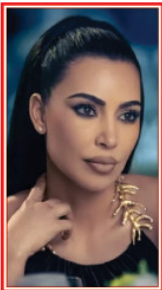


# REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



**Kim Kardashian Bids Farewell to Her 'People Pleaser' Era**

**Heartland**

**MNA Dr Nafisa Shah takes notice of dastardly assault on elderly woman**



**Money**

**-Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 620.23 points to close at 85,585.43**



**NATIONAL**

**CCPO: No Evidence Discovered In Private College Case**



**SPORTS**

**Mercurial Pakistan Crumbles at 221, England on Hunt for Victory in Second Test**



**Murad's Universities Revolution: Quality Education And Digital Exam Overhaul**

## Nawaz Calls For Cricket Diplomacy, Urges Peace with India In Meeting With Indian Journalists

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Nawaz Sharif met with a delegation of Indian journalists covering the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference, where he shared his thoughts on the restoration of Pakistan-India relations and cricketing ties.

The meeting took place in Lahore, with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also in attendance.

During the discussion, Nawaz expressed optimism about the potential for the SCO conference to serve as a starting point for improved relations between the two neighbours.

"If Pakistan-India relations improve, many things will get better," he stated. He further emphasised the importance of cricket diplomacy, suggesting that India's cricket team should participate in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan.



Reflecting on the tense history between the two nations, he added, "The past has been bitter, let's see what happens in the future." Maryam expressed a desire to visit India, stating, "I want to visit India Punjab to see the differences. Both sides have much to learn from each other." —RT/Agency

## Israel Boasts: 'We Took Out Hamas Boss Yahya Sinwar'

GAZA: Israel claimed on Thursday that its forces killed Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar in a Gaza operation, dealing a massive blow to the group it has been fighting since October 7, 2023.

"Eliminated: Yahya Sinwar," the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said in a post on X.

The military said that "after a year-long pursuit", soldiers "eliminated Yahya Sinwar... in an operation in the southern Gaza Strip" on Wednesday. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

"The mass murderer Yahya Sinwar, responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7th, was eliminated today by IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) soldiers," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a statement sent to media.

Israel earlier said it was checking whether it had successfully "eliminated" Sinwar in a Gaza operation, in what constitutes a massive blow against the group it has been fighting since last year's October 7 attack.

Israel accused Sinwar of



masterminding the attack and was hunting him down since the start of the Gaza conflict. Israel's raging military offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, including women and children.

Sinwar became the group's new leader after the killing of its former political

chief Ismail Haniyeh in July. Hamas and Iran blame Israel for Haniyeh's killing, but Israel has not commented on it.

Israel's announcement on Sinwar comes weeks after it assassinated Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a massive strike in Lebanon, where its military has been waging an offensive since late September. A slew of other Iran-backed commanders have also been killed in recent months.

With Hamas hugely weakened more than a year into the Gaza conflict, Sinwar's death deals a major blow to the organisation.

In a brief statement, the military earlier said that during "operations in the Gaza Strip, three terrorists were eliminated".

Israeli defence agencies "are checking the possibility that one of the terrorists was Yahya Sinwar. At this stage, the identity of the terrorists cannot be confirmed", the statement added.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that Israel would hunt down "every terrorist" after the military made its announcement. "We will reach every terrorist and eliminate them," Gallant wrote on social media platform X. US President Joe Biden was briefed about Air Force One while heading to Germany and was being kept informed of developments, a US official said.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz-Zardari Huddle: High-Stakes Talk On Constitutional Amendments

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met with President Asif Ali Zardari at the President house to discuss proposed constitutional amendments and the prevailing political situation.

The meeting on Thursday comes as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) step back from their earlier proposal to establish constitutional courts, media reported.

Moreover, during a special parliamentary committee meeting, chaired by Khurshid Shah, discussions were held on the 26th constitutional amendment draft.

According to sources, the governing coalition parties and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed to drop the proposed 26th constitutional amendment, which called for the creation of constitutional courts.

Instead, they reached a consensus on forming a constitutional bench.

The special committee meeting concluded with the government and JUI-F deciding to consult the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on a joint draft. JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman will share the finalised draft with PTI leadership, marking the



nearing completion of the amendment process.

However, Information Advisor for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Barrister Saif announced PTI will mount both legal and political resistance against the proposed constitutional amendment.

PTI lawmaker Barrister Saif labelled on Thursday that the current government is "illegitimate" and accused it of "attempting to secretly alter the constitution without public representation".

PTI's political committee has announced its decision to resist recent constitutional amendments and hold a nationwide protest this Friday, according to the Express-News.

The parliamentary committee will reconvene after Friday prayers to continue discussions on the draft.

Earlier today, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) amendments to 26th constitutional draft have been discarded.

The proposed amendments related to local government powers and funds have also been removed from the draft.

The ruling parties, Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), succeeded in convincing MQM. However, MQM's constitutional amendments will be considered in the next 27th constitutional amendment, with the party expressing agreement with the government's suggestions.—RT/Agency

## Akhtar Mengal's Dramatic Return: Will He Steer Through The Political Storm?



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Akhtar Mengal, leader of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), has decided to return to Pakistan in light of the country's current political situation, media learnt on Thursday.

According to sources, Mengal, who had resigned from the National Assembly in protest and left the country ahead of the constitutional amendments, is now planning to return due to the evolving political landscape.

He is expected to arrive in Islamabad tomorrow morning from Dubai and will announce his next steps after consultations.

Two days ago, Mengal claimed on social media that two of his party's senators were being harassed for not supporting the constitutional amendments. "In such a situation, our only option may be to ask both senators to resign," he stated.

A day before, Islamabad police had visited Mengal's apartment in the Parliament Lodges. BNP's acting president, Sajid Tareen, alleged that the police raided the flat, though Mengal was not present. The police, however, claimed they acted based on intelligence reports regarding the occupants of the apartment.

Tareen condemned the raid, asserting that such actions would not intimidate the BNP into supporting the government. He maintained that the party's senators would not yield to pressure during the judicial reforms voting.—RT/Agency

## Drama Unfolds: Government And Opposition Strike Deal On 'Constitutional Bench'

ISLAMABAD: All the political parties, including the opposition, have finally reached a consensus on the formation of a constitutional bench after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court, sources privy to the development claimed.

The matter, initially focused on the constitutional court, has now advanced to the formation of a constitutional bench, they told media on Thursday.

After high-level discussions, four leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the PPP claimed an agreement had been reached among all the political parties on the formation of the constitutional bench, as per the insiders.

This comes after another meeting of the special committee on constitutional amendments draft concluded on Thursday. The parliamentary committee's meeting has been adjourned till noon on Friday (tomorrow).

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling parties to begin a consultation process.



To pass the constitutional amendments, the government requires a two-thirds majority in parliament, with sources indicating a shortfall of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate.

In his remarks after today's meeting, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said the coalition government presented its third draft on the judicial package. In its third draft, the government had talked about a constitutional bench instead of court, he said.

"The government has not yet brought up its complete draft," he added.

The PTI chief said he would later hold a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the matter as well.

Earlier, the PTI chief claimed that the coalition government's seven members of the National Assembly (MNAs) would vote against the proposed constitutional amendments.

"The government's numbers are only complete in their books. The government neither consulted its members nor answered out of fear," he told Geo News.

He said he had received the news about the seven treasury benches members' refusal to cast vote from reliable sources.

"The government members said they will not vote even if they are disqualified," he said, adding that the legislators believe those voting in favour of the constitutional amendments would be doing so against their conscious.

Probably, he said, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatto Zardari also knew that parliamentary members of his own party were not going to vote for the amendment.

Talking to media, after conclusion of the meeting, PPP leader Syed Khurshid Shah said the constitutional amendments' draft would be completed in two days.

On PTI's opposition to the amendments, he said the PTI members of the committee, Gohar and Ayub, were helpless as they did not have a mandate.

"We repeatedly asked the PTI for a proposed draft but they have not yet presented their amendments," he said.—RT/Agency

## PM in High-Level Talks With SCO's Zhang Ming: Development On The Agenda

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Zhang Ming, to discuss Pakistan's leadership role in the organisation.

The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad, according to media.

Zhang Ming visited Pakistan to attend the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting.

During their discussion, the Prime Minister welcomed Zhang, recalling his visit to Pakistan in July 2022.

Shehbaz expressed gratitude for the support provided by the SCO Secretariat for the upcoming CHG meeting.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the SCO charter, the Prime Minister



assured Zhang that Pakistan would continue to work diligently to promote the organisation's developmental priorities for the benefit of member states and the wider region.

He further emphasised that Pakistan aims to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the SCO in collaboration with member nations.

Zhang congratulated Prime Minister on the successful organisation of the CHG meeting and commended Pakistan's constructive contributions across all SCO sectors.—RT/Agency

## Senate Applauds Government Over SCO Summit Triumph



ISLAMABAD: Senate on Thursday passed a resolution felicitating the government for successfully holding the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in federal capital.

PPP Senator Sherry Rehman tabled the resolution in the upper house of the parliament. The resolution stated that the mega event will have positive impact on Pakistan's growing geo-economic profile.

It added that SCO huddle would also play a key role in enhancing regional connectivity, investment, infrastructure, climate and security goals.

The Senate also approved the Deposit Protection Corporation Amendment Bill, 2024, presented by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

In his remarks, the finance minister said the bill would further strengthen the financial system in the country.

A bill related to Establishment of Special Court (Overseas Pakistanis Property) was also sailed through the Senate after it was tabled by Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Husain.—RT/Agency

## Finance Minister Updates US Ambassador On Pakistan's Economic Makeover

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday reiterated the government's resolve to carry on with broad-based reforms on taxation, energy and state-owned enterprise (SOE) fronts. The minister was talking to United States (US) Ambassador Donald Blome who called on him and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation, said a news release.

Aurangzeb said the government was committed to raising the country's tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to 13.5 per cent by plugging leakages and bringing untaxed sectors in the net. He said the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved a comprehensive transformation plan for Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and brought in experts on the Board of PRAL (IT arm of



FBR) The minister called the macroeconomic reforms "work in progress" and pointed to more serious challenges of climate change and child stunting which threatened to perpetuate inequalities and disrupt the pace of economic growth and stability in Pakistan over the medium to long term.

Pakistan looked forward to build climate resilience through adaptation reforms and averting malnutrition with the technical and financial support of development partners for ensuring holistic development goals, he added. US Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's efforts for improving macroeconomic stability and lauded the government for initiating challenging and bold reforms, particularly in the taxation and energy sectors. He reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in technical and development initiatives, and promoting high-quality US investment for economic growth of Pakistan.—RT/Agency



# THE HEARTLAND



**GARHI KHUDA BUX:** Leaders and activists of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) shower rose petals and offer Fateha for the martyrs of the 2007 Karsaz carnage on the 17th anniversary of the tragic event, at the graves in Garhi Khuda Bux. -RT

## MNA Dr Nafisa Shah takes notice of dastardly assault on elderly woman

By Naz Solangi

**KUMB:** In response to the viral video and extensive media coverage, MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah has taken decisive action regarding the assault on an elderly woman from the minority Bagri community. The incident, which has drawn widespread condemnation, prompted Dr. Shah to engage with local authorities to ensure justice is served.



Following directives from SSP Khairpur Samiullah Soomro, a formal case has been registered against the accused, Ghulam Murtaza Brohi, a PPP District Council member and influential landlord. Authorities have acted swiftly, resulting in Brohi's arrest. He is now in police custody, handcuffed and facing legal proceedings. The assault has ignited significant outrage among civil society groups and women's organizations, who are calling for stringent action against Brohi. Advocates for women's rights have expressed their deep concern over the incident, emphasizing the need for accountability and stronger protections for vulnerable community members.

Dr. Nafisa Shah's intervention underscores the importance of addressing violence against women, particularly in marginalized communities. Her commitment to justice reflects a broader movement within society to challenge abuses of power and protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of their background. The incident has sparked a renewed dialogue about the safety and rights of women in the region, prompting calls for systemic change to prevent future occurrences of such violence. Community leaders and activists continue to rally support, demanding that authorities take meaningful steps to ensure justice is served and that those in positions of power are held accountable for their actions.

## Population Welfare Dept organizes a Family Health Mela in Kotri

By Shaikh Sindhi

**KOTRI:** The Population Welfare Department of Jamshoro successfully held a one-day family health fair in the Railway Colony of Kotri, a community-centered initiative inaugurated by officials including District Demographer Abdul Ghaffar Sherani. The fair drew a significant number of women and children from nearby villages, eager to take advantage of the health services offered.



Medical professionals were on hand to provide consultations, medications, and free health tests, ensuring that attendees received essential healthcare support. In addition to the medical services, participants were given gifts and health awareness materials, reinforcing the importance of health education within the community.

Health fairs, conducted under the guidance of Sindh's Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, foster greater awareness of family planning resources.

The Family Health Mela served not only as a platform for medical assistance but also as a vital community engagement effort, promoting health and wellness among families in Kotri and surrounding areas. The success of the fair reflects the dedication of local officials and healthcare providers to address the pressing health needs of the community, paving the way for a healthier future.

Sherani also emphasized the department's commitment to reaching remote areas, ensuring that local support enhances access to health services. By organizing such events, the Population Welfare Department aims to improve community health outcomes and foster greater awareness of family planning resources.



**HYDERABAD:** Residents of Tando Hyder are staging a protest against the high-handed actions of land grabbers, at the Hyderabad Press Club. -RT

## Deputy Director Fisheries Muhammad Azam Ansari passes away

By AQ Khilji

**PIR JO GOTH:** Muhammad Azam Ansari, the Deputy Director of Fisheries, has passed away after a prolonged illness. His demise has left a significant void in the community, as he was widely respected for his contributions to the field of fisheries and his dedication to public service.



The funeral prayer was attended by a large gathering, including leaders from various political, social, and business organizations, as well as numerous community members who came to pay their respects. The outpouring of support highlights the impact Ansari had on those around him. Following the prayers, he was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Kalri, where friends and family gathered to bid their final farewells. His commitment to his work and the community will be remembered by all who knew him.

## Sindh Ombudsman's Regional Director visits Civil Hospital Ghotki

By Shad Mahar

**GHOTKI:** In a proactive effort to improve healthcare services, Gul Hassan Shaikh, the Regional Director of Ghotki, recently visited the Ghotki Civil Hospital following directives from the Sindh Ombudsman. The visit aimed to assess patient conditions and identify pressing issues within the facility.

During his time at the hospital, Shaikh conducted thorough inspections of various wards, engaging directly with patients to understand their concerns and challenges. He emphasized that this visit was part of an initiative led by Ombudsman Muhammad Sohail Rajput to review the conditions of government hospitals and address patient complaints effectively.

Highlighting the importance of timely responses to public grievances, Shaikh encouraged citizens to report any issues they encounter with government institutions. He stressed that addressing these problems promptly is vital for ensuring justice and improving the overall quality of healthcare services.

Furthermore, Shaikh took the opportunity to instruct the Medical Superintendent to ensure that all doctors and staff adhere strictly to their responsibilities, emphasizing the need for timely medical care for all patients. His visit underscores the commitment of the Ombudsman's office to enhance healthcare services in the region and to ensure that citizens receive the quality care they deserve.

The Regional Director's engagement with both patients and hospital staff reflects a dedication to fostering accountability and transparency within government healthcare institutions, ultimately aiming to improve the wellbeing of the community in Ghotki.

## Tando Allahyar Police arrest 842 suspects during ongoing anti-crime operations

By Afaque Khanzada

**TANDO ALLAHYAR:** In a concerted effort to combat crime, the Tando Allahyar police have successfully arrested 842 suspects as part of a series of anti-crime operations initiated under the direction of DIG Hyderabad Range, Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, and implemented by SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi. These operations have focused on tackling drug dealers, habitual offenders, and the trafficking of illegal substances over the past six months.

From April 11, 2024, to October 15, 2024, the police conducted extensive operations, resulting in the registration of 514 cases. The crackdown has yielded significant quantities of contraband, including the seizure of 54 kg of hashish and 9,427 kg of raw materials used in drug production. Additionally, authorities confiscated a staggering 333,850 pieces of Indian Safina Gutka and 6,943 liters of locally-produced alcohol.

In a further effort to dismantle illegal operations, law enforcement officials seized 571 grams of ice/heroin, 39,385 pieces of mainpuri, and 12,380 pieces of mawa gutka. The operations also led to the recovery of 39 motorcycles, two four-wheel vehicles, and 36 illegal firearms, indicating a robust response to both drug-related crimes and violent offenses in the district.

These operations reflect the police department's commitment to enhancing public safety and reducing crime rates in Tando Allahyar.

The continued focus on eradicating illegal substances and apprehending offenders is seen as a crucial step in fostering a safer environment for residents. The police leadership has emphasized the importance of community cooperation in these efforts, urging citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities.



**HYDERABAD:** Senior Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, is reviewing arrangements for an upcoming public gathering of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). -RT

## PPP MPA Pir Mujib pays tribute to Karsaz martyrs

By Javed Laghari

**DADU:** In a poignant public gathering at the Pir House, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MPA Barrister Pir Mujibul Haq paid tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz incident, reflecting on the tragic events that were intended to assassinate Shaheed Mohtama Benazir Bhutto. Although she survived, the attack tragically claimed the lives of numerous devoted party workers, whose sacrifices remain deeply honored by the party and its supporters.



During his address, Mujibul Haq announced that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead a public rally in Hyderabad on October 18 to honor these martyrs. The rally is expected to attract a substantial turnout from the Dadu area, underscoring the unwavering support for the party and its leadership. He mentioned that a convoy of 200 vehicles is set to travel from various towns in Dadu to participate in this significant event, illustrating the enthusiasm and dedication of local party workers and citizens eager to welcome their leader.

The gathering served as both a remembrance of the Karsaz martyrs and a rallying point for the party's ongoing mission to engage with and support the community. The forthcoming rally in Hyderabad is anticipated to further energize the party's base, reinforcing their commitment to the principles and vision of the PPP and ensuring that the sacrifices of their martyrs are not forgotten.

Municipal Committee Dadu Chairman Pir Danial Ali reinforced these sentiments, emphasizing the commitment of both Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former President Asif Ali Zardari to public service. He highlighted their steadfast dedication to the vision established by party leaders, which continues to produce positive outcomes for the community. Ali affirmed that the PPP has consistently advocated for the rights of minority communities and remains dedicated to addressing the legitimate concerns of the public.

## Nauabad laborers carry a 100 kilo rice bag by foot to Bhitshah

By Imtiaz Ali Laskani

**NAUABAD:** In a remarkable display of dedication and devotion, laborers from Nauabad undertook the arduous task of carrying a 100 kg bag of rice on their shoulders for an impressive 70 kilometers to the shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (RA). This annual journey, which symbolizes their respect and love for their spiritual guide, reflects the deep-rooted traditions of the community.



As the laborers approached Bhitshah, they were greeted with heartfelt enthusiasm by local residents, who celebrated their efforts by showering them with rose petals and presenting them with traditional Sindh gifts, including the iconic Ajrak. The warm welcome underscored the community's appreciation for the laborers' commitment and perseverance.

Under the leadership of local figures like Abdul Haq Laskani and other respected community leaders, this annual celebration has become a cherished tradition. The laborers expressed that despite the challenges they face in making ends meet, their profound love for Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (RA) motivates them to embark on this journey each year. They noted that decorating the rice bag incurs costs ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 rupees, but the spiritual fulfillment they gain from this act far outweighs the financial burden.

The event is not just a physical journey; it embodies a deep sense of community, devotion, and cultural heritage. The laborers' unwavering commitment to honoring their spiritual guide serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring bonds of faith and tradition that unite the people of the region.

To support the laborers on their challenging journey, several water stations were set up along the route, ensuring that they remained hydrated and refreshed. The initiative demonstrates the community's solidarity and commitment to aiding those who undertake this noble pilgrimage.



**HYDERABAD:** Members and leaders of the All Sindh Law Students Association are holding a protest at the Hyderabad Press Club, for the acceptance of their demands. -RT



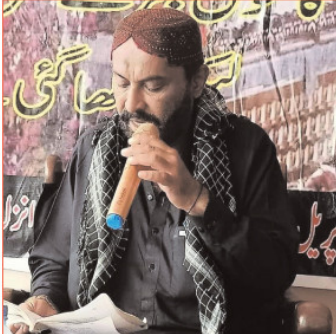
# THE HEARTLAND



## Women's participation is crucial for success of any movement: Syed Mehdi Shah Kazmi

By Dilidar Samo

TANDO ADAM: At a gathering held at the Syeda Umul Baneen (SA) Azakhana, Syed Mehdi Shah Kazmi, the head of the Shia Ulama Council, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the vital role of women's participation in the success of any movement. His remarks resonated deeply with the audience, as he called upon women to embrace the legacies of Syeda Zainab bint Ali (SA) and Syeda Umul Baneen (SA) in the face of contemporary Western influences and to become advocates for their rights.



Kazmi articulated that the Battle of Karbala serves as a profound example of the triumph of the weak over the powerful, establishing the enduring principle that "Truth is Power." He emphasized that the legacy of Karbala is not merely historical; it continues to safeguard the essence of Islam and its values. He urged women to draw inspiration from this pivotal event, encouraging them to incorporate its lessons into their daily lives.

In his address, Kazmi highlighted the importance of embodying the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) in action, emphasizing that women should reflect these values in their character and actions. By doing so, they can foster a strong sense of community and resilience in the face of societal challenges. He reiterated that women have always played a crucial role in shaping movements, and their active involvement is essential for bringing about meaningful change.

## Annual Urs of Shaheed Dado Khair Muhammad (RA) kicks off in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The three-day annual Urs of Shaheed Dado Khair Muhammad (RA) has commenced with vibrant enthusiasm, drawing visitors from all corners of Sindh to celebrate this significant event. The festival kicked off with a ceremonial inauguration led by Sobhodero Vice Chairman Habibullah Sehto, who was joined by media leaders and prominent political figures. Together, they honored the memory of Shaheed Dado Khair Muhammad (RA) by laying a chadar at the shrine and offering heartfelt prayers for the departed soul.



This year's Urs features a variety of activities designed to engage the community, especially children. The event includes fun-filled swings and stalls offering a delightful selection of sweets and snacks, creating a festive atmosphere for families attending the celebrations.

One of the highlights of the Urs is the traditional wrestling competition, which has attracted talented wrestlers from both Sindh and Punjab. The matches have been fiercely contested, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. Notable wrestlers, including Gulab Channa and Nazeer Bhagat, have participated, thrilling the audience with their performances. Winners of the wrestling matches were recognized for their outstanding talent, receiving accolades and cash prizes from local leaders such as Habibullah Sehto and Kandiro Khan Sehto. Their recognition serves to encourage local talent and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the region.

## Lack of facilities at Chundko Nara Degree College decried

By Gada Hussain Bhanbho

NARO: The establishment of a degree college in Chundko Nara, a significant achievement spearheaded by local youth, marks a promising development in the region's educational landscape. However, the college is currently grappling with a critical shortage of basic facilities, which poses a serious challenge to its educational mission.



Despite the college's potential to shape a brighter future for students, it is severely lacking in essential amenities. There are inadequate classrooms, insufficient laboratories, and the absence of a library, all of which are vital for fostering a conducive learning environment. These deficiencies are not only hindering educational activities but also limiting students' ability to gain a comprehensive education. Adding to the challenges, the college is facing a shortage of qualified teachers, further exacerbating the situation. Principal Abdul Hamid Sehto expressed

his concerns regarding the impact of these facility shortages on the quality of education provided. He highlighted that the college's establishment is a major milestone, but without modern educational tools and skilled instructors, students are at a disadvantage when it comes to excelling in higher education and competing effectively in a rapidly evolving world. The local community has also voiced their frustration over these shortcomings, demanding immediate action from relevant authorities to improve conditions at the college. Parents and community leaders are united in their calls for the necessary resources to be allocated, ensuring that Chundko Nara Degree College can fulfill its promise as a hub of higher education and provide students with the opportunities they deserve. As the community rallies for change, there is hope that timely interventions will enhance the educational experience and equip students for future challenges.

## SUP's KN Shah chapter protests against registration of cases

By Ayaz Burio



KN SHAH: The Sindh United Party (SUP) organized a protest rally from their office to the press club, voicing their concerns over what they claim are false cases filed against their leader Ghulam Qadir Laghari and several others. The rally specifically targeted SHO Johi, Qurban Qamrani, for his alleged misconduct in handling the situation. SUP District Secretary Nazir Ahmed Babar, accompanied by Taluka President Ghulam Muhammad Gadi and other prominent party leaders, led the rally. They demanded that the Sindh Inspector General (IG) and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dadu take immediate action to dismiss the SHO and drop the charges against their party members.

The protest reflects the growing tensions between political parties and law enforcement in the region, highlighting the broader issues of accountability and justice within the community. As the SUP continues to rally support, the pressure mounts on local authorities to address their grievances and restore faith in the legal system. The protest also serves as a reminder of the party's commitment to transparency and accountability, and its determination to stand up against perceived injustices and to protect their party members.

## Controversial police encounter claims life of Tando Adam law student

By Mumtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: In a tragic turn of events, 20-year-old Sajjan Malookani, a law student from Tando Adam, was reportedly killed by police during a controversial encounter in Rahimiyar Khan. The shocking news of his death has sparked outrage among his family and the local community, prompting them to mobilize as they make their way to collect his body. Sajjan had been missing for 14 months, during which his family tirelessly protested across various cities in Sindh, advocating for his safe return. His mother, Lakhi, wife of Ali Dost Malookani, had taken her fight to the legal arena by filing a petition in the Sindh High Court through Advocate Mohib Ali Azad, alleging that her son had been forcibly taken.

His brother, Rawal Malookani, confirmed that Sajjan had been shot six days prior, and his body was subsequently found at the morgue of Rahimiyar Khan Civil Hospital. Frustration mounted within the family as they faced delays in the police's release of the body, which took over ten hours following identification. The family plans to lay Sajjan to rest in their village, Dhani Bus Malookani, Rawal emphasized that his brother had no political affiliations and was solely dedicated to his studies. He further noted that a petition regarding Sajjan's abduction had already been submitted to the Hyderabad High Court, reflecting the family's ongoing struggle for justice. This incident has raised serious concerns about police conduct and the handling of encounters, igniting calls for accountability and reform within law enforcement. The Malookani family's tragedy highlights the broader issues of enforced disappearances and the need for greater protections for individuals, particularly those who are vulnerable.

# CENTRAL PUNJAB

## Veteran Journalist Mehmood Chaudhry Launches Fierce Critique Against Punjab Info Minister's Threats To Press

TOBA TEK SINGH: Senior journalist Abid Mehmood Chaudhry criticized the threats against journalists from Punjab's Minister of Information, Uzma Bukhari, ahead of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's press conference. He asserted that unselected individuals impose fear, but the truth will prevail. Chaudhry emphasized that the journalistic community has historically resisted dictatorship, highlighting that threats from the powerful will not deter those committed to truth.



He warned that if the government does not act against such intimidation, it will only embolden these threats further. He called on journalists to boycott coverage related to Uzma Bukhari and her associates, and no one can dictate livelihoods.—RT

age related to Uzma Bukhari and her associates, and no one can dictate livelihoods.—RT

## Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi Hosts Groundbreaking Open Katchery: A Direct Line To The Public

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In line with the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the implementation of public dealing hours is underway. Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi addressed citizens' issues in his office during these designated hours. He issued orders based on the citizens' requests and asked for follow-up reports. The commissioner stated that public dealing hours have been established as per the Chief Minister's instructions, mandating all department heads to listen to citizens' problems and complaints from 10 am to 11:30 am. He emphasized that during these hours, meetings, field visits, and other commitments should be set aside. Citizens are encouraged to approach the relevant offices during this time for assistance. Strict departmental action will be taken against any officer absent during these hours or if issues remain unresolved.



## IG Punjab Unveils Cutting-Edge Safe City Tech In Powerful Address To Officers

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

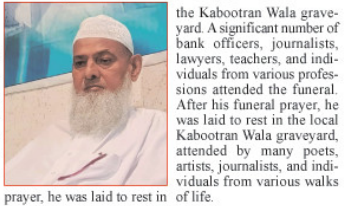
GUJRANWALA: During a study visit to the Central Police Office, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar addressed officers from the National Institute of Management, emphasizing the Punjab Police's commitment to enhancing public service delivery alongside crime suppression. He noted that policing has improved through effective information technology use and highlighted upcoming IT reforms. Dr. Anwar announced that by June of next year, all districts in the province would transition to Safe City Technology at a low cost, which will enhance policing, anti-crime efforts, and traffic management. The delegation, which included 13 officers (5 women) participating in the 41st Mid-Career Management Course, received insights into various Punjab Police operations, including the Police Station Record Management System and Virtual Women Police Station. Additional IG Operations Punjab provided an overview of public service projects, while IG Welfare Ghazi Salahuddin discussed welfare measures for the police force. The officers also toured other facilities, including the Police Museum.

problems and complaints from 10 am to 11:30 am. He emphasized that during these hours, meetings, field visits, and other commitments should be set aside. Citizens are encouraged to approach the relevant offices during this time for assistance. Strict departmental action will be taken against any officer absent during these hours or if issues remain unresolved.

## Respected Banker Naseer Ahmed Passes Away In Gojra, Leaving Community In Mourning

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In Gojra, Naseer Ahmed, former Manager of the Agricultural Development Bank and a well-known hockey player, passed away yesterday after a short illness. He was known for his kind-hearted nature and was well-loved with a wide circle of friends. Following a large funeral prayer, he was laid to rest in the Kabotran Wala graveyard. A significant number of bank officers, journalists, lawyers, teachers, and individuals from various professions attended the funeral. After his funeral prayer, he was laid to rest in the local Kabotran Wala graveyard, attended by many poets, artists, journalists, and individuals from various walks of life.



## Construction of roads demanded in Badah

By Ibrahim Farooqui

BADAH: The condition of the main road from Badah to Dokri and the Gujhar-Sehwani link road has deteriorated significantly, causing considerable hardship for local residents. The roads are in a state of disrepair, making daily travel for the inhabitants of hundreds of surrounding villages increasingly difficult. Efforts were initiated to address this pressing issue, with work begun on the construction of these vital roads. However, progress has come to a standstill after only the unloading of stones, leaving the project halted for the past year. This delay has prompted widespread complaints from residents who rely on these routes for their daily commutes and transportation needs. Local civil society leaders have rallied to highlight this issue, calling on higher authorities to take immediate notice of the situation. They are urging the government to prioritize the completion of these road constructions to facilitate smoother and safer travel for the people of Badah. The community's call for action reflects their determination to improve infrastructure that is crucial for economic development and connectivity in the region. Ensuring the timely construction of these roads is essential for alleviating the hardships faced by the residents and enhancing their quality of life.

## SHRC Chairman Iqbal Detho meets with Shikarpur residents

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: In a significant gathering held at the Gymkhana Club, Sindh Human Rights Commission Chairman Iqbal Detho addressed concerns raised by residents of Shikarpur. Citizens voiced their frustrations over pressing issues affecting the community, including pervasive insecurity, administrative incompetence, rampant banditry, extortion, and the inadequate healthcare services provided by the Civil Hospital. During the meeting, participants highlighted the deteriorating conditions at the hospital, where they reported not only a lack of essential medical supplies but also poor treatment and morale among the medical staff. In response to these serious complaints, Detho emphasized the need for immediate action to address these concerns. Following the meeting, Detho and his team conducted an on-site visit to the Civil Hospital and the Bedi Qadir Bus Library. There, they gathered firsthand accounts from affected individuals regarding the mismanagement that has plagued these institutions. Speaking to the media, Detho did not hold back in his criticism, describing the conditions at the Civil Hospital as reminiscent of an "animal enclosure" rather than a facility meant for healing and care. He underscored the urgency of reforming healthcare in the region and pledged to take the necessary steps to ensure accountability and improvement in the services provided to the citizens of Shikarpur. The meeting and subsequent visit underscore the commission's commitment to addressing human rights concerns and improving living conditions for the residents of Shikarpur.







## Canada Must Stand Firm Against India's Rogue Behavior

Canada's strong stance against India's alleged involvement in the murder of a Sikh leader on Canadian soil marks a critical moment. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement that India made a "horrific mistake" by interfering so aggressively underscores the need for Western nations to prioritize sovereignty and security over economic enticements. For too long, India's strategic importance as a large market has allowed it to evade scrutiny over questionable actions, from its aggressive posture in Kashmir to crackdowns on dissenting voices abroad. But now, Canada's resolve signals a necessary shift.

India's alleged actions reflect a disturbing pattern, reminiscent of strategies employed by Israel in targeting perceived threats beyond its



borders. This "rogue state" behavior, if left unchecked, sets a dangerous precedent where powerful nations can operate with impunity on foreign soil, violating international norms and threatening the safety of dissidents worldwide. By expelling Indian diplomats, Canada has sent a message that such actions will not be tolerated. However, more than symbolic gestures

are needed; Canada must lead efforts to hold India accountable through international diplomatic pressure and alliances. Western powers must no longer turn a blind eye in exchange for economic ties. Upholding the rule of law and respecting the sovereignty of nations should be non-negotiable principles. India's denial of wrongdoing and subsequent expulsion of Canadian diplomats only deepens the need for a unified global response. Canada's leadership in this matter could set the stage for other nations to join in demanding accountability. The world must take a stand: national sovereignty cannot be compromised, no matter how tempting the economic gains may be.

## THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Young Doctors Association (YDA) are protesting at the Hyderabad Press Club, seeking justice for Dr. Shah Nawaz Kunbhar, who was tragically murdered.-RT

## Reception hosted for students at SEF's Shaheed Rani Public School in Umerkot



UMERKOT: The Foundation Assisted Shaheed Rani Public School, operating under the Sindh Education Foundation, hosted a special ceremony in Hajji Muhammad Yousif Lashari village to celebrate the achievements of students and teachers who excelled in the IBA assessment test.



By Muhammad Bachal

In his address, Altaf Hussain Sehto highlighted the significance of this milestone, commending the capable students for their hard work and the dedication of their teachers. He acknowledged that this success is a testament to the collective efforts of both students and educators, emphasizing their commitment to excellence. Headmaster Sadaam Hussain Lashari also spoke at the ceremony, reiterating that the outstanding results were made possible through the combined dedication and perseverance of everyone involved. The event served not only as a celebration of academic achievement but also as a motivation for future endeavors within the educational community.

## Sanghar man demands justice after being harassed by extortionist

By Farooq Bugti

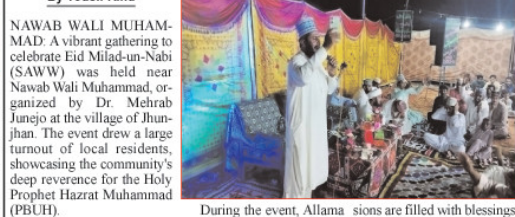
Assistant Commissioner clarified that only individuals with legal documentation have the right to fish in the pond. Shah produced his land papers, but Arisar advised him that fishing must be halted due to an ongoing case in the ADC court. Frustrated, Shah asked the Assistant Commissioner of unlawfully preventing him from fishing without any official notice, asserting that he has valid documentation for his land. He has taken his appeal for justice to the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court and other higher authorities, seeking relief from what he describes as unjust treatment.



LARKANA: Director of the Excise and Taxation Department, Larkana, Sher Muhammad Shaikh, is addressing the media about his department's process during a press conference. -RT

## Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebrated with religious fervor in Nawab Wali Muhammad

By Yousif Rind



NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A vibrant gathering to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) was held near Nawab Wali Muhammad, organized by Dr. Mehrab Junejo at the village of Jhunjhan. The event drew a large turnout of local residents, showcasing the community's deep reverence for the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). The celebration featured renowned Naat reciters, including Maulana Hafiz Liaquat Ali Naqshbandi delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the significance of the month of Rabi-ul-Awal as a time to celebrate the arrival of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). He also noted that this month holds a special place in the hearts of Muslims as it commemorates the legacy of Syed Abdul Qadir Jilani, highlighting that both occasions are filled with blessings and honor for the faithful.

The gathering concluded on a generous note with the distribution of food (langar), reinforcing the spirit of community and sharing that characterizes such celebrations. The event served not only as a tribute to the Prophet but also as a reminder of the values of unity, compassion, and generosity that he embodied.

By Khair Muhammad Golo

Muhammad Noonari and Faiz Muhammad Noonari, who criticized the lack of progress in the investigation. They raised serious concerns over the suspects, who they allege have been harassing them since their release on bail, further compounding their distress. The demonstrators called on authorities to take immediate and decisive action against those involved in Hafiz Moazam Noonari's murder. Their chants echoed a collective demand for accountability and justice, beloved community figures, including protesters warning member.

## Roohani Tulba Jamaat organizes career counseling program in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro



LARKANA: A significant career counseling program was successfully organized by the Roohani Tulba Jamaat Pakistan in the vibrant district of Larkana on Thursday. This event was not just an ordinary session; it was a celebration of achievement, marking the 49th anniversary of the Roohani Tulba Jamaat Pakistan. The gathering took place in the esteemed auditorium of the central Shah Nawaz Bhutto Memorial Library, a fitting venue that symbolizes the rich cultural and educational heritage of Larkana city. The event attracted a distinguished assembly of attendees, including prominent figures such as Central President Advocate Shakil Ahmed Rahujo, Senior Vice President Muhammad Sadiq, Central Finance Secretary Fahim Akhtar Sheikh, Provincial President Haq Nawaz Memon, and Provincial Auditor Amir Hussain Panwar. These leaders were joined by various notable educational, social, and political figures from the Larkana region, all united in their commitment to fostering a supportive environment for the youth. The program commenced with a warm welcome speech delivered by Sher Muhammad Bhutto, the President of the Roohani Tulba Jamaat in

## Talhar residents condemn prolonged power outages

TALHAR: The power crisis in Talhar has reached alarming levels, with residents enduring daily load shedding that exceeds the scheduled hours. Reports indicate that electricity is unavailable for as long as 16 to 18 hours, often under the pretext of ongoing repairs, significantly disrupting local businesses and daily life. Frustrated citizens have pointed fingers at the inefficiency of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) administration, claiming that instead of addressing the rampant power theft issues, HESCO is imposing excessive billing on the already burdened residents. The local community has united in urging the HESCO chief to take immediate action to eliminate power theft and put an end to the unscheduled load shedding. They are calling for measures that would restore a sense of normalcy and allow residents to enjoy uninterrupted electricity, especially during the night. As the situation escalates, the citizens of Talhar remain hopeful that their voices will be heard, leading to much-needed reforms in the power supply system and ensuring a more reliable service.—RT



# SPORTS



## Kohli Dethrones Dhoni as India's Ultimate Ironman



Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli has added another achievement to his name by becoming the second most capped player in India's cricket history.

Kohli overtook former captain MS Dhoni, making his 536th international appearance during the first Test against New Zealand. Dhoni, who played 535 matches for India between 2004 and 2019, now sits in third place.

The only player ahead of Kohli in terms of international caps is the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who played a record-breaking 664 matches across all formats from 1989 to 2013.

Kohli, who has already represented India in 115 Test matches, has scored 8,947 runs, including 29 centuries and 30 half-centuries.

Close behind Kohli are current Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, with 486 matches, and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, with 346 appearances.

If India manages to sweep the three-Test series against New Zealand, they will only need to win one match in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar series against Australia to secure their place in the WTC final.—Agency

## Mercurial Pakistan Crumbles at 221, England on Hunt for Victory in Second Test

Spinners Shaohab Bashir and Jack Leach shared seven wickets to bowl Pakistan out for 221 on the third day in Multan, setting England a target of 297 to win the second Test.

Bashir finished with 4-66 while Leach grabbed 3-67 but Pakistan were lifted from a precarious 134-5 by Salman Agha (63) and Sajid Khan (22) with a 65-run ninth-wicket stand.

The hosts made 366 in their first knock.

Brydon Carse ended Salman's innings in 58th over, who also grabbed the key wicket of wicketkeeper-cum-batsman Mohammad Rizwan in 31st over.

Pakistan off-spinner Sajid took 7-111, his second five-wicket haul, to bowl England out for 291 on a pitch — also used for the first Test — offering a sharp



turn.

On a track where the ball turned sharply and shot-making was difficult, England off-spinner Shaohab Bashir then delivered three huge blows to keep England in the contest.

England captain Ben Stokes stayed with spin even when Leach had to be rested, pressing part-time off-spinner Joe Root into service.

Bashir drew first blood when he had Pakistan opener Abdullah Shafique caught behind for four. England successfully reviewed the original not-out decision and replays confirmed the faintest of edges.

Bashir dismissed Shan Masood for 11 after the

Pakistan captain tried to flick a ball only to offer an edge to Ollie Pope at second slip.

Saim looked comfortable before falling to the same Pope-Bashir combination in the final delivery before the lunch break.

Saud Shakeel (10\*) and Mohammad Rizwan (0\*) are currently on the crease after lunch with the score at 77-4 after Kamran was dismissed at 26.

England had earlier resumed on 239-6 and lost their remaining four wickets in the first hour to concede a first-innings lead of 75 to the hosts.

Left-arm spinner Noman Ali claimed the remaining three as England lost all 10 wickets to Pakistan's spin-heavy attack, which has Aamer Jamal as the lone seamer.—Agency

## Major Shake-Up: PCB Cuts Captain and Head Coach Out of Selection Process



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has made a major overhaul to its selection process, granting full authority to a newly appointed five-member committee, after Pakistan's heavy defeat in the first Test in Multan, which led to the appointment of the new captain and head coach.

Several notable players, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Naseem Shah, have been stripped of their voting rights, leaving the selectors with the exclusive power to decide the playing eleven for upcoming matches.

Joining Javed on the selection panel are Aleem Dar, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, and Hassan Cheema, who will have the final say on team composition.

While they are expected to consult with the captain and coach, all decisions will rest solely with the selectors. This restructuring reduces the size of the selection committee from seven to five members and aims to streamline the decision-making process.

This shake-up comes after Pakistan's heavy defeat in the first Test in Multan, which led to the appointment of the new captain and head coach.

Several notable players, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Naseem Shah, have been rested, with new players like Haseebullah, Kamran Gulam, and Mehran Muztaz included in the squad.

The PCB also made further adjustments to the non-voting positions within the committee, removing the captain, head coach, and other advisory roles from the selection process altogether. A PCB official confirmed that the current structure is final and aims to provide clarity and accountability in team selection moving forward.—Agency

## India Hits Rock Bottom with Third-Lowest Test Total Against New Zealand

India were bowled out for a paltry 46, their third-lowest Test total and their lowest on home soil, as New Zealand's pace bowlers ran amok in overcast conditions on the second day of the rain-hit opening Test on Thursday.

In conditions more reminiscent of Christchurch than Karnataka, Matt Henry batted 5-15 while fellow speedster William O'Rourke sparked in his first game in India with 4-22 to skittle the hosts shortly after lunch.

The 46 runs were the fewest in an innings by any team playing in India, well short of the 62 the Black Caps managed against the hosts at Mumbai three years ago.

India's previous worst total at home was the 75 they made against West Indies in New Delhi in 1987.



After the opening day was washed out, Rohit Sharma raised eyebrows by opting to bat first in a seamer-friendly environment under lights at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, and was fortunate to survive a loud appeal for lbw from Henry in the morning.

The skipper did not last long at the crease as Tim Southee castled him with a delivery that nipped back in. The Black Caps then landed two more heavy blows by dismissing Virat Kohli and Sarfaraz Khan for ducks in successive overs.

Kohli, in at number three after Shubman Gill was ruled out with injury, was caught at leg gully by a diving Glenn Phillips after O'Rourke got one to move back in towards the veteran batsman's ribcage.

Sarfaraz Khan fell to Henry thanks to a stunning catch by Devon Conway at

mid-off, leaving the hosts teetering at 10-3.

New Zealand could have had a fourth wicket shortly after a brief rain interruption but for some sloppy wicketkeeping by Tom Blundell, who dropped a simple chance to hand Rishabh Pant a lifeline when the left-hander was on seven.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was not as fortunate when a well-timed cut off O'Rourke went straight to Ajaz Patel, before the impressive pacer-man sent back KL Rahul for a duck.

Henry compounded India's woes by removing Ravindra Jadeja for another duck, the fourth of the innings before lunch, and then added Ravichandran Ashwin to that list in the first ball after the break.—Agency

## Gaddafi Stadium to Expand for Record-Breaking Champions Trophy 2025



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a substantial increase in the spectator capacity at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. The iconic stadium, which currently accommodates 21,000 fans, will see its capacity doubled to 34,000 ahead of the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Jawaid Qazi Ahmed, the PCB's Director of Infrastructure, revealed that construction work is underway around the clock to achieve this expansion.

The project, estimated to cost Rs7.5 billion, is expected to be completed by December 31, 2024. To improve viewing angles, trees are being removed, and enclosures are being brought closer to the pitch.

With the ICC delegation scheduled to visit Pakistan in late October or early November, the PCB is working diligently to ensure that Gaddafi Stadium is ready to host international cricket matches.

The upcoming Champions Trophy, to be held from February 19 to March 9, will serve as a major test for the expanded stadium.

Pakistan is grouped with India, Bangladesh, and New Zealand in Group A of the Champions Trophy. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is currently awaiting government clearance to confirm its participation in matches to be played in Pakistan.

Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi will host matches during the tournament. Lahore will be the center of action, hosting seven matches, including the final. Karachi will stage the opening match and a semi-final, while Rawalpindi will host five matches, including the other semi-final.

The semi-finals are scheduled for March 5 and 6, followed by the final on March 9.—Agency

## Pakistan's Shahzaib Khan Strikes Gold at Asia Open Taekwondo Championship

INDONESIA: Pakistan's Shahzaib Khan clinched the gold medal in the 54-kilogramme weight category at the Asia Open Kyuurogi Taekwondo Championship, defeating Reyumundo Calamba III of the Philippines in the final.

In the first round, Calamba scored 11 points and Shahzaib managed six.

In the second round, Shahzaib played brilliantly and won by 10-3 and then won the third round 18-0 to win Pakistan's first gold medal in the event.

Earlier, Shahzaib qualified for the final by defeating Aziz Hidayat Tomakaka of Indonesia



12-14, 16-14 and 22-0 in the semi-final.

In the +87kg weight category final, Beibarys Kaban of Kazakhstan won the gold medal by

defeating Hamza Saeed of Pakistan by a margin of 5-1 and 4-4 points.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Olympic Association President Syed Abid Qadri, Secretary General Khalid Mahmood, Chairperson Special Olympics Pakistan Romak Lakhani, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation President Col Waseem Janjua and CEO Omar Saeed congratulated Shahzaib for winning gold and Hamza Saeed for winning silver medals for Pakistan.—Agency

## Champions Trophy 2025: India's High-Stakes Matches to Ignite Lahore and Rawalpindi



Pakistan is set to host the Champions Trophy next year, and according to media reports, there is a proposal to hold India's three pool matches at two different venues. Media reported that ICC broadcasters, who are also the broadcasters for the Indian board, suggest that having matches at two venues will enhance broadcast quality and the event's value.

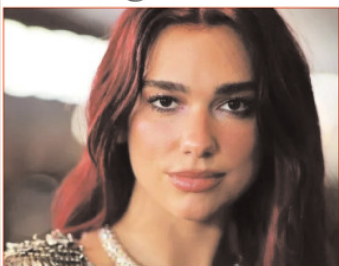
Holding India's matches at a single venue would not leave a good impression. The reports state that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has no objections to hosting matches at two venues, and Rawalpindi as one of the locations based on this suggestion. Foreign media has indicated that the PCB had initially proposed Lahore as a venue for India, but the broadcaster suggested including another venue to minimize travel for the Indian team.

According to media reports, the proposed schedule includes three matches for Indian teams in Lahore, with a match against Bangladesh on February 20 and another against New Zealand on February 23.

Additionally, a high-voltage clash between Pakistan and India is proposed for matches at two venues, and Bangladesh suggested to be in Group A.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Lipa Set to Light Up London with a Mega Show



Dua Lipa has reportedly left music lovers excited as she is all set to play a one-off show in London on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

A tipster told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column that the Love Again hitmaker will be "playing at the Royal Albert Hall."

The tipster added that playing at the hall "is a huge milestone" for the Albanian singer.

The 29-year-old singer will be extending the stage to fit in all of the musicians, according to the insider.

"If anyone thought the Royal Albert Hall show was going to be more pared back, they are in for a surprise because she has ramped it up a notch."

According to the tipster, cameras are going to be following her too.

The news of her one-off show in London comes amid the singer's upcoming Radical Optimism Tour which is set to begin next month in support of her third studio album with the same name.

The tour will begin in Singapore on November 5, 2024, and is set to conclude in Seattle on October 16, 2025.

## Kim Kardashian Bids Farewell to Her 'People Pleaser' Era



Kim Kardashian reportedly does not care about what others think of her.

As per Life & Style, the beauty mogul is reportedly saying goodbye to her people-pleasing tendencies.

"She used to be so consumed by the public's perception of her," an insider recently spilled about Kim's old mentality.

However, the source claimed that the mother of four does not care about "any more!"

They maintained, "Kim couldn't care less about what anybody says or thinks about her," and concluded by remarking, "and is adopting a new 'love me or love me' mentality."

This comes after Kardashian's arguments by portraying them as sisters who do not get along well.

As per the previous source, Kim and Khloe Kardashian have straight up turned on their mother because they do not want to mislead their fans.

Kim Kardashian reportedly claims that Kim Kardashian does not have a good feeling about Kylie Jenner's boyfriend, Timothee Chalamet, and reportedly wants to "exploit" their romance.

Nevertheless, she does not want her mother Kris Jenner to gain ratings for the reality TV series The Kardashians by capitalizing on her and Khloe Kardashian's arguments by portraying them as sisters who do not get along well.

## Kids' Corner



Name: Falah Naz  
 About me: I love my parents and my Aunty Mashil  
 Location: Hyderabad

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



REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## University of Larkana organizes Int'l workshop on Communication Skills

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The University of Larkana's Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities recently hosted a highly successful international workshop focused on communication skills, bringing together educators, students, and communication experts from various backgrounds. This significant event aimed to enhance participants' understanding of effective communication strategies essential in today's interconnected world.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Usman Keerio, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Larkana, who served as the chief guest. His involvement underscored the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence and skill development among its students.

Dr. Faiz Muhammad Shaikh, the Focal Person for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, played a pivotal role in the workshop as the moderator. His expertise ensured that the



program ran smoothly, facilitating engaging discussions and interactions among attendees.

A highlight of the workshop was the keynote address delivered by Fritz Bhomler, a renowned communication expert from Munich, Germany. Mr. Bhomler captivated the audience with his thought-provoking presentation on effective communication strategies applicable in both national and international contexts. He emphasized the critical role that strong communication skills play in fostering understanding, collaboration, and success in a globalized world.

Throughout his presentation, Mr. Bhomler shared practical techniques and real-world examples that resonated with the audience, illustrating how mastering communication can lead to enhanced personal and professional relationships. His insights prompted thoughtful discussions among participants, many of whom expressed their appreciation for the new perspectives gained during the session.

The workshop not only provided valuable knowledge but also served as a platform for networking among students, educators, and professionals, further enriching the academic environment at the University of Larkana. Overall, the event was a resounding success, reflecting the university's dedication to empowering its community through skill development and innovative learning opportunities.

## SAU students felicitated for getting positions in inter-university debate competitions

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A proud moment unfolded at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, as Miss Amna Baloch, a talented student, secured third position in the recent inter-university debate competitions held at Government College University Hyderabad. Accompanied by fellow participants, she met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri to share the good news and celebrate this achievement.

The prestigious debate competition, organized with the support of the Higher Education Commission, witnessed participation from 18 public and private universities across Sindh. Debates were conducted in Urdu, Sindhi, and English, showcasing the diverse linguistic abilities of the students. Amidst stiff competition, Amna Baloch distinguished herself, earning accolades for her exceptional debating skills and securing an impressive third place overall.

In addition to Amna, five other students from SAU participated in all three language



categories, demonstrating the university's commitment to fostering talent and encouraging engagement in intellectual pursuits. In recognition of their hard work and dedication, Amna and her peers, along with Gulam Hussain Wagan, the Deputy Director of the Business Incubation Center, met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Marri.

During the meeting, the students proudly presented their shields and certificates to the Vice Chancellor and provided insights into their experiences during the competition. Dr. Fateh Marri commended the students for their accomplishments, emphasizing the importance of such competitions in honing their skills and preparing them for the challenges of practical life.

He noted that universities play a crucial role not only in advancing research but also in nurturing critical thinking and innovation among young minds. By providing platforms for debate and discussion, institutions like SAU set the stage for progress and development, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in their future endeavors.

The celebration of Amna Baloch's achievement serves as an inspiration to her peers and highlights the significance of academic excellence and extracurricular engagement in shaping well-rounded individuals.

## Tando Muhammad Khan workshop highlights need for journalists training and protection

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A recent workshop held at the District Press Club Tando Muhammad Khan brought attention to the pressing need for training and protection for journalists in the region. The event underscored the myriad challenges faced by local media personnel, who often encounter significant obstacles while attempting to report on critical regional issues.

Key speakers at the workshop expressed deep concern over the censorship imposed by news editors, which limits journalists' ability to cover stories that are vital to their communities. General Secretary Muzaffar Rind articulated the difficulties journalists face from feudal lords, who threaten funding and resources if unfavorable topics are pursued. This creates a chilling effect that stifles journalistic inquiry and integrity.

President Muhammad Ramzan Shoro echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the dangerous environment in which journalists operate. He highlighted that police and landlords repre-



sent significant threats to their safety, with existing protective laws largely unenforced. This lack of support from authorities leaves journalists vulnerable to harassment and intimidation.

The workshop was organized as part of the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability's (TIDEA) Safe Media Program, which aims to equip journalists with the skills needed to navigate the complexities of their profession while advocating for their rights. Senior journalist Nasir Zaidi addressed the need for a unified strategy to combat legal barriers to press freedom, urging attendees to collaborate and strengthen their collective voice.

The discussions emphasized that enhancing journalistic skills is only part of the solution; robust measures for ensuring the safety and protection of journalists are equally critical. As the media landscape continues to evolve, the call for comprehensive training and protection remains a pivotal concern for the future of journalism in the region.

## SSP Jacobabad Saddam Hussain conducts inspection of Police Stations and Border Posts

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

SSP Hussain underscored the importance of maintaining cleanliness and order within the police stations, cautioning that surprise inspections would be carried out to ensure compliance. He warned that any negligence on the part of head clerks or station house officers (SHOs) would result in departmental action, reinforcing his commitment to enhancing the standards of policing in the area.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.



JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

JACOABAD: Captain (Retd) Saddam Hussain, the SSP of Jacobabad, recently conducted inspections of several police stations and border police posts across the district. During these visits, he meticulously reviewed various record registers, highlighting the critical need for accurate and up-to-date documentation, especially regarding proclaimed offenders (POs) and absconders.

## SELD holds seminar on improving education in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A significant seminar titled "Sindh Will Learn and Sindh Will Grow" was recently held at Gymkhana Badin, organized by the Reform Support Unit of the Sindh Education and Literacy Department. This event aimed to address critical issues in the education sector and promote strategies for improvement across the region.

The seminar was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Manzoor Ali Soomro, the Regional Director of the Ombudsman. In his opening remarks, he underscored the Sindh government's commitment to enhancing education by announcing the recruitment of 65,000 new teachers. This initiative, he noted, is part of a broader strategy to improve the quality of education in Sindh, addressing the pressing need for qualified educators in classrooms.

Soomro also highlighted the crucial role of parental awareness in increasing school enrollment rates. He emphasized that informed and engaged parents are es-



ential for motivating children to attend school and succeed academically. Additionally, he stressed the importance of providing basic facilities for students, stating that a conducive learning environment is vital for academic achievement and overall student well-being.

Other prominent speakers at the seminar included Education Officer for Secondary Education Ahmed Khan Zaur and District Education Officer for Primary Education Ayesha Bhatti. Both emphasized the pivotal role of education in national development, advocating for collaborative efforts among government bodies, educators, and the community to uplift educational standards.

The event featured en-

gaging speeches and inspiring performances by students, all promoting the central message of the seminar: "Sindh Will Learn and Sindh Will Grow." These performances not only showcased the talents of the students but also reinforced the seminar's focus on education as a pathway to growth and progress.

The seminar witnessed strong participation from local leaders, educators, and citizens, all united in their commitment to fostering a brighter future for the youth of Sindh. The discussions and initiatives presented during the event serve as a vital step toward addressing educational challenges and ensuring that every child has access to quality education in the region.

## Annual convention celebrates two years of Govt Employees Welfare Association

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Government Employees Welfare Association Sindh KR-067 recently held its annual convention at the Pir Hissamuddin Shah Rashdi Auditorium of Sindh University, marking two years of dedicated advocacy for the rights and welfare of government employees. The event was led by Central President Madam Suraya Memon and featured a range of attendees, including leaders and retired employees from various districts across Sindh.

The gathering was graced by Deputy Commissioner Riaz Hussain Wassan, who served as the chief guest. His presence underscored the significance of the event and the importance of addressing the concerns raised by government employees. Throughout the convention, speakers articulated the injustices faced by retired employees, highlighting a perceived disparity in the treatment of retirees across different provinces.

Several speakers pointed out that while retired employees in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enjoy



group insurance benefits, their counterparts in Sindh are left without increases in pensions and health card provisions. This inequity was met with concern from the audience, as many felt that the Sindh government's approach to these issues reflects double standards.

In response to the ongoing challenges, Madam Memon announced a forthcoming action plan. She declared that starting in the first week of November, the association would launch a hunger strike and organize protests to press for their demands. This bold move aims to draw attention to the plight of retired employees and advocate for their rightful benefits.

Deputy Commissioner Wassan responded positively to the concerns raised during the convention, assuring attendees that a special cell would be established at the DC office specifically to address the issues faced by retired employees. He emphasized that the doors of the DC office are always open for public assistance, reaffirming the administration's commitment to resolving these matters.

The convention not only celebrated the achievements of the past two years but also served as a rallying point for continued efforts toward equity and justice for government employees in Sindh. As the association gears up for its planned actions, the unity and determination of its members remain evident, highlighting their commitment to fighting for their rights.

## Livestock Department's Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Memon visits Jamshoro

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: In a concerted effort to enhance veterinary services in the region, Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Memon, the Executive Director of Livestock, recently visited the Livestock Office in Jamshoro, following directives from the Director General of Livestock and Animal Husbandry Sindh, Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto. This visit underscored the department's commitment to improving animal healthcare for local livestock owners.

During his visit, Dr. Memon conducted a thorough inspection of the healthcare facilities available to animals owned by local farmers. He was briefed by Deputy Director of Livestock and Animal Husbandry Jamshoro, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Siyal, who highlighted the ongoing vaccination and medication programs being implemented at 16 veterinary centers across the Kotri, Sehwan, and Manjhand areas. These efforts are crucial for protecting animals from various diseases.



In addition to these services, Dr. Siyal informed Dr. Memon about the establishment of a free medical camps for animals in several villages, aiming to reach livestock owners who might otherwise lack access to veterinary care. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to ensure the health and well-being of animals in rural areas.

During the inspection, Dr. Memon emphasized the importance of providing comprehensive healthcare services to livestock. He instructed the staff to maintain high standards and ensure that every animal receives the necessary medical attention. He made it clear that any form of negligence in this regard would not be tolerated.

Accompanying Dr. Memon during the visit were Additional Director of Livestock Dr. Asghar Ali Memon, District Focal Person Dr. Riaz Ahmed Channa, and other key staff members. Their collective presence underscored the commitment of the Livestock Department to enhance animal healthcare services, ultimately benefiting the local agricultural community and supporting the livelihood of farmers in the region.



# METRO KARACHI



## Murad's Universities Revolution: Quality Education And Digital Exam Overhaul

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah convened a consultative meeting with university representatives, academicians, and board administrators, emphasizing the need for universities to prioritize quality education, advanced training, and impactful research.

During the meeting at CM House, which included provincial Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechubo and other senior officials, the chief minister urged academic institutions to guide the government in addressing pressing social issues. He highlighted the valuable contributions of universities across various fields—medical, agricultural, engineering, and general studies—to education and economic growth.

Mr. Shah underscored the importance of academic research in generating knowledge and tackling social and economic challenges, encouraging universities to



focus their studies on common diseases, psychological issues, and pandemics to inform government policy.

In today's technological era, he stressed the need for all universities to adopt digital examination systems, urging those yet to transition to do so swiftly. He also directed the Universities and Boards department to collaborate with examination boards on proposals for digital exams. Additionally, he called on agricultural universities to assist in researching drought-resistant seeds and

## PSX Surges Past PKR 1 Trillion: Government Ijarah Sukuk Fuels Market Boom

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has surpassed the PKR 1 trillion mark in the issuance of GOP Ijarah Sukuk (GIS) following the successful completion of the 13th auction, raising an additional PKR 207 billion for the Ministry of Finance. Since launching GIS

both the primary and secondary markets. Acting CEO Nadeem Naqvi credited this achievement to investor trust, robust market infrastructure, and support from the Ministry of Finance and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)—RT

With a range of tenors and diverse Sukuk offerings, PSX continues to support

## Sindh's Cultural Revival: E-Commerce Push To Boost Artisans And Heritage

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikrumulhah Dharejo, announced the launch of Sindh Small Industries Corporation's e-commerce website, aimed at promoting Sindh's cultural heritage and supporting artisans. Speaking at the launch event, Dharejo highlighted that the platform will offer a global market for Sindh's unique products, enabling online purchases and boosting small industries. An inter-



national exhibition showcasing Sindh's cultural heritage is scheduled for December to further elevate the province's artisans on the global stage. Dharejo emphasized the need

## SSGC Sets Record Straight On Controversial Conical Baffle Charges

KARACHI: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has issued a clarification regarding the inclusion of Conical Baffle installation charges in consumer gas bills. Following a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on January 5, 2023, the Ministry of Energy mandated the installation of Conical Baffles in gas geysers at customer premises.

In response, SSGC submitted a petition to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to amend contracts for domestic and commercial gas consumers, which OGRA approved after public consultation. As a result, these charges have been incorporated into gas bills. SSGC has actively raised awareness about the new installation requirements through press advertisements, social media, and brochures distributed at Customer Facilitation Centers (CFCs) across Sindh and Balochistan. Installing Conical Baffles can save consumers up to 25% on

## PPP Ladies Wing leader Ana Mir pays tribute to Karsaz Martyrs

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party Women's Wing leader Ana Mir stated that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a thorn in the eyes of democracy-hating global forces, as well as the remnants of local dictators. Their horrifying dreams were realized by their associate, General Musharraf, who repeatedly attacked the symbol of the country's democracy and long struggle for democratic rights. The first attack occurred on October 18 during the Karsaz incident, where Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir survived, but many loyal supporters



were martyred. However, she did not hide in fear; instead, she went to Jinnah

## Operation against tinted windows and fancy number plates continues in Malir

KARACHI: In Karachi, under the special directives of Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho, an operation was conducted at Yonias Chowranghi by SP Malir Operations Muhammad Saad Khan Jamali. DSP Quaid-Abad Mansoor Buzdar and SHO Quaid-Abad Syed Farasat Hussain Shah led the operation, which targeted vehicles with tinted windows

and fancy number plates. During the operation, police from Quaid-Abad and staff from the Landhi Industrial Area traffic post removed tinted windows from over 20 vehicles and issued fines and tickets to their owners. SP Malir Muhammad Saeed Ralind and SSP Traffic Azam Jamali stated that following a recent suicide bombing in a suspicious vehicle near the airport, Sindh's Provincial

## Sindh Government Takes Charge: Electricity Meters For All Government Colonies



KARACHI: A high-level meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Finance, chaired by Provincial Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, addressed the financial matters of various departments, including K-Electric liabilities. The committee unanimously approved payments for water and electricity dues for the Labor Department office at the State Life Building and decided to install electricity

meters in all government residential colonies. Additional approvals included the payment of salary dues for former employees of the Larkana Development Authority, funding for the construction of the Malir River Bridge, and the development of watercourses by the Agriculture Department. The committee also sanctioned the recruitment of a Chief Engineer to manage the legal affairs of the Building Department.—RT

## TDAP's Bold Move: Belgian Pharma Insights For Pakistani Businesses

KARACHI: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in partnership with the Trade and Investment Counselor in Brussels, organized a successful webinar focusing on pharmaceutical trends and regulations in Belgium. Over 30 Pakistani pharmaceutical companies participated. Key speakers included Eric Berckmans, CEO of SBM Management, who detailed Belgian pharmaceuti-

cal regulations, and Oliver Lebbink, CEO of Premium Pharmaceutical, who provided insights into Belgium's retail pharmaceutical sector. Participants expressed strong interest in follow-up meetings, and there was a proposal to hold a subsequent webinar with DRAP and Belgian regulators to discuss a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)—RT

## PPP will hold a historic gathering in Hyderabad to honor Karsaz Martyrs: Khalil Hoth



KARACHI: PPP leader Khalil Hoth has announced that thousands of vehicles from seven districts of Karachi will transport workers to Hyderabad for a commemorative event honoring the martyrs of Karsaz. This gathering is expected to be historic, with millions anticipated to attend and pay tribute to the fallen. Speaking to party workers, Hoth emphasized that the sacrifices of the Karsaz martyrs are invaluable, and their contributions are a cornerstone of today's restored democracy. He stated that during the event, the Chairman of PPP will deliver a significant address, inspiring enthusiasm among the workers and heralding positive changes in both democracy and the political landscape.—RT

## Pakistan Navy's Dramatic Drug Bust: Massive Narcotics Cache Seized In Arabian Sea

KARACHI: In a significant joint operation, Pakistan Navy, alongside Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), seized a large cache of narcotics in the North Arabian Sea. The operation involved Pakistan Navy's PNS Zulfiqar and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency's ship Kolachi, with support from the US Navy's USS Abraham Lincoln. Aircraft from the Pakistan Navy and Coast Guard also assisted in the mission, resulting in the confiscation of 1.3 tons of hashish valued at approximately \$26 million. Pakistan Navy, currently leading the Combined Task Force 150, continues its efforts to combat illegal activities and enhance maritime security in international waters.—RT/Agency

## Sindh Excise Department's Impressive Q1 Performance Under Sharjeel Memon: Hits 27% of Annual Target

KARACHI: The Sindh Excise Department has collected PKR 55.48 billion in the first quarter, achieving 27% of its annual tax target of PKR 203 billion, thanks to the efforts of Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. In a meeting chaired by Minister Memon, attended by key department officials, the performance was praised, and directives were issued to further streamline operations. Memon instructed that the motor vehicle tax system be made online within 15 days



to enhance convenience for citizens. The meeting also discussed professional tax and excise duty collection, with a focus on improving manpower and procedures. Memon called for an awareness campaign to promote the department's modernized systems, emphasizing transparency, efficiency, and public convenience.—RT

## Muhammad Khan Bohar assumes charge as SHO of Steel Town Police Station

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: In Karachi, the appointment of Senior Officer Muhammad Khan Bohar as the SHO of Steel Town Police Station has caused panic among criminals. Following the directives of Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam

Odho, Bohar quickly took charge and initiated police checkpoints at various entry and exit points in the area. He instructed all police personnel to take strict action against any criminal elements, including gutka and drug suppliers, as well as those poisoning communities.

## DG Public Relations' Surprise Inspection Shakes Up Information Directorate

KARACHI: Director General Public Relations, Muhammad Saleem Khan, conducted a surprise visit to the Sindh Information Department, urging officers to ensure punctuality and dedication during office hours. Expressing disappointment over the absence of some officials, he emphasized that delays affect overall productivity and warned of disciplinary action for non-compliance. Khan also highlighted the need to improve office cleanliness and secure the storage of advertisement records. He urged officers to stay updated on media advancements. Khan committed the department's communication arm, promoting public welfare initiatives, and announced—RT



He stressed that the Information Department serves as the government's communication arm, promoting public welfare initiatives, and announced—RT

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE JACOBABAD**

No: MC/EB/991/2024 JCD dated: 14/10/2024

**"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION" TENDER NOTICE**

AS PER UNDER RULE 17(1) SPPRA 2010

Sealed Tenders are invited from all the interested Contractors/Firms/Parties for the following works.

TENDER INVITE FROM OWN SOURCE OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE JACOBABAD					
S#	Name of Work	Estimate Cost in (Rupees)	Earnest Money in (Rupees) %	Tender Fee in (Rupees)	Time of completion
1	Construction of CC Drains Type I, II & III for Babu Muhalla M.C Jacobabad	69511262/=	3475563/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
2	Construction of CC Drains Type I, II & III for Dastagir Colony M.C Jacobabad	14407024/=	720351/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
3	Construction of CC Drain Type I, II & III From Jani Dero Naka to Railway Station M.C Jacobabad	29739000/=	1486950/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
4	Construction of CC Drain Type II & III From Quetta Road to Wagon Stand via Nizam Baig Dahar M.C Jacobabad	25025000/=	1251250/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
5	Supply of Dustbins for Arm Loader Truck Vehicles	13250000/=	662500/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
6	Construction of Brohi Muhalla Drainage Disposal Station M.C Jacobabad	22712000/=	1135600/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
7	Construction of Syed Kamil Shah Drainage Disposal Station M.C Jacobabad	28732000/=	1436600/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
8	Construction of Drainage Disposal Station Railway Station-II M.C Jacobabad	29183000/=	1459150/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
9	Construction of Babu Muhalla Drainage Disposal Station M.C Jacobabad	4384000/=	219200/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
10	Supply & Installation of Tractor Towed Mechanical Sweeper (Without Tractor) DS Nos	18500000/=	925000/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS
11	M&R of Municipal Masjid	5200000/=	260000/=	3000/=	36 MONTHS

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

- Tender Schedule shall be as follows:

SCHEDULE	DATE & TIME	VENUE
1. Receiving of Application and Issuance of Tender:	Tender Documents will be issued from 11-11-2024 During Office Hours	Office of the Municipal Committee Jacobabad Opposite Civil Court Road (Ph# 722-65013132) (ii) Bidding Documents can be downloaded from the SPPRA Website <a href="http://www.ppmssppra.gov.pk">www.ppmssppra.gov.pk</a>
2. Dropping of Tenders	12-11-2024 at 01.00 Pm	Office of the Municipal Committee Jacobabad Opposite Civil Court Road
3. Opening of Tenders	12-11-2024 at 02.00 Pm	Office of the Municipal Committee Jacobabad Opposite Civil Court Road

- The Tender Documents will be issued to contractor on the submission of written request on letter head and on payment of non-refundable cost of tender price through pay order from many schedule bank in favour of Municipal Committee Jacobabad as mentioned above. The photocopy of P.E.Cc Registration Certificate & NTN Certificate where applicable.
- Un-responded/rejected tenders will be re-issued from 12-11-2024 to 27-11-2024 will be received on 28-11-2024 upto 11:00PM & will be opened the same day after at 2.00PM respectively in the office address mentioned above with same terms & condition.
- Photocopy of Registration certificate of Sindh Board of Revenue (SBR), Income Tax and Sale Tax is required to submit by all participants along with bidding documents at the time of dropping in Tender box.
- Annual Turnover at least twice per annum the estimate cost of work applied in last Three Years (Turnover will be evaluated from annual returns and audit).
- In case of holiday and unforeseen circumstances on opening date the bids shall be submitted and opened on the next working day other terms and condition shall remain same.
- 5% of specified amount against each work in shape of Pay Order / Bank draft in favour of Municipal Committee Jacobabad shall be attached with the tender.
- Tender in unsealed cover and without 5% Earnest Money will not be entertained and discarded.
- The single stage-One Envelop procedure would be adopted for Tender work as per SPPRA Rule No.46 (1).
- The total bid amount as well as the rate of items must be filled both in figure and words and in case any correction is made by the contractors himself then such correction must be initiated by the contractors otherwise the Tender are liable to be summarily rejected/canceled without any compensation but penalty will be imposed as per rule.
- If any fake documents are found, then the tender is liable to be rejected / canceled without any compensation but penalty will be imposed as per rule.
- Bidding Documents can be seen / downloaded from Authority's website SPPRA [www.ppmssppra.gov.pk](http://www.ppmssppra.gov.pk)
- The procuring agency may reject all or any bid subjected to the relevant provision of SPPRA Rules 2010. (Amended 2013).

**CHAIRMAN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE JACOBABAD**

INF-KRY No: 3274/24



Being sad with the right people is better than being happy with the wrong ones.

—Philip's

# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

## READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2719454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 2024

## Explosive Senate Showdown Tomorrow: Constitutional Package Bill To Hit The Floor

ISLAMABAD: Ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary Leader in Senate Irfan Siddiqui said on Thursday that the bill on contentious constitutional package would be tabled in the upper house of the parliament on Friday (tomorrow) after "three parties reached consensus on a comprehensive draft".



Siddiqui, speaking to journalists in the parliament after attending a special committee meeting on constitutional reforms, detailed that a final draft would be finalised by Friday evening and presented before the Senate in tomorrow's session.

He said that Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar gave a briefing on the draft in the meeting, adding that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Senator Kamran Murtaza also expressed optimism about the proposed amendments.

90% of the work on the amendments has been completed, and hopefully, the package will be tabled in the Senate on Friday.

Substantial progress has been made on the proposed constitutional amendments package, with just a few finishing touches needed, he added.

Siddiqui's assertion referred to the coalition government's claims of securing 'magic number' in parliament as the two-thirds majority required to pass the constitutional amendment.

Signaling a consensus between the ruling PML-N, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and the JUI-F, he said the package would be tabled in the Senate on Friday.

After high-level discussions, four leaders of the major opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the coalition government's ally PML claimed that the ruling coalition took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court and reached a consensus with all parties, including the opposition, on the formation of a constitutional bench.

He said that "it is a matter of give and take" and the coalition government has also accepted recommendations from the politico-religious party. Those points which drew reservations from major parties have been precisely modified [in today's meeting], he added.

The PML-N senator claimed that they saw a "very comprehensive draft" in the meeting today in which judiciary-related constitutional reforms were added. The draft was free from any act which affects public opinion or judiciary powers, he clarified.

Siddiqui's remarks came after media learnt via sources that the ruling coalition took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court and reached a consensus with all parties, including the opposition, on the formation of a constitutional bench.

After high-level discussions, four leaders of the major opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the coalition government's ally PML claimed that the ruling coalition took a step back on the matter of the constitutional bench, as per the insiders.

Khan-founded party a day ago announced staging a countrywide protest tomorrow to resist the proposed 26th constitutional package a day after the PPP and the JUI-F forged consensus on the joint draft.

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling parties to begin a consultation process.

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government requires a two-thirds majority in parliament, with sources indicating a shortfall of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate.—RT/Agency

## PM's Big Claim: Parties And Institutions Joining Forces For Pakistan's Future

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said all political parties and institutions are working together for the national development.



The prime minister said it while addressing a banquet organized in honor of senators of the government allied parties.

He said the government and allied political parties worked diligently to ensure economic stability by setting aside their political interests.

"You have all sacrificed your politics and worked hard, the results are economic stability and diplomatic successes," the prime minister conveyed to the leaders of coalition parties in the Senate.

He said all political parties and the people had made sacrifices to help the country overcome difficulties.

He said foreign remittances have also been witnessing consistent increase for last several months which reflected the confidence of the overseas Pakistanis on the incumbent government.

The premier hailed the successful hosting of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government meeting as a major achievement for Pakistan on diplomatic front.

"Pakistan's diplomatic profile further strengthened internationally after successfully hosting this summit," he said.

Congratulating the political parties' leaders on successful conclusion of the SCO summit in Pakistan, the prime minister said all relevant institutes worked together as a team in this regard.

He said before the SCO meeting, visit of the Chinese Premier also proved to be very successful.

He specifically mentioned the crucial role of Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in making the event successful.

He expressed confidence in the country's ongoing economic recovery and stability, asserting that the government will respond to its political opponents through tangible development and prosperity in the country.

The prime minister said due to the government's prudent policies, the country's economy had stabilized and it achieved the 2025 targets before time even in 2024.

The prime minister said the inflation rate witnessed a quick decline in very short time. Chairman Senate Syed Yousef Raza Gilani, DPM Ishaq Dar, and government allied parties' senators attended the event.—RT/Agency

## Bombshell Claim: Pakistan Behind Imran's Disqualification From Oxford Chancellor Race

LONDON: Syed Zulfi Bukhari, former prime minister Imran Khan's adviser on international affairs, has claimed that Oxford University was put under pressure by Pakistani government sources to block the PTI founder from contesting the chancellor election.



Bukhari ran a high-profile media campaign for the imprisoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top leader to run in the election but the university decided to not allow Khan to stand in the election, let alone become the chancellor, over Toshakhana conviction and politicisation of the issue.

Speaking to media, Bukhari said he was convinced that the government forces from Pakistan campaigned against Khan's candidacy and put the university under some kind of pressure to block him from contesting the chancellor election.

many King's Counsels (KCs) and they agreed that nothing is barring Imran Khan legally from taking part. The Oxford Uni has made a narrow-minded and pressured decision to block Imran Khan. To say that Imran Khan is convicted in the Toshakhana case would not justify the decision because in the same case, the United Nations Working Group has said that Imran Khan's detention is illegal and cases against him are politically motivated.

In all other cases the sentences have been appealed and set aside so there is no legal standing. At the end of the day, Oxford University has a charitable status and according to the UK rules governing charities, Imran Khan is eligible to open his bank accounts and become a trustee or become a charity director." Bukhari said one of the biggest awareness campaigns in the history of Oxford University was run around Khan's candidacy and the whole world got to know about his case through this campaign. He said he was aware that the varsity was petitioned against Khan — first started by social media activists R A Shehbaz

and Hajra Khan and later picked up PML-N UK's Khurram Butt and several other actors played a role too. He said: "I understand that many pressures came alongside his candidacy. I believe that Oxford Uni has made a 'pressured decision' and Lord Daniel Hannan clearly said it a decision was made in pressure. I do not think the UK government has played a part but the Pakistani government certainly has. Political differences aside, the Pakistani government should have supported Imran Khan as he would have presented Pakistan on a global stage. They should have supported him as a Pakistani hero. There is no doubt that there was enough pressure applied and Oxford University may have thought that they did not want to get involved in a muddy situation." Bukhari has also said he is considering legal action against the university and already written to the varsity. "Naturally, before applying for this role we took the advice of KCs, top solicitors across the country, barristers — and with their consent ahead.—RT/Agency

## FBR Cracks Down CFOs And Fraudsters Nabbed In Massive Sales Tax Scam



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have arrested five senior executives, including a prominent fraudster, in a sweeping crackdown on businesses involved in sales tax fraud, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said.

The arrests are part of a broader government initiative to clamp down on companies and individuals benefiting from fake and fraudulent invoices, causing massive losses to the national exchequer.

According to an FBR statement, the arrests were carried out by regional directorates of Intelligence and Investigation, inland Revenue, targeting individuals engaged in creating chains of dummy businesses.

Among those arrested were four Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) a notorious tax fraud, as well as an accused fraudster known for orchestrating complex schemes to avoid tax liabilities.

In Hyderabad, officials apprehended the CFO and Purchase Officer of a prominent Lahore-based battery manufacturer for allegedly claiming fake input tax on

lead. This operation, which was conducted with assistance from the Lahore Directorate, exposed a fraudulent scheme that resulted in over PKR 1 billion in losses to the national exchequer.

An FIR had been lodged against the company's executives, who now face charges of abetment and connivance in sales tax evasion. In a separate intelligence-based operation in Faisalabad, authorities arrested the CFOs of two sister concerns and a major textile unit for their involvement in claiming fake input tax on coal.

This fraudulent activity, led by a gang of tax evaders, caused revenue losses running into hundreds of millions of PKR. In another significant development, the pre-arrest bail of Taswar Shahid, a leading figure in multiple sales tax fraud cases, was rejected by a court. Shahid was arrested outside the courtroom and is believed to be a key member of a gang that created fake sales tax inputs used by end users and beneficiaries, causing billions in revenue losses.—RT/Agency

## Supreme Court Slams Down Appeals Against 26th Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court dismissed petitions on Thursday challenging the 26th proposed constitutional amendments after the petitioners sought withdrawal.



The government's much-talked-about constitutional package aims, among other things, to establish a federal constitutional court and set a three-year tenure for the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, heard the joint petition.

The petition was filed by former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and current member of the Pakistan Bar Council, Abid S Zubairi, along with other council members, against the proposed constitutional amendments.

During the hearing, lawyer Hamid Khan requested the bench to withdraw the petitions. At this, the CJP wondered whether the petitioners had only hired Hamid, a leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to withdraw their pleas.

"Abid Zubairi could have withdrawn the petition himself [...] Six lawyers had filed the petition; they could have appeared before the court themselves to withdraw it," the top judge said.

The CJP then told the

lawyer that two cases — the main petition and the plea against the objections to the petition — had been fixed for hearing.

The lawyer said that his clients wanted to withdraw all the pleas.

Zubairi, along with other Pakistan Bar Council members, had filed the petition in the apex court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution on September 16.

The petitioners requested the Supreme Court to declare that the separation of powers, judicial independence, and its authority to enforce fundamental rights are sacrosanct under the Constitution and beyond the power of Parliament to withdraw, interfere with, or alter in any way.

Furthermore, the petitioners asked the court to declare the proposed amendments, introduced through the bill, as unconstitutional and in violation of the basic structure of the Constitution, the principle of separation of powers, judicial independence,

and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

They also sought an injunction restraining the federal government from presenting the bill in Parliament, suspending the operation of the proposed amendments, and preventing the bill from being enacted into law if passed by both houses.

It is worth mentioning that several other petitioners had also challenged the proposed constitutional amendments in the Supreme Court, seeking a declaration that they violated the basic framework of the Constitution. Similarly, many petitioners had challenged the proposed amendments in various high courts across the country as well. Just a day before the withdrawal of the petitions, top political parties — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party, and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl — had also forged a consensus on the amendments.—RT/Agency

## Attaullah Tarar Accuses PTI Of Poisoning Politics With Dirty Tricks Campaign

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Thursday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of poisoning political traditions and culture through a well-organized campaign.



Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said the country's political traditions were untainted in the past, but PTI has poisoned them through a specific campaign.

He expressed regret, stating that it was unfortunate the opposition members lacked the tolerance to listen to differing viewpoints.

He said that all political parties in Pakistan participated in the All Parties Conference (APC) to show solidarity with Palestine, except for PTI, which refused to attend. He further alleged that PTI was running a malicious campaign against national institutions and their

leadership. He said, no one had taken note of their silence on Goldsmith, who has openly supported Israel and tweeted against the people of Palestine. He also accused the opposition members of never speaking out against the atrocities committed by Israel against the innocent people of Palestine.

Tarar said that with the help of NGOs, the government had sent relief items to Gaza and Lebanon to support the war-ravaged people. He also criticized the PTI for writing letters to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to push Pakistan towards default, or-

chestrating the May 9 attacks, vandalizing memorials of martyrs, and calling for protests during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. Despite the PTI efforts, the government successfully conducted the event in Islamabad, he added. Tarar recalled that although the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had been political opponents, there was decorum and mutual respect between both parties. He cited how Nawaz Sharif was the first leader to visit the hospital after Benazir Bhutto was martyred, demonstrating respect across political lines.—RT/Agency

## Ramzan Sugar Mills Case Takes A Twist: Shehbaz And Hamza's Files Shifted To ACE

LAHORE: The Lahore Accountability Court on Thursday transferred the Ramzan Sugar Mill reference against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz to anti-corruption courts, media reported.

The decision was announced by AC judge Zubair Shehbaz Kayani. The accountability court transferred the case to Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in light of the amendments.

During the proceedings today, the NAB prosecutor requested that the reference be transferred to the Anti-Corruption Court, and stated there was no objection to moving the NAB reference there.

The court also approved Hamza Shehbaz's request for a one-day exemption from attendance.

On September 23, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reopened the

reference against PML-N president and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The anti-corruption watchdog sent back 116 corruption references against prominent personalities to the accountability courts in Lahore including Ramzan Sugar Mills case against Shehbaz Sharif.

On September 15, the Supreme Court of Pakistan struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea.

It is pertinent to mention that the FIA had booked PM Shehbaz, Hamza, and Salman Shehbaz in November 2020 for financial fraud, impersonation, and forging of the Pakistan Penal Code and 5(2) and 5(3) — criminal misconduct — of Prevention of Corruption Act and r/w 3/4 of Anti Money Laundering Act.—RT/Agency

## PTI Drops A Bomb: 'Seven Government MNAs Set To Defy Constitutional Amendments'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said on Thursday that the coalition government's seven members of the National Assembly (MNAs) would vote against the proposed constitutional amendments.



"The government's numbers are only complete in their books. The government neither consulted its members nor answered out of fear," PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan told media.

He said he had received the news about the seven treasury benches members' refusal to cast vote from reliable sources.

"The government members said they will not vote even if they are disqualified," he said, adding that the legislators believe those voting in favour of the constitutional amendments would be doing so against their conscious.

Probably, he said, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-

Zardari also knew that parliamentary members of his own party were not going to vote for the amendment.

His remarks came as the Special Committee of the parliament met again on Thursday to discuss the draft amendments in the Constitution, proposed by the government.

Special committee's chairman Khurshid Shah said the meeting on the 26th constitutional amendment was convened at the request of the PTI chief whip Aamir

Dogar.

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years. The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the administration to begin a consultation process.—RT/Agency