilled marriage proposal.

## Awareness March: Students Raise Their Voices at Govt Girls School in Pir Zakiri

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The Government Girls Secondary School Pir Zakiri recently organized an awareness rally to promote school enrollment and support the Sindh government's "Reading Sindh, Growing Sindh" initiative. The rally was led by Headmistress Gulam Kubra Soomro and witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of students and staff members. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of education, particularly for girls, and to encourage families to enroll their children in school. Syed Muhammad Munir Shah, the custodian of the shrine, addressed the crowd, emphasizing that effective implementation of government programs could lead to significant educational reforms in the community. Teachers Shafiq Ara and Noor Ahmed Jamali spoke about the rally's positive impact on increasing school enrollment, noting a particular emphasis on encouraging girls to pursue their education. They highlighted that initiatives like this rally are crucial in breaking down barriers to education and fostering a culture of learning. Headmistress Soomro expressed her gratitude to all attendees for their support and partici-



ipation. She reflected on the success of last year's rally, which had a noticeable effect on girl enrollments, and reiterated the school's commitment to continuing these efforts. The rally served not only as a call to action for the community but also as a celebration of the strides being made toward educational equity in the region. Through initiatives like this, the school aims to empower young girls and pave the way for a brighter future for their support and partici-

# METRO KARACHI



**-Bilawal, Shehbaz and COAS must take notice of lack of protection for local investors who invest billions in their own country!**

## Sindh Police Fails To Enforce Court Orders: Local Company Left At Mercy Of 'Bhatta Mafia'

KARACHI: A local company named Pipelink Construction (Private) Limited that has been working in the vital oil and gas sector has accused the Sindh Police of non-compliance with court-issued protection orders, leaving its personnel and assets vulnerable to threats from the local "Bhatta Mafia" in Shahdadpur. Despite multiple protection orders, dated April 19, 2024, and July 22, 2024, issued by Additional Sessions Judges in Shahdadpur and Tando Adam, the company claims that no action has been taken by the police to ensure their safety.



"This lack of action not only endangers local businesses but also deters foreign investment in Sindh," a company representative stated. The company has now threatened to hold Sindh Police accountable for any loss of assets and is preparing to file a petition with the Sindh High Court for protection, recovery, and damages. The situation raises serious questions about the ability of local law enforcement to uphold court orders and protect businesses from criminal elements in Sindh.—RT

## Saeed Ghani Leads 1197th KDA Governing Body Meeting: A Turning Point For Karachi's Development



KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani chaired the 1197th meeting of the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Governing Body on Tuesday. The session was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Khalid Haider Shah, Sindh Assembly Member Ali Ahmed Jan, Yousuf Baloch, Additional Commissioner SG Mehdi, DG KDA Shujaat Hussain, and other senior officials. The governing body approved the minutes of the previous meeting and reviewed amendments to KDA rules from 1963. Discussions also covered the budget for the financial year 2024-25. A detailed report on employees' salaries and pensions was requested, with the matter postponed until October 21. Due to pending clarifications, the budget discussion was deferred, and a follow-up meeting was scheduled within a week.—RT

## Big Bucks On The Horizon: Major Investments Expected In Sindh, Says Jam Ikram

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, has expressed optimism that Sindh will witness large-scale investments in the coming years, thanks to the initiatives of the provincial government. This influx of investment is expected to play a crucial role in reducing unemployment. Dharejo shared these views during a meeting with office bearers of the Pakistan Ready-made Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) at his office.



Also in attendance were Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasir, Baloch Shar, PRGMEA Chairman Aamir Cothani, and other association representatives. The minister further reiterated the provincial government's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by garment manufacturers and exporters. Dharejo acknowledged the critical role exporters play in enhancing Pakistan's image and emphasized the importance of industrialists in promoting local industries. He assured that the Sindh government is working in close collaboration with the private sector to bring positive societal changes. Security issues in industrial zones, he noted, have significantly improved. The minister further reiterated the provincial government's commitment to addressing the concerns of industrialists at every level. He highlighted the efforts being made under public-private partnerships to enhance law and order in industrial zones and encourage the establishment of cluster-based industries in new zones. Dharejo concluded by stating that large-scale investments are expected to flow into Sindh over the next five to ten years. He also announced that, through public-private partnerships, the government will introduce courses related to the export industry, aiming to increase the number of skilled workers and further combat unemployment.—RT

## Murad Launches Major Initiative To Fix Karachi's Infrastructure And Tackle Encroachments

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting addressing Karachi's crumbling infrastructure, citing ongoing projects, damaged roads, drainage challenges, illegal parking, and encroachments as key factors behind severe traffic congestion.



In a proactive measure, he set a deadline to clear encroachments from 10 to 15 major roads and formed a task force led by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani for swift action. The CM also highlighted the impact of drug addicts on public infrastructure, urging authorities to relocate those living under bridges to prevent further damage. The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) reported progress on issuing QR codes for construction approvals, enhancing monitoring of 425 buildings. The CM instructed the SBCA to restore approved parking

spaces, revealing that 25 commercial buildings had illegally converted their parking into godowns. Following swift action, several parking areas were restored, and buildings were sealed. Emphasis on Road Management and Encroachment Policies. Discussions also focused on road cutting and its adverse effects, especially in Lyari. The CM announced new road-cutting regulations, including a two-year moratorium post-establishment and a centralized authority for

## Shariq Jamal Discusses Social Media And AI's Influence At Women Media Center Workshop



KARACHI: Shariq Jamal, Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) from the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), served as the chief guest at a workshop hosted by the Women Media Center (WMC) in Karachi. In his address, he stated that politics is the sole path to securing a place in paradise but cautioned that a single inaccurate report could destroy a politician's career. Jamal emphasized the importance of independent thought, stating, "We spent 35 years following one personality, yet no revolution occurred," reflecting on his political experiences. In response to a query, the MQM MPA highlighted the

## Water Crisis Alert: Manghopir TMC Chairman Sounds Alarm On Hub Canal's Alarming Water Wastage

By Rahib Gaho



KARACHI: Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Chairman of Town Municipal Corporation Manghopir, expressed deep concern over the significant water loss from Hab Canal, calling it a critical issue in light of the ongoing water scarcity. He remarked that water is a divine blessing, and its wastage not only impacts agriculture but also poses environmental risks, potentially leading to various health problems. Brohi stressed the urgent need for the Water and Sewerage Board to adopt modern techniques for repairing leakages and improving water reservoir management to address the problem promptly. He highlighted the importance of regular

canal maintenance to prevent water loss and directed the relevant authorities to upgrade the water monitoring system to minimize wastage and ensure efficient water use for both public and agricultural needs. During his visit to the affected area, Brohi urged citizens to recognize the importance of water conservation and to use water responsibly. He also emphasized that the Sindh government is taking the issue seriously, with plans for further measures to curb water wastage in the future. The chairman was accompanied by town officers, staff, and a large group of local residents during the visit to assess the water loss from Hab Canal and its impact on the community.—RT

## Town Chairman Jan Muhammad Baloch Gears Up For PPP's Major Hyderabad Rally



By Asif Qureshi  
KARACHI: A meeting chaired by Jan Muhammad Baloch, Chairman of Malir Town, was held to ensure the active participation of PS-127/88/89 district Malir officials, workers, and the Ladies Wing in the upcoming October 18th Hyderabad rally commemorating the Karsaz tragedy. Jan Muhammad Baloch instructed all focal

persons and officials to strictly adhere to the directives and guidelines provided by the district leadership regarding participation in the rally. He emphasized the importance of attending the event with full discipline to pay tribute to the martyrs of Karsaz and expressed confidence that the workers from district Malir would once again lead in participation. The meeting included prominent figures such as Dr. Ayoub Baloch, Senior Vice President of the People's Doctors Forum Karachi Division, Muhammad Sharif from SPSF, and various UC chairmen and party officials, including Muhammad Nazir Baloch, Nazir Muhammad Baloch, and others.

## Turkish Envoy Cheers Tourism Boom As Top Luggage Brands Land In Pakistan



KARACHI: Mr. Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Turkey in Karachi, has remarked that Pakistan holds immense potential for tourism, with a rich array of attractions awaiting discovery by visitors. He noted that the availability of top international travel brands across Pakistan, facilitated by The Explorer, signifies a growing boost to the country's tourism industry. His remarks came during the celebration of The Explorer's 7th anniversary, where he praised the company's efforts in distributing high-quality travel products nationwide. CEO Aamir Hazari, Managing Director Batool Hazari, and numerous distinguished guests were present at the event. Sangu further emphasized the strong, enduring bond between Pakistan and Turkey, with both nations collaborating in several joint ventures in defense, trade, education, and culture. He also highlighted the potential for youth from both countries to work together in shaping the future, achieving shared goals across various fields. The Turkish Consul General underscored the educational opportunities provided by Turkey, including government-funded scholarships for international students to study at top universities in the country. These scholarships aim to foster future leaders and promote greater cooperation and understanding between nations. In his remarks, The Explorer CEO Aamir Hazari noted that the company has been serving both local and international clients for the past seven years. He pointed out that Pakistan offers a large market for travel products, with prices significantly lower than international markets. The showroom features renowned brands such as Victorinox, Wenger, Buck, Maglite, Stanley, Zippo, National Geographic, and many more. The event concluded with the distribution of gifts and mementos to the chief guest and other dignitaries.—RT

## FIA Strikes At Karachi Airport: Two Women Caught Begging Under Umrah Pretense

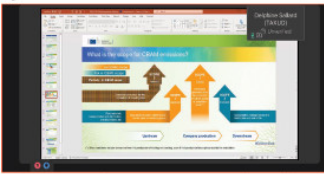
KARACHI: In a recent crackdown at Karachi Airport, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration unit arrested two women attempting to travel under the guise of performing Umrah while allegedly involved in organized begging. The suspects, identified as Patti Khatun and Subhana, failed to present hotel reservations or sufficient funds for their trip during questioning. Initial investigations revealed that Subhana's son has been illegally residing in Saudi Arabia since traveling there on an Umrah visa in 2022, where he is also suspected of engaging in begging. An FIA spokesperson confirmed that further details are being gathered, and the women have been handed over to the Anti-Human Smuggling Circle in Karachi for legal proceedings.



FIA Director General Ahmad Ishaq Jahangir recently reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to tackling organized crime, especially human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Speaking at the 12th session of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), he called for a holistic approach to addressing the root causes of these crimes. In a related incident last month, FIA officials at Faisalabad Airport intercepted Munawar Hussain and Shafia Bibi, a couple who attempted to travel to Saudi Arabia with a minor. Known for previously traveling to Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia for begging, the pair were also stopped weeks earlier at Lahore Airport. Investigations showed they had no tax records with the FBR and lacked a return ticket or accommodation bookings. This coordinated effort by the FIA highlights Pakistan's ongoing focus on curbing transnational organized crime.—RT/Agency

## Commerce Ministry Teams Up With TDAP To Address Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

KARACHI: The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) of Pakistan, in collaboration with the European Commission and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), conducted an informative session on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) applicable to sectors including cement, iron and steel, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen. Ms. Delphine Sallard, Director General of Taxation & Customs Union (TAXDU) at the European Commission, delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the regulations. She explained that CBAM is designed to combat carbon leakage by imposing a carbon price on imports from non-EU countries. This mechanism ensures that imported goods incur the same



carbon costs as those produced within the EU, thereby promoting global greenhouse gas emission reductions. Ms. Sallard further outlined the impact of CBAM on Pakistan's exports to the EU, emphasizing that Pakistani exporters will need to measure, report, and reduce carbon emissions in their production processes. Non-compliance may lead to decreased competitiveness due to additional carbon pricing costs. Mr. Nasir Hamid, Additional Secretary of MoC, urged Pakistani industries to adapt to the new regulations, stressing that compliance will be crucial for maintaining access to European markets. Mr. Omar Hameed from TDAP is working to assist the Pakistani business community in meeting these requirements. The awareness session was attended by representatives from both the private and government sectors.—RT

## Sindh Minister Vows To Crush Unlawful Labor Group Pressure

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Labor and Human Resource, Shahid Abdul Salam Taheem, assured industrialists at a Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) event that the government will not tolerate illegal demands from labor organizations. He emphasized the government's commitment to protecting industries and workers' rights while implementing new rules in collaboration with relevant departments. The minister also highlighted the recent wage increase from Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 37,000. Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya echoed these concerns, warning against unlawful tactics by some labor organizations and emphasizing the need for a one-window system to streamline labor compliance, benefiting over 1.5 million workers in Korangi. He called for an end to harassment of businesses under the guise of labor law enforcement and urged the government to address regulatory inconsistencies. Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya also expressed his concern, warning against unlawful tactics by some labor organizations and emphasizing the need for a supportive business environment for development.—RT



"Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else."

—Les Brown

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 2024

## Kazakhstan Trade Boost On PM's Agenda: Calls For Enhanced Economic Ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while noting the warm and excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, while also focusing on regional connectivity and security.

To achieve this shared objective, the prime minister emphasized the need to maintain regular and high-level contacts, including through institutional mechanisms of bilateral engagement.

The prime minister had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting earlier, PM Office Media Wing said



in a press release.

Welcoming Kazakhstan's participation at the SCO CHG Meeting, prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work with all SCO countries in advancing SCO's principles and pur-

poses. In this regard, prime minister recalled his visit to Astana in July earlier this year for the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting and appreciated Kazakhstan's contributions to strengthen-

ing cooperation among SCO countries. The prime minister stressed to convene the meetings of Joint Working Groups on trade and agriculture at the earliest.

The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan congratulated the prime minister on the successful organization of the SCO Summit in Pakistan and lauded Pakistan's positive role as the SCO Chair.

He reiterated Kazakhstan's firm resolve to work closely with Pakistan, both as part of SCO and bilaterally, to enhance regional connectivity, trade and development.

He further said that Kazakhstan saw Pakistan as a leading trade partner in South Asia.

Both sides agreed to jointly work to realize the

true trade potential between the two countries.

"Had a delightful exchange of views with my brother H.E. Mr. Olzhas Bektenov, PM of Kazakhstan on the sidelines of 23rd SCO CHG. We discussed the need to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, transport, connectivity, agriculture, defence, education and energy sectors and agreed to accelerate official exchanges to take Pakistan-Kazakhstan relations to new heights. I also extended a cordial invitation to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Pakistan-Kazakhstan ties are poised for a bright future," separately, the prime minister posted on X handle. —RT/Agency

## PM Pushes For More High-Level Meetings Between Pakistan And Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized upon the need to increase high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

He stressed the importance of both sides continuing to work closely to realize the full potential of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the domains of trade, energy and connectivity.

On the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting, being held from 15-16 October in Islamabad, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Turkmenistan's participation in the SCO CHG Meeting as a 'Special Guest', the prime minister reaffirmed the significance of Pakistan's longstanding, historic and brotherly ties with Turkmenistan.

He also conveyed his best wishes and warm regards to the Turkmen leadership.



Meredov congratulated the prime minister on the successful organization of the SCO CHG Meeting and conveyed best wishes to the prime minister.

He reaffirmed Turkmenistan's unwavering commitment to building stronger and closer Pakistan-Turkmenistan ties. Separately, the prime minister posted on X, "Pleased to meet H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy

Chairman of Cabinet of Ministers & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan on the sidelines of the 23rd SCO CHG in Islamabad today. Conveyed my best wishes to the Turkmen leadership. Pakistan looks forward to working with Turkmenistan to build stronger bilateral ties and enhance regional cooperation particularly in trade, energy, and connectivity." —RT/Agency

## PM Pushes For Closer Pak-Belarus Relations To Supercharge Investment And Tractor Production

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for sustained exchanges between Pakistan and Belarus to realise the potential of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, agricultural machinery and joint production of tractors and connectivity.

The prime minister, who held a bilateral meeting with Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting here, recalled his "warm and productive" meeting with President Aleksandr Lukashenko in Astana in July earlier this year and stressed sustaining regular high-level exchanges considering their positive momentum on bilateral ties, according to a PM Office press release.

Welcoming Belarus' participation in the SCO CHG meeting, Prime Minister She-



hbaz felicitated Belarus on becoming SCO's full member and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Belarus in fostering the "Shanghai Spirit". Golovchenko warmly congratulated Pakistan on the successful conduct of the SCO CHG meeting and its positive outcomes.

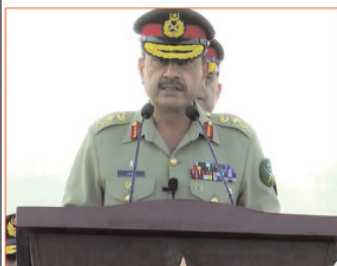
He thanked Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko assured that

Belarus would closely collaborate with Pakistan, in its capacity as SCO CHG Chair, to promote the organisation's purposes, principles and priorities.

He expressed satisfaction over the positive direction of the bilateral relationship between the two countries and reciprocated Pakistan's desire to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation across all spheres of shared interest through joint efforts. —RT/Agency

## COAS On A Mission: Committed To Securing Pakistan's Future



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir stated that "our agenda is solely Pakistan," emphasising that they are focused exclusively on the country's success.

According to media, this statement was made during a luncheon hosted by President Asif Ali Zardari in honor of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who is in Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. General Munir also attended the luncheon.

When journalists asked the army chief about his expectations from the SCO conference, he reiterated, "Our agenda is solely Pakistan, we are focused only on Pakistan and want its success."

Pakistan is all set to host the 23rd SCO summit in Islamabad today.

The 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) is scheduled for 16 October 2024, with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presiding over the event and delivering the opening address.

Attendees will include the prime ministers of China,

Russia, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan, alongside India's foreign minister. Delegations from seven other member states will also be present.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang arrived in Islamabad earlier on Monday, with other dignitaries expected to land throughout the day and into tomorrow. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin is anticipated to arrive on the eve of the 16th to participate in the CHG summit.

Delegations from Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan will be in attendance, while Mongolia's prime minister will join as an observer.

The summit aims to assess the organisation's performance and strengthen cooperation among member states.

In addition to member countries, Iran's first vice president will be present, along with India's foreign minister.

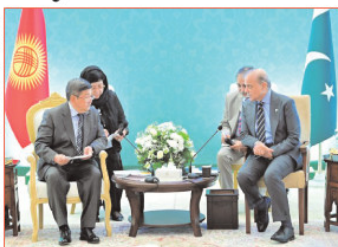
Islamabad has been adorned with beautiful decorations for the two-day event, featuring electric lights and screens along key routes. —RT/Agency

## Pakistan Eyes Deeper Ties With Kyrgyz Republic, Says PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while reiterating Pakistan's strong desire to further strengthen cooperation with Kyrgyz Republic, stressed the need to enhance new avenues of collaboration in the areas of trade, investment, people-to-people contacts and regional connectivity.

The prime minister held a bilateral meeting with Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Akybek Japarov on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting, being held in Islamabad from 15-16 October, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister thanked Kyrgyz Republic's positive and active participation in the SCO CHG Meeting and appreciated Kyrgyz Republic's support extended to Pakistan as the SCO Chair.



The prime minister also recalled the warm and brotherly ties between the two countries and expressed satisfaction over the overall positive trajectory of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Akybek Japarov reciprocated Kyrgyz Republic's strong desire to continue working with Pakistan for enhancing bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit for the two countries. —RT/Agency

He thanked Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation.

## Former PM Abbasi Triumphs: Cleared In Illegal Recruitment Scandal

KARACHI: All the accused including former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi were acquitted in illegal recruitments in the PSO reference.

The NAB court heard the illegal appointment of the Managing Director of the PSO case.

The court approved the case withdrawing the application by the NAB. The judge also directed to remand the reference to the NAB chairman.

Those acquitted include former PSO MD Shaikh Imranul Haq, former Secretary Petroleum Arshad Mirza, and former MD Yaqoob Sattar.

The Accountability Court in Karachi accepted NAB's request to withdraw the reference regarding illegal recruitment in PSO. The court ordered the case to be sent back to the NAB Chairman.

Those acquitted are former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-MD PSO Sheikh Imran-ul-Haq, ex-



Secretary Petroleum Arshad Mirza, and ex-MD PSO Yaqoob Sattar.

Speaking to the media outside the court, Abbasi reiterated that NAB should be abolished for the country to advance.

He stressed the need for judicial reforms, noting that politically motivated cases are prolonged unnecessarily.

"The judge acquitted four of us today, but another accused has been facing the same court for 12 years. This was not a corruption case but

merely an allegation of misuse of authority," Abbasi said. He also criticized NAB for dragging the case for over four years and presenting only one witness.

Abbasi, who faced a similar case in the NAB court for nine years, called it a "happy day" but stressed that the flawed judicial system needs urgent reforms.

He affirmed his support for any political party committed to upholding the Constitution. —RT/Agency

## Hafiz Naeem Urges Bold Stance On Gaza at SCO Summit

FAISALABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization carries a significant opportunity for the country to showcase its soft image.

He said the issue of Gaza should also be discussed in the SCO moot.

He mentioned that only the Indian delegation would not talk about the Gaza situation and in so doing, they would isolate themselves as the Palestinian issue has become a burning issue requiring immediate solution.

Talking about the 'Haq Do Trehak', he said the government has given the time of 45 days to accept the demands of Ji. He added due to the pressure of the Ji protests, the government reduced the electricity price by Rs14.



The Ji chief also stressed that "the stance of Ji on the constitutional amendment package is clear from the day one as which is they should be discussed once the new chief justice takes oath." —RT/Agency

## 60 Years Of Friendship: Pakistan And Romania Celebrate Diplomatic Milestone

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office Spokesperson on Tuesday said that October 15 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Romania.

"This special occasion is a testament to the cordial and enduring friendship between our two nations over the decades, shaped by our common aspirations for promoting global peace, stability and development," the spokesperson said in a press release.

On this happy occasion, the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Romania exchanged congratulatory messages celebrating the shared achievements.

"The messages emphasized our commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation across various sectors in the interests of both nations," it was added.



Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, both countries had worked together to build a strong partnership across multiple areas for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

The mechanism of Bilateral Political Consultation provides a solid foundation for multifaceted dialogue, with the potential to deepen this longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship.

Additionally, Pakistan

and Romania have collaborated closely at international forums, including the United Nations.

To commemorate this occasion, a joint logo has been issued, which would be used by the Embassies of both countries for official communication throughout the year.

Both countries would organize a series of events to mark this historic occasion in a befitting manner. —RT/Agency

## SCO Set To Ignite Regional Economic Growth, Says Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Tuesday said that Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) would help boost economic activity among member states.

The discussion would also be made on the issues of climate change and economic challenges facing underdeveloped countries, she said while talking to a private television channel.



In reply to a question, she said that participants of the conference would

discuss climate change and economic connectivity. —RT/Agency

## Constitutional Amendments In Focus: Senate Session Set For October 17

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to get the 26th constitutional amendment passed from the Senate of Pakistan first as the upper house session is likely to be summoned on October 17, media reported citing sources. The National Assem-

bly (NA) session has already been summoned on October 18 for the passage of the proposed constitutional amendments. The federal government wants to get the constitutional amendments passed from the Senate a

the National Assembly on October 18.

On Monday, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the parties have reached near to a consensus over the constitutional amendments. —RT/Agency