

# REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



**Murad Defends Government's Actions In Dr. Shah Nawaz Case, Slams Section 144 Violators**



**Jennifer Lopez Ready to Shine Again as Divorce Rumors with Big Ben Affleck Swirl**

## Heartland

**Sindh Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari leads PPP workers rally from Thatta to Hyderabad in Tribute to Karsaz Martyrs**

## Money

**-Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 335.34 points to close at 85,250.09**

## NATIONAL

**Dark Conspiracy To Disrupt Punjab's Peace, Azma Bokhari Sounds The Alarm**

## SPORTS

**England Caught in Spin Web as Pakistan Storm Back to Level Series**

## Bilawal Warns of 'Brute Majority' As Opposition Faces Constitutional Showdown

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that he will be compelled to take "controversial path" for the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment if the opposition parties refused to support his efforts to pass the judicial package with consensus.

"I myself making last attempt to convince the opposition parties to vote for the constitutional amendment in a non-controversial way, he said while addressing a rally in Hyderabad held to mark the 17th anniversary of Karsaz incident.

The PPP chief said if he failed to evolve consensus on the proposed constitutional amendment "then we all have to pray for the country's democracy."

"If the opposition still refuses to support us despite so many compromises then I will be compelled to pass the amendment with the support of Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz and the extra members," the PPP chief said.

He added that he will have to pass the 26th constitutional amendment in parliament via "brute majority"



with the support of extra members if opposition refused to evolve consensus on the draft.

"It is necessary for us to establish a forum for the equal representation of all provinces but if the opposition shuts the door on us so then I will be compelled to take the 'controversial path,' which is not my favourite path and I tried not to take it, along with my allies to form constitutional bench at the federal and provincial level," he added.

Referring to his recent meetings and consultations with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other political parties in the backdrop of much-touted constitutional amendments, Bilawal said:

## SC Declares Elections Act Amendment Powerless To Reverse Reserved Seats Ruling

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has reiterated that parliament's amendment to the Elections Act does not have a retrospective effect and it cannot undo the top court's judgment in the reserved seats case.

The second clarification comes after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) separately approached the apex court last month, seeking a clarification on its order to grant reserved seats to the Imran Khan-founded party.

The top court declared on July 12 that the embattled PTI was eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities. However, the government passed an amendment to the Election Act, 2017, forcing the ECP to seek clarification from the top court.

In response, the apex court's judges, who issued the order, stressed that the request was "misconceived" and ordered the poll organising authority to follow through on the verdict.

Then, the court on September 23 issued a detailed verdict declaring the PTI a parliamentary party, stating that 39 of the 80 MNAs are affiliated with the PTI, while



the remaining 41 have the chance to resubmit their party affiliations.

However, despite the court's clarification and the detailed verdict, the ECP has yet to allot reserved seats to the PTI.

The ECP, in its civil miscellaneous application (CMA), submitted that the top court's short order was based on the law which has since been altered by the amendments made to Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act, 2017 and a new Section, namely 104-A, has also been inserted with retrospective effect from the date of the commencement of the act, the SC stated in the clarification.

On the other hand, PTI submitted in its CMA that the short order passed by the SC was based on the interpretation and enforcement of con-

stitutional provisions, therefore the amendments cannot supplant the effect of the short order, it added.

"The court [SC] granted the relief in the short order to enforce the right of the electorate through political parties to have proportional representation in the reserved seats under paragraphs (d) and (e) of clause (6) of Article 51 and paragraph (c) of clause (3) of Article 106 of the Constitution, therefore, the amendments made in the Elections Act after the release of our short order will have no bearing and the Commission is bound to implement the judgment passed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in its letter and spirit, without seeking any further clarification.

In its previous clarification on September 14, the top court had come down hard on the ECP for its "attempts to create confusion" on its July 12 reserved seats verdict, saying that the clarification sought by the commission was nothing but an attempt to "obstruct implementation" of the judgment declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats in parliament.

"Putting together the record placed before us [top court], and considering the same in light of the short order, leaves in little doubt that the clarification sought by the commission is nothing more than a contrived device and adoption of dilatory tactics," the eight judges had stated in the clarification.

In its four-page clarification, the SC said having itself issued notices to the PTI through Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as its Chairman, the Commission "gave recognition to both the party and the office holder."

On September 23, hours after the SC issued a detailed verdict of the reserved seats case wherein the PTI was declared eligible for seats in assemblies. Law Minister Azam Naezeer Tarar rejected that decision of joining any political party by independents is "irreversible", saying that the Imran Khan-founded party was not even a peti-

## Hamas Leader Sinwar Confirmed Dead In Israeli Strike

GAZA: Palestinian militant group Hamas on Friday confirmed its leader Yahya Sinwar had been killed by the Israeli military in Gaza, a day after Israel announced his death.

"We mourn the great leader, the martyred brother, Yahya Sinwar, Abu Ibrahim," Qatar-based Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said in a recorded video statement broadcast by Al Jazeera.

Sinwar became Israel's most wanted man after the October 7, 2023 attack, the deadliest in Israeli history.

Khalil Hayya, adds that captives held in Gaza will not return until Israel stops its attacks on Gaza and withdraws its forces from the besieged enclave.

Speaking in a televised address, Khalil Hayya spoke of "the memory of the fallen martyr, Yahya Sinwar."

Describing him as "steadfast, brave and intrepid", Hayya said Sinwar "sacrificed his life to the cause of our liberation."

"He met his end standing brave, with his head held high, holding his firearm, fighting until the last breath, until



the last moment of his life.

"[Sinwar] has lived his whole life as a holy fighter. Since his early days, he was engaged in his struggle as a resistant fighter. He stood defiant behind Israeli bars and after his release in a swapped deal, he continued with his struggle and his dedication to the cause."

Hayya added that Sinwar's "martyrdom" and the leaders who preceded him "will only increase the strength and resilience of our movement."

"The occupation prisoners will not return unless the aggression on Gaza stops,

## Shehbaz In High-Stakes Talks Over Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif started informal consultations with senior cabinet members regarding the approval of a proposed constitutional amendment.

Sources indicate that a meeting took place between PM Shehbaz Sharif and the members, including Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and the Attorney General, who briefed the Prime Minister on critical constitutional and legal matters.

PM Sharif during the discussion shared details of his late-night meeting with JUI-F Chief Fazlur Rehman, while also reviewing the draft constitutional amendments presented by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Government insiders said that efforts are underway to conclude a unified draft with input from coalition partners. The government also sees reserved seats through the Election Commission of Pakistan.—RT/Agency



PM Sharif during the discussion shared details of his late-night meeting with JUI-F Chief Fazlur Rehman, while also reviewing the draft constitutional amendments presented by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Government insiders said that efforts are underway to conclude a unified draft with input from coalition partners. The government also sees reserved seats through the Election Commission of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

## Special Committee Gives Green Light To Controversial Amendment Draft

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough, the special parliamentary committee — comprising government and opposition members — has "unanimously approved" the draft for 26th constitutional amendment.

The development comes after the special committee formed to debate the contentious judicial package met under the chairmanship of PPP lawmaker Syed Khurshed Shah on Friday.

Speaking to the reporters, Shah said the draft would be presented in the federal cabinet meeting tomorrow for approval.

"The draft has been approved unanimously," he said adding that the committee has also agreed on allowing overseas Pakistanis to contest the elections. Leaders from all major political parties, sans Awami National Party's Aimal Wali Khan, were present in the meeting. MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar agreed that PTI principally agreed on the draft but the party had reservations on some points.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, however, said that consultation on the fourth draft shared by the government today is underway, adding that they would make final decision on the constitutional package after meeting with his party founder, who is currently incarcerated in Adiala Jail in multiple cases.



Addressing a press conference following a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the PTI chairman distanced his party from the decisions made in the parliamentary committee meeting today, saying: "Our meeting was underway when we came to know that the draft was approved [by the parliamentary committee]."

He said that they would announce their decision on the draft of the much-touted constitutional amendments after discussing it with PTI founder. "Soon we will reach a conclusion," the PTI chairman added. Barrister Gohar was of the view that they would move forward "in light with the directions of Imran Khan."

"We will try to meet PTI founder tomorrow and will give out final version [after the meeting]," PTI leadership was not allowed to meet incarcerated Khan for the past over two weeks, he added.

Responding to a question, the PTI chief said that a new draft was shared with them during today's parliamentary committee meeting. The sitting approved 26 points of the fourth draft, he added.

"During meeting with Fazlur Rehman, we have reached a consensus [on a draft]." The committee approved the same draft on which we had agreed with the JUI-F chief, Barrister Gohar added. To another query, he said that PTI leader Amir Dogar was among the attendees of the parliamentary committee meeting. As per the draft, approved by the parliamentary body and obtained by Geo News, the commission for appointment of the SC judges would comprise the chief justice, four senior most judges of the top court, federal law minister, attorney-general for Pakistan, an advocate nominated by Pakistan Bar Council, two members from the Senate and as many from the National Assembly.—RT/Agency

## Gilani Demands Urgent Senate Briefing On Balochistan Security

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday issued directives to the Interior Minister to come to the House and brief this august forum about prevailing law and order situation in Balochistan. The Chairman issued the directives after lawmakers from Balochistan including Manzoor Ahmad Kakar and Umer Farooq who raised their voices about deteriorating law and order situation in the province. Meanwhile, the Chair also referred the calling attention notice to the concern standing committee for detail discussion. Earlier, raising the calling attention notice Senator Hidayatullah said that the teaching staff of Balochistan University was not getting their salaries. They also staged hunger strike for payment of their



salaries but in vain. He said that salaries to the teaching staff should be released immediately. He urged the chair to refer the matter to the committee for detail discussion. Responding to the calling attention notice, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar also endorsed view point of Senator Hidayatullah and requested the Chair to refer it to the committee. Earlier, Chairman, Standing Commit-

## PM Hails Navy's Major Drug Bust: 1.3 Tons Seized



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the Pakistan Navy for successfully carrying out an operation in the North Arabian Sea in which 1.3 tons of narcotics were seized.

"The prime minister, in a statement, said that the vibrant leadership of the Pakistan Navy led to the seizure of huge quantity of narcotics in the operation."

He said that foiling the attempt to smuggle a huge



quantity of narcotics was laudable.

"The whole nation feels proud of the officials of the Pakistan Navy. The elimination of narcotics was essential for the welfare of humanity," he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated that the government was determined to extend all possible facilities to the Pakistan Navy in its mission to purge country of narcotics.—RT/Agency

## UNESCO Backs Pakistan's Bold Resolution

UNITED NATION: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has unanimously adopted Pakistan-led Resolution on "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information."

Co-sponsored by more than 50 Member States, Pakistan-led resolution was adopted at the 220th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris.

Pakistan took this initiative in the backdrop of proliferation and intensification of



disinformation, misinformation and hate speech around the world.

Pakistan's Permanent Delegate Asim Ifkhar Ahmad thanked all Member States for their invaluable inputs and support leading to consensus adoption of the text for effective promotion and protection of freedom of expression and access to information.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



MIRPURKHAS: Pir Umer Jan Sarhandi is offering his condolence to senior journalist Muhammad Hashim Shar over the sad demise of his nephew.—RT

## DC Yasir Bhatti reviews progress of ongoing development works in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting regarding ongoing development schemes in the district was held in the committee room under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that he would soon visit the ongoing development projects in the district. He directed the concerned engineers to work honestly, truthfully, and diligently on the development schemes to ensure their benefits reach the people. He emphasized the importance of using high-quality materials in the development work and insisted



that public welfare projects should be completed on time to provide ease for the common people. Additionally, he instructed all Assistant Commissioners to visit the development schemes in their respective areas and report back. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner One Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Two Rajesh Dalpat, Executive Engineer Highway Saleem Memon, Executive Engineer Education Asad Mandhro, Executive Engineer Public Health Israr Ahmed, all Assistant Commissioners of the district, and other relevant officials.

## DC Jacobabad Abrar Jaffar reviews health measures against Hepatitis



By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abrar Jaffar convened a meeting with health department officials to review measures taken against hepatitis. He emphasized the importance of providing comprehensive care for those affected, including access to necessary medications. Jaffar directed blood bank officials to report any patients exhibiting symptoms of Hepatitis B or C to ensure timely treatment. He stressed that hepatitis is a serious disease that requires immediate intervention to save lives.



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) are holding a protest demonstration against the alleged rape of a first-year female student by a security guard in college premises in Lahore, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

## Ombudsman's Regional Director Imdad Ali Shah visits District Jail Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The Regional Director of the Ombudsman Sindh, Syed Imdad Ali Shah, visited the District Jail Dadu to assess the healthcare, education, food and other facilities provided to prisoners. He also met with inmates to gather information about the services they receive. Accompanying him were Assistant Registrar of the Ombudsman Samiullah Joyo, Jail Superintendent Javed Ayoub Mugheri, Additional Health Officer Dr. Zahid Hussain Khuro, and Child Protection Officer Syed Hidayat Ali Shah. During the visit, Syed Imdad Ali Shah stated that he was conducting the inspection under the directives of the Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh, aimed



at reviewing the facilities and medical care available to inmates. He instructed the jail administration to ensure that prisoners receive education, medical treatment, and other necessary services as mandated by law. Jail Superintendent Javed Ayoub Mugheri informed the Regional Director that, as per the jail manual, they are committed to providing inmates with opportunities for meetings with family members, healthcare, education, and quality food. Furthermore, the Regional Director assured prisoners who complained of not having legal representation due to poverty that they would be provided free legal assistance.

## Paras Dero-led caravan takes part in PPP's Hyderabad Rally

By Mumtaz Ali Taham

TANDO ADAM: To pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy, a convoy of hundreds of vehicles led by PPP MPA Paras Dero set off for Hyderabad to participate in a public rally organized by the Pakistan People's Party. Thousands of PPP supporters joined the convoy. While talking to the media, MPA Paras Dero stated that, as every year, they are heading to Hyderabad this year as well to honor the memory of Shaheed Mubtarram Benazir Bhutto and to pay a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs. He emphasized that the PPP is a people's party that has made significant sacrifices for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. He further urged all leaders within the party to remain true and dedicated to their leadership.

## Hardworking farmers awarded for exceptional cotton yield



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: At the agricultural farm of landlord Major Zulfiqar Hussain Narejo, hardworking farmers were rewarded for their exceptional yield of cotton. Haji Nazir Ahmed Katohar awarded cash prizes to the top-performing farmers including Jetho Meghwar received PKR 50,000 for first place, while Taloo Meghwar secured PKR 20,000 for second place. The awarded farmers expressed their happiness, noting that their hard work was recognized by their landlord. Haji Nazir Ahmed Katohar emphasized that the purpose of these awards is to encourage other farmers to strive for better yields and contribute positively to agriculture.

## AC Iza Inam, SFA team fine bakeries, hotels

By Hafeez Mallah

GAMBAT: Under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner Iza Inaam, officials from the Sindh Food Authority conducted raids on food shops and hotels, imposing fines amounting to millions of rupees for lack of cleanliness and the use of banned substances such as ajinomoto. In cases of non-payment of fines, shops and hotels will be sealed. During the operation, Assistant Commissioner Iza Inaam and officials from the Sindh Food Control Authority spoke to journalists, stating that the raids were carried out based on the directives of the DG of the Sindh Food Authority and the Deputy Commissioner of Khairpur. They highlighted that despite a Supreme Court



ban on ajinomoto, some hotels were found using it in their food preparations, leading to significant fines imposed for violations of the Sindh Food Authority Ordinance. The owners were mandated to immediately remove expired items from their bakeries and ensure proper cleanliness. Legal action will be taken against violators, and their hotels, shops, and bakeries will be sealed accordingly.

## WWF Pakistan marks World Food Day in Atharki Village

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: The international social organization WWF Pakistan marked World Food Day with a large gathering in the coastal village of Atharki. Leaders from various political and social organizations, along with a significant number of local villagers, including fishermen, attended the event. The event highlighted global and local food challenges, particularly the struggles faced by the coastal communities in Pakistan.



Speakers emphasized that while World Food Day is being celebrated across the world, the situation in the coastal belt of Pakistan remains dire. Villagers and fishermen work tirelessly, yet many face severe food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and poverty. One of the key issues raised was the unjust market pricing for fish and shrimp, which leaves the hardworking coastal population struggling to make ends meet. Despite their efforts, they do not receive fair prices for their catch, which deepens the cycle of hunger and poverty, a speaker explained. The effects of climate change, which are acutely felt in Pakistan, were also highlighted as a growing concern. The country frequently experiences natural disasters, leading to loss of lives and resources, further exacerbating food insecurity. On the occasion, prominent speakers, including Syed Daim Shah, Chairman of AKWA, Khuda Bux Bahmani of Social Welfare Thatta, Syed Babar Shah, Mehreen Soomro, Vinod Kumar, and Ghani Katiyar, addressed the gathering. They called for urgent efforts to tackle food shortages and ensure that the people of the coastal belt receive fair compensation for their labor, as well as support in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

## Free medical camp set up at Larkana Police Training School

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, the District Health Officer of Larkana, in collaboration with the Sindh government's rehabilitation department, organized a free medical camp at the

Larkana Police Training School. Focal Person Dr. Farman Ali Abro oversaw the camp, where doctors and medical staff conducted health check-ups for the soldiers in training and local residents. Following the check-ups, patients received X-rays, ultrasounds, and blood tests, along with necessary medications. The Principal of the Police Training School, SP Mehmoos Hussain Raja, visited the camp and praised the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner, District Health Officer, doctors, and staff for their hard work in setting up the camp.

## Meeting held to implement Infection Prevention SOPs at Private Medical Centers

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi in his office to discuss the implementation of infection prevention and control SOPs at private medical centers. Focal Person Dr. Marvi Qazi provided a detailed briefing to the administration of the private medical centers, instructing them to properly dispose of waste material and deliver it to the Chandka Hospital incinerator to eliminate the issue of waste in both the centers and the city. In his remarks, Assistant Commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi stated that the meeting was convened at the request of the focal person to raise awareness about the infection prevention and control SOPs among the private medical centers' administration. He assured that the message would also reach those who were not present at the meeting. He emphasized that it is essential to transport the waste material from private medical centers to the Chandka Hospital incinerator so that everyone can live in a healthier community.

## Grow Green Network objects to funding for fossil fuel projects

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: The Grow Green Network has called on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to halt funding for fossil fuel projects in Pakistan and align its investments with the country's climate goals. This demand arose during a public forum organized by the Village Shadabad Organization

and the Indus Consortium, which highlighted the environmental damage caused by the Jamshoro Power Company Limited (JPCL) plant. Key speakers, including Akbar Lashari and Dr. Zubair Panwar, emphasized the urgent need for reforms in Pakistan's energy sector, which suffers from high reliance on imported fuels and significant energy shortages. The forum also called for investment in flood-resilient infrastructure and rejected further expansion of LNG and fossil fuels, advocating for renewable energy investments, especially for marginalized communities. Anwar Mahar, Executive Director of NARI Foundation and others also addressed the occasion.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Dadu Awami Forum are holding a protest demonstration against their local District Health Officer, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Kotri are holding a protest demonstration against the high handedness of their area police, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

# NATIONAL



## LHC Assembles Full Bench To Tackle Alarming Rise In Female Student Harassment

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) announced constituting a full court bench to hear the case of different incidents of harassment of female students, saying that the matter was of immense importance.

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum on Friday directed the authorities to take the statement of alleged victim linked to the much-hyped claims of "rape" of a private college's student in Lahore that sparked violent protests in the province that continue till date.

Nearly 400 individuals protesting harassments and sexual abuse against female students at educational institutions have been arrested in Rawalpindi alone as Section 144 has been imposed in the province, banning gatherings and demonstrations.

Several hundred others have been booked in Lahore and other cities for the viola-



tion of Section 144. Meanwhile, all private and public schools, universities and colleges in the province remained closed today.

As unrest shrouds Punjab, the LHC took up the matter of three separate incidents including the protests against alleged rape, an alleged suicide in Punjab University and a case of harassment in Lahore College of Women University (LCWU).

During the hearing, Punjab Inspector General of Police Usman Anwar and other officials appeared before the court with complete report sought by the court.

LHC CJ Neelum expressed displeasure with the police chief over failure in preventing the videos from going viral on the social media and controlling unruly students from taking to streets. She asked the reason for delay in reaching out to the relevant agencies for restricting the viral videos.—RT/Agency

## Dark Conspiracy To Disrupt Punjab's Peace, Azma Bokhari Sounds The Alarm



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that few political elements tried to play with the lives of innocent children by misusing social media.

Speaking to reporters, the provincial minister said that a conspiracy was being hatched to disrupt peace in Punjab. She warned against giving threats calls, adding that whoever was accusing the college of alleged incident should bring evidence.

She said lives and honour of girls especially in Punjab were not 'cheap', adding that teachers, parents and media should also fulfil their responsibilities.—RT/Agency

## Lahore 'Rape' Protests Erupt: 380 Students Arrested, Over 1,500 Charged In Rawalpindi



RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested more than 380 participants of student protests in Rawalpindi and booked more than 1,500 unidentified persons in eight cases, it emerged on Friday.

A large number of Rawalpindi students on Thursday staged demonstration against the alleged rape of a college-going girl in Lahore.

Police said the protesters infringed Section 144, interfering in the state affairs, damaged and torched properties, hurled stones at police mobile vans.

As per the FIRs, the demonstrators injured police officials and spread terror, as the students ransacked a hostel after forcefully entering the hostel premises, pelted stones and damaged the vehicles there.

The police resorted to teargas shelling to disperse the students and evacuated the teachers and staff who were initially besieged in the building.

The cases have been lodged, police said, at various police stations including Airport, Gujjar Khan, Sudda (Wah), Morgah and Naseerabad.

Meanwhile, as a measure to control the crowd, the road leading to Faizabad from Murree road has been partially closed by placing containers on them.

The demonstrations come amid the ongoing unrest across the province over rape allegations which went viral on social media platforms prompting students to hold multiple demonstrations across various cities in recent days.—RT/Agency

# CENTRAL PUNJAB

## Khawaja Farid (RA) International Conference Draws Global Attention

RAJANPUR: Sajjadnashin of the Darbar Alia Kot Mithan Sharif, Hazrat Khawaja Mazhar Farid Koreja, and the head of the Interfaith Harmony Committee, Mashaikh Ittehad Council Pakistan, and Coordinator of NAPA Academy South Punjab, chaired a conference titled "Khawaja Farid (RA) International Conference" which was held under the auspices of the Punjab Institute for Language, Art, and Culture, Department of Information and Culture Punjab.

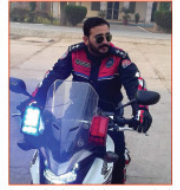


The conference was hosted by DG Block, Ms. Shazia, along with Mian Asif Ali, MIA Rashid Advocate, and other attendees including Coordinator of Ulama Mashaikh Punjabi Mahaz, Ghulam Abbas Bhatti, and Ameer Bux Mahseer, spokesperson for Farid Mahal and President of the Press Club, Rana Riaz Qayoom.—RT

## RPO Gujranwala Gets Tough On Corrupt Police Officers

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: An ASI from the Bagbanpura police station was arrested for misconduct and exceeding authority during a body search. Following a complaint, the City Police Officer (CPO) took notice and ordered an inquiry, which confirmed the allegations against ASI Ihsanullah. The CPO has since detained him in the Bagbanpura police lockup. In another incident from the same station, Sub-Inspector Shaheer and a jail police officer were named in motorcycle theft cases. Sub-Inspector Sha-



heer was previously assigned as in-charge of the Service Center at the RPO office. Both officers were arrested by the Bagbanpura police, with four stolen motorcycles recovered from their possession. When the police arrested a suspect named Ahmed, he revealed that he had sold motorcycles to the Sub-Inspector and the jail officer. Both were taken into custody based on Ahmed's disclosure, and they will be presented in court today for the same.

## IG Punjab Honors SHO Anam Sarfraz And Team For Daring Rescue Mission



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar awarded CC-1 letters and rewards to SHOs Anam Sarfraz and her team from Sargodha Police for their outstanding service to citizens. Recently, following a pipeline burst near the Lower Jehlum Canal, water flooded homes in Hamid

Town. Upon receiving the report, SHOs Anam Sarfraz and her team risked their lives to rescue families trapped in four feet of water. They successfully evacuated 37 individuals, including women and children, to safe locations. Dr. Usman Anwar commended the team for their exemplary performance and dedication, stating that such officers and personnel are the true assets of Punjab Police. He assured that the recognition of outstanding service will continue at all levels. Additional IG Operations Punjab Shahzada Sultan, AIG Adm. Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Ahmed, and DPO Sargodha Dr. Asad Ajaz Malhi were present at the ceremony.

## DPO Ibadat Nisar Hosts Public Open Katchery In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar held an open katchery at Jamia Mosque Sahib Lolak in the area of Police Station Pir Mahal. On this occasion, the DPO listened to the public's issues and issued orders on the spot to resolve them. A large number of local people participated in the open court. DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar listened to the grievances of the petitioners and immediately directed his subordinates for their swift resolution. DPO Ibadat Nisar stated that the



purpose of the open katchery is to establish direct communication with the public so that their issues can be heard and effective steps can be taken for their resolution, ensuring justice at their doorstep. To promote community policing, open katcheries were held in various mosques across the district by all SDPOs. He mentioned that building strong direct relations with citizens is ongoing, and delivering justice at the people's doorsteps remains their top priority.

## Floodlights And Cricket: Toba Tek Singh Hosts Thrilling All Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Tournament

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In alignment with the Punjab Chief Minister's "Playful Punjab" initiative, the All Pakistan Deputy Commissioner Tape Ball Floodlight Cricket Tournament was successfully held. The final match featured Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu as the chief guest, along with Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Ali Sameer, Assistant Commissioner Pir Mahal Saqib Adnan, Deputy Director Development Ahmed Jawad, and several other officials. The tournament featured a large number of citizens. The final match was contested between the teams of Toba and Multan. In a thrilling game, Toba emerged victorious, de-



feating Multan XI by 5 runs to clinch the tournament title. A spectacular fireworks display marked the event before the final match. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu presented the winner's trophy and a cash prize of Rs 500,000 to the Toba team, while the runner-up received a trophy and Rs 300,000. Each semi-finalist team was awarded Rs 150,000 and the remaining Rs 100,000 each. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu emphasized that, following the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, sports fields are being revitalized to engage the youth in both curricular and extracurricular activities. He expressed satisfaction with the strong turnout from the citizens of Toba Tek Singh and noted that 80 international-level tape ball players from across Pakistan participated in the tournament.

## Kurram Violence Spirals: Deadly Clashes Leave Two Dead, Three Injured

PARACHINAR: Two people were killed and three others injured when armed bikers opened fire in the Shingku area of Kurram, the latest incident of violence in the troubled region, media reported.

According to police, local residents were busy working in their fields in the Shingku area when armed motorcyclists came and opened fire on them.

As a result, two persons identified as Hidayat Hussain and Hashim Ali sustained multiple bullet injuries and died on the spot, while three others were wounded.

Sources in the District Headquarters Hospital said that they had received two bodies and injured persons.

Terminating it an act of terrorism, Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mahsud said that they were investigating the incident, saying that certain elements were involved in violence.

It may be noted that unknown gunmen had killed two persons in the same area in the same fashion a week ago.



Meanwhile, the elders have said that continuous closure of main and link roads would lead to massive humanitarian crises due to acute shortage of edibles, medicines, petrol and diesel reserves in District Kurram.

Tribal elders from the Turi and Bangash tribes have expressed concern that the continuous closure of roads has caused shortage of food and fuel supplies, raising the fear of a major humanitarian crisis.

They said that suspension of 3G and 4G services had also caused distress for students and citizens, affecting studies and businesses alike in the area.

After incidents of firing on passenger vehicles a few days ago, the main Parachinar-Peshawar and other routes have been closed owing to fear of more such incidents.

Violence stopped last month and the authorities also re-opened the Pak-Afghan border crossing at Kharlachi. September clashes saw 60 people's deaths and dozens of injuries, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi had said. The dispute involves two rival tribes who have been fighting over a piece of land. In August, the two sides had reached a two-month ceasefire after the armed clashes resulted in 50 casualties and wounded 226 others.—RT/Agency

# METRO KARACHI

## Mohomed Bashir Makes History As First Pakistani President Of International Cotton Association

KARACHI: The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) announced that Mohamed Bashir has been appointed as the new president of the International Cotton Association (ICA), marking a significant milestone as he becomes the first Pakistani to hold this esteemed position. This appointment underscores Pakistan's growing prominence in the global cotton and textile industry.



With over 40 years of experience, Bashir has made notable contributions to both national and international trade. As chairman of Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Limited, a leading textile company in Pakistan, he has been instrumental in enhancing its global reputation and reach, driving innovation and excellence within the sector.

Bashir's distinguished career includes leadership roles

such as president of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), chairman of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), and chairman of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC). His vast experience and commitment to advancing the cotton industry make him an ideal choice for the ICA presidency. The KCA believes his strategic vision, along with his dedication to sustainability and ethical trade, will be invaluable in this global leadership role. Headquartered in Liverpool, UK, the International Cotton Association is the premier organization dedicated to ensuring fair and equitable trade practices in the cotton industry. Under Bashir's leadership, the ICA is expected to leverage his extensive industry knowledge to strengthen its influence on the international stage.—RT

## New Constitutional Amendment Aimed To Corner PTI, Barrister Saif Claims



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Saif said on Friday that proposed constitutional amendment was aimed at further sidelining the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In a statement, Saif said that people were taking to the streets against the 'fascist' government on a daily basis, adding that the PTI would continue its protest till PTI Founder Imran Khan and other political prisoners' release from the prison.

He criticised the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for working in cahoots with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) against the ideology of former party's founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

"An independent judiciary can stand in the way of any infringement on people's rights carried out by use of force and oppression. The fake rulers are pressuring people to vote in favour of the constitutional amendment. I urge legal community to defend the freedom of judiciary," he added.—RT/Agency

## FBR Launches Aggressive Crackdown On Tax-Dodging Firms And Individuals

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has expedited its action against the tax evader companies and individuals, media reported, quoting sources. For the first time in history, FBR arrested tax evaders after registration of FIRs, the sources said and added that the lists of tax evader companies and individuals have been finalised to speed up the action. Connected tax commissioners will serve show-cause notices over tax irregularities. Meanwhile, the FBR officials have said with the new steps, the tax evasion will be reduced in Pakistan as no one will be able to hide his tax returns. Non-filers will be barred from doing any business, buying house or a vehicle. It is to be mentioned here that the government has extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for the tax year 2024 again until October 31, providing an opportunity for those who did not file their returns before October 14.—RT/Agency

## FIA Busts Network Selling Expired Medicines In Karachi

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has successfully apprehended an individual involved in the illegal sale of prohibited and expired medications in Karachi, media reported on Friday.

The accused, identified as Shehzad Aftab, was arrested from the Defense Badar Commercial area during a coordinated operation that in-

cluded drug inspection teams. According to FIA officials, the company was involved in repackaging high-quality drugs and reselling surplus medicines that had been exported in large quantities.

Alarmingly, the operation uncovered a stockpile of prohibited drugs, which were seized for further in-

vestigation. Among the findings were expired medications sold without proper packaging or expiry dates, posing significant health risks to consumers. The FIA has taken samples of all confiscated medicines and dispatched them to a laboratory for analysis to ascertain their safety and compliance with health regulations.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, October 19, 2024



## How Long Will Pakistan Keep Tearing Itself Apart?

Just days after Pakistan proudly hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, reestablishing its importance on the global stage, we find ourselves once again mired in chaos. The recent clash between PTI workers and Karachi police is not just a political event—it's a reflection of how deeply fractured the country has become. It feels as though for every step forward, Pakistan takes two steps back. This endless cycle of internal conflict is humiliating for a country that should be focusing on its future, not constantly grappling with self-inflicted wounds.

This is no longer about political allegiances or whether or not you support PTI.



It's about realizing that Pakistan must stop inflicting its own wounds. The confrontation in Karachi is yet another reminder of how easily we fall into disarray, and how quickly we derail any progress we make. The world is watching, and just as we begin to gain recognition, we shatter that image with political unrest and public confronta-

tions. Freedom of expression, peaceful protests, and political discourse are pillars of a functioning democracy. But when these actions devolve into violence, or when authorities respond with excessive force, we degrade the very foundation of our society. The people of Pakistan deserve better, and the international community expects better. We cannot continue this cycle of chaos and instability. The longer we persist in this self-destructive behavior, the more we undermine our future as a united and progressive nation.



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

### Hyderabad Police arrest four notorious criminals



**By GM Chandio**  
HYDERABAD Hyderabad Police in the jurisdiction of the Hussainabad Police, during patrols, apprehended four suspects along with weapons, narcotics, and alcohol on Friday. Notably, drug supplier Bilal Burro was arrested near Nagoshah Cemetery with ten liters of illicit alcohol. Additionally, street criminal Ameer Bux Jamali was caught near Mehran Oil Mills with a 30 bore pistol and ammunition. From Unit Number 4 Latifabad, drug



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding a protest demonstration for the release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

### Sindh Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari leads PPP workers rally from Thatta to Hyderabad in Tribute to Karsaz Martyrs

**By Khuda Bux Brohi**  
THATTA: Thousands of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) workers, led by Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, the Provincial Minister for Works, Services, and Prisons, participated in a caravan from Thatta to Hyderabad to commemorate the tragic Karsaz attack of October 18, 2007. The rally honored the 180 PPP workers killed and over 150 injured in the suicide bombings during Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's homecoming procession. The procession, featuring hundreds of vehicles adorned with PPP flags and banners, was co-organized by key PPP leaders, including District President Sadiq Ali Memon and other provincial officials. In media statements, Zardari emphasized the importance of remembering the Karsaz martyrs and noted that Zardari reaffirmed the PPP's mission, rooted in the sacrifices of its martyrs, and its relentless pursuit of a just and democratic future for all Pakistanis.



### SFA Team Cracks Down On Shopkeepers In Thana Bula Khan, Fines For Filthy Conditions



**By Shoukat Khakheli**  
THANA BULA KHAN: The Sindh Food Authority suddenly launched inspections at various hotels, shops, and bakeries, causing quite a stir. Led by Director Aqeela Jalbani and Food Security Officer Asma Khoso, the team took action, expressing strong displeasure over the lack of cleanliness. They fined more than 28 shopkeepers and hotel owners for

### Hyderabad hosts Flying Disc Training Workshop and Championship

**By GM Chandio**  
HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Flying Disc Association organized a Flying Disc training workshop and championship in collaboration with the Sindh Flying Disc Association and Public School Hyderabad. The event was inaugurated by the Principal of Public School, Fazaluddin Memon, who was welcomed by Sindh Secretary Amir Kifayat. During the opening, Hyderabad Association President Hassan Imam Qadri presented an Ajrak and Secretary Sanam Baloch offered a souvenir. The closing ceremony featured District Sports Officer Hyderabad, Maryam Keerio, as the chief guest, who was also welcomed by Amir Kifayat and Sanam Baloch. The event saw participation from key figures, including treasurer Wasim Khan, senior vice president Naila Aqeel, and various other association officials. In the girls' event, the YTS team secured first place, Club taking third. The awards were distributed by Maryam Keerio. Hassan Imam Qadri concluded the event by thanking the guests and association officials for their support.



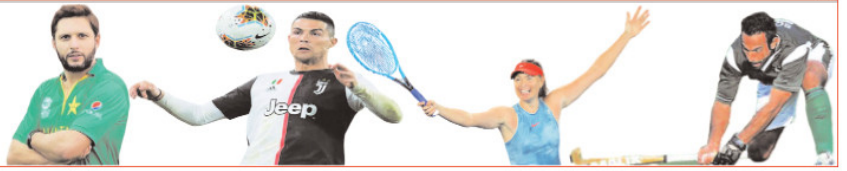
HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Mehran Workers Union are holding a protest demonstration against the non-payment of their salaries, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

### Protest Erupts, Demanding Judicial Enquiry Into Shocking Murder Of Sajan Malookani

**By Mumtaz Ali Thahim**  
TANDO ADAM: In Tando Adam, a protest rally was held by the Malookani community against the brutal murder of law student Sajan Malookani by the Punjab police. The rally started from Iqbal Road and proceeded to MA Jinnah Road, led by Raja Malookani and Sikandar Malookani. Participants, primarily young members of the Malookani community, raised slogans vehemently. During the rally, leaders from the Jany Sindh Qaumi Mahaz, including Allahad Marri, Akbar Mari, Muhammad Ali Khoso, and district president Comrade Muhammad Khan Panhwar of the SUP, spoke out, stating that Sajan Malookani, a final-year law student at Sindh University, was wrongfully declared a criminal and murdered in a fake police encounter in Punjab. They noted that the victim had been missing for fourteen months, and a case was ongoing in the Sindh High Court based on his mother's plea regarding his disappearance. The speakers called for a judicial inquiry into the murder of the innocent Sajan Malookani and immediate arrests of the culprits. They warned that if justice was not served for the victim's family, there would be severe protests across the Sindh.



# SPORTS



## Ben Stokes Issues Surprising Apology After Crushing Defeat to Pakistan



MULTAN: England captain Ben Stokes has stated that he apologised to his teammates for showing his frustrations during his side's crushing 152-run defeat in the second Test against Pakistan in Multan.

"The visitors were left to rue two dropped catches on day three in Multan, Salman Agha escaping on four and six on his way to a crucial half-century as Pakistan made 221 in their second innings.

England were set to chase an unlikely 297 to seal the series with a match to go but never got close on a sharply turning Multan pitch that was recycled from the first Test.

"No one means to drop catches but it just proves how important catches are out in these subcontinent conditions because they don't come along that often," Ben Stokes told Sky Sports.

"I actually apologised to the group up there last night."

Stokes, who missed England's innings victory in the first Test in Multan because of injury, added: "It's the first time in my captaincy that I've felt my emotions, how I was feeling as the game was unfolding, show in my body language."

"I owned up to that and I'm very annoyed with myself for letting that out and it's something I don't want to do or be seen to be doing."

"So I apologised to the group about that and I said it was poor old me coming out, tired, grumpy old man last night but you won't see that happen again."

The third and final Test is in Rawalpindi from October 24 and Stokes refused to look backwards or wonder what might have been. "Next week is going to be good. I'm sure everyone's enjoyed watching here and back home," said the skipper. "Hopefully we can get a win next week and go home with another series win."—Agency

## England Caught in Spin Web as Pakistan Storm Back to Level Series

MULTAN: Noman Ali took eight wickets as Pakistan's leading spinners guided the team to a 152-run win over England in the second Test in Multan on Friday, leveling the three-match series at 1-1. Chasing 297 for victory on a turning track at the Multan Cricket Stadium, England were all out for 144 in the fourth day's morning session.

Skipper Ben Stokes was the top scorer for England with 37 but their frontline batters struggled against the turning ball.

Left-arm spinner Noman was pick of the Pakistan bowlers claiming 8-46. Noman and player of the match Sajid Khan, who claimed seven wickets in the first innings, shared all 20 England wickets in a terrific display of spin bowling.

It ended Pakistan's winless run on home soil where they had not won a Test match since February 2021.

"I think the first one's always special, and it's come after some hard times, some rough times," Shan Masood said after his first Test win as Pakistan captain. "Noman and Sajid coming in for their first games - it's never easy, and they seemed like two seasoned campaigners coming in and doing their job in the second innings."

"We didn't need a third bowler, so that just speaks volumes for them." Soon after putting an end to a winless home run, congratulations poured in from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif for the team. In his congratulatory message for the Men in Green, Zardari praised the team's spinners, noting that they "played an important role in winning this match". "I hope that this series of excellent performances will continue in the future", he said. Meanwhile, taking to X, Shehbaz lauded the team for ending a winless streak at home.

"We are back," said the prime minister in his post on X. "Well done, Team Pakistan, for winning the first home Test after a long haul with a historic win against England," he added. "Spectacular performances by Sajid Khan wickets & Noman Ali wickets."—Agency

## Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi Break Silence on Thrilling Win Over England



LAHORE: Pakistan's star cricketers Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi extended their congratulations to the national team following their dominant victory over England in the recently concluded second Test on Friday.

The Shan Masood-led team defeated England by 152 runs to level the three-match series and claim their first Test victory at home since February 2021.

Pakistan made four changes in their Playing XI for the second Test after the crushing loss in the first match, including dropping star players like Babar and Shaheen. Consequently, Kamran Ghulam made his long-awaited debut, while spin bowlers Sajid Khan, Noman Ali and Zahid Mahmood made their return to the Test side. Following Pakistan's victory, Shaheen Afridi took to his official X (formerly Twitter) account and congratulated the team, while praising the Kamran Sajid and Noman for their impressive performances. "Fantastic win at home! Congratulations to Pakistan. Noman Ali and Sajid Khan were exceptional, along with a dream debut for Kamran Ghulam and a massive contribution from Salman Ali Agha. Keep it going, Inshallah," he posted. Meanwhile, Babar Azam posted a picture of the team along with a heartfelt message for his teammates. "Fantastic win. Proud of the effort and spirit," Babar posted. It's worth noting that Noman and Sajid took eleven and nine wickets respectively, becoming only the second Pakistani pair to share 20 wickets in a Test match.—Agency

## Pak vs Eng: Noman Ali and Sajid Khan Etch Their Names in Cricket History

KARACHI: In a remarkable turnaround, Pakistan has triumphed over England in the second Test in Multan, finally breaking their 11-Test winless streak at home and securing their first Test victory in 15 months.

This victory not only marks a significant milestone for the team but also ends a prolonged home drought of 44 months without a Test win, bringing a wave of relief and celebration to cricket fans across the nation.

The match was dominated by Pakistan's spin duo, Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, who delivered a masterclass in spin bowling.

Noman shone brightly, claiming 11 wickets in the match, including an impressive 8 for 46 in the second innings. This performance has made him the first Pakistani spinner to take 8 wickets in the fourth innings of a Test match.

The previous best fourth-innings figures for a Pakistani spinner were held by Mushtaq Ahmed, who took 7 for 56 against New Zealand in Christchurch in 1995. The all-time best for a Pakistani in a fourth innings remains Sarfraz Nawaz's 9 for 86 against Australia in Melbourne in 1979. Sajid also played a crucial role, taking 9 wickets in the match. This duo's combined effort is a historic achievement, as it marks only the seventh instance in Test history, where two bowlers have taken all 20 wickets of the opposition.

The last time this feat was accomplished by Pakistani bowlers was in 1956, when the legendary pair of Fazal Mahmood and Khan Mohammad took all wickets against Australia.

This record underscores the significance of their performance, as it highlights a rare and noteworthy achievement in the record books of cricket history. Furthermore, the Multan

## Pakistan Cricket Needs Game-Changing Performances, Not PR Gimmicks, Warns Hafeez



KARACHI: Pakistan's former captain Mohammad Hafeez took a dig at players' PR agencies after Pakistan beat England by 152 runs in Multan Test on Friday.

Taking to X after the win, Hafeez praised the "impeccable" performances of Kamran Ghulam, Salman Ali Agha, Sajid Khan, and Nauman Ali who played an important role in Pakistan's Test victory at home after almost three years.

"Pakistan cricket needs impactful performances like Kamran Ghulam, Salman Agha 50, Sajid Khan 9 wickets & Noman Ali 11 wickets for winning cause. Surely not PR agencies," he wrote.

For the past three-four years, PR agencies of Pakistani players have dominated the cricket corridors as

also reported in the previous era of PCB heads Zaka Ashraf & Najam Sethi. The ex-PCB management committee's chair Ashraf also tried to launch a crack down on such PR agencies for blackmailing the board through players. However, Ashraf's tenure was cut short earlier this year when the PCB elections were held. Magical spin spells from Nauman Ali and Sajid Khan propelled Pakistan to a convincing win against England on day 4 of the Multan Test. Nauman took eight wickets whereas Sajid bagged two wickets in the second innings to ensure Pakistan doesn't go winless at home this time. The continuity of dominance from the first innings helped the spin duo give a strong statement to the opposition out there.—Agency

## India's Batting Stars Fight Back as Ravindra's Heroics Keep New Zealand Ahead

BENGALURU: Fifties from Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Sarfaraz Khan lifted India to fight back after Rachin Ravindra steered New Zealand to a massive 356-run lead on Day 3 of the rain-hit first Test here at M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

India got to 231/3 at Stumps, trailing New Zealand by 125 runs after Glenn Phillips dismissed Virat Kohli on the final delivery of the day.

The home side got off to a steady start as Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Rohit Sharma added 72 runs for the first wicket.

He struck eight fours and six on his way to a 63-ball 52.

India's batting maestro Virat Kohli was then joined by young Sarfaraz Khan and the duo unleashed the demolition of New Zealand bowlers with a marathon stand, which yielded 136 runs.

However, Kohli had an agonizing end to his knock as he fell on the last delivery of an eventful third day of the rain-hit Test and had to settle for a well-crafted 70, laced up with eight fours and a six.—Agency

## Kids' Corner



Name: Muhammad Azlan  
Location: Gujranwala  
About me: I like to play with my toys!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## America's sweetheart Taylor Swift Drops Bombshell: 'Eras Tour' Comeback with a Mystery Guest



Taylor Swift is back for the final leg of record-breaking Eras Tour. Following a short break, Swift is now ready to wow fans with her electrifying performances.

Sharing a video of herself on Instagram, Swift has teased her return-but along with an unexpected guest.

In the video, the Cruel Summer hitmaker can be seen holding one of her beloved cats, Olivia Benson, in her arms.

She captioned the post, "Back in the office... #MiamiTSErasTour."

The 14-time Grammy winner looked stunning in bright yellow sweat shirt paired with blue jeans. However, this post has left fans wondering what's next to come, especially due to Swift's love for leaving hints for Swifties.

## Jennifer Lopez Ready to Shine Again as Divorce Rumors with Big Ben Affleck Swirl



Jennifer Lopez is preparing to achieve another career milestone in year ahead. Lately, The Hollywood star has had a challenging year related to her "crummy love life" with estranged husband Ben Affleck.

Recently, a source close to the On The Floor singer dished out Lopez's upcoming plans to get her spotlight back. While reflecting on her divorce, which she filed against Affleck after two

years of marriage in 2024, the insiders told DailyMail. "She wants next year to be her best year ever to show the world her crummy love life did not get her down. She will rise."

Moreover, JLo will be vying for an Oscar for the Best Supporting Role in Affleck and his friend, Matt Damon, produced movie, Unstoppable. However, the source revealed that Affleck and his co-producer are rooting for

DHAKA: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced uncapped left-arm spinner Hasan Murad as a replacement for veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan in the squad for the first Test against South Africa.

The match is set to take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka from October 21.

Hasan Murad, 23, has been in impressive form in domestic cricket, claiming 136 wickets in just 30 first-class matches since his debut in 2021.

The decision to include him comes after Shakib made himself unavailable for the Test, citing security concerns. Chairman of the BCB National Selection Panel,

Gazi Ashraf Hossain, said: "We have been informed that Shakib is unavailable for the first Test. Although he is at the end of his Test career, his experience is invaluable, and we currently do not have anyone who can replace him in both batting and bowling. However, Hasan Murad has performed consistently in first-class cricket and has been part of our system. We believe he will add balance to our bowling, particularly in 'home conditions.' Shakib's absence stems from security issues surrounding his return to Bangladesh. He had initially planned to fly from Dubai to Dhaka but was advised by higher authorities to await further instructions before boarding.—Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



# NATIONAL

## AC Dr. Rana Haseeb Makes Surprise Visit To Mazhar Model School In Ranipur

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Assistant Commissioner of Sobhodero, Dr. Rana Haseeb, stated that private schools are providing good facilities at the government school in Sobhodero. He visited the Mazhar Model School in Ranipur and urged the administration to provide nutritious meals to primary classes on a permanent basis. In response, the administration announced the provision of lunch boxes daily to the Government Primary School Watahi Wada under the ADOP initiative. Additionally, an introductory session on CSS and MBBS was held for intermediate students in the auditorium, which will be beneficial for their guidance. These initiatives aim to improve educational standards and pave the way for students' fu-



tures. Dr. Rana Haseeb also visited the Rural Health Center in Ranipur, where he checked the cleanliness, availability of medicines, and the attendance of doctors. Two male medical officers and three female medical officers were on duty at the hospital.

## Sujawal seminar discusses coastal devastation and saline water management



By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A research seminar organized by PCRWR focused on coastal devastation and the causes of saline water, attracting significant participation from local farmers, civil society, and journalists. During the seminar, Regional Director Dr. Ghulam Murtaza and other experts stated that the Government of Pakistan has formed a team of specialists to assess the increasing salinity and saline water issues in coastal areas, including Sujawal. Local farmers expressed their concern over the shortage of river water that has led to rising salinity, causing thousands of acres of land to submerge in the sea. They noted that saline water is affecting aquatic life and agricultural productivity, leading to increased hunger and unemployment. Experts and locals emphasized the need for providing the required amount of water from the Indus River to Sujawal District and formulating effective strategies to combat coastal devastation. Participants specifically demanded the rejection of new canal projects from Punjab, warning that such initiatives would further worsen the water shortage in Sindh.

## PPP Hands Reins To Bilawal As Parliamentary Leader

ISLAMABAD: As efforts to build consensus among all political parties ahead of the highly anticipated tweaks to the Constitution continue, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated its chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, as the party's parliamentary leader.



The development comes at a time when members of the treasury benches are scrambling to win over the opposition to vote for the 26th constitutional amendment, which mainly focuses on judicial reforms. Talking to the media before the Parliament House in Islamabad on Friday, PPP leader and chairperson of the Special Committee of Parliament on the constitutional draft Khurshid Shah confirmed his party had nominated Bilawal as the parliamentary leader. Meanwhile, PPP leader Naveed Qamar has submitted the documents pertaining to the election of the party chairman as the parliamentary leader at the National Assembly Office.

Under the constitution, the parliamentary leader has the authority to direct members to vote on constitutional amendments, finance bills and the election of the prime minister or speaker as per the party policy. Shah said the decision taken by Bilawal would be final and, "God willing, the constitutional amendment would take place." Haste is not good, everything should be done calmly. This is the amendment for which 177 of our workers were martyred today," he said referring to the 2007 Karachi's Karsaz blast incident. He said former prime minister Benazir Bhutto had returned to Pakistan to campaign for the same amendment. "We will never let this sacrifice go in vain," he added.—RT/Agency

## Brohi Community Rises In Badah, Demands Swift Justice In Powerful Show Of Unity

By Ibrahim Farooqi

BADAH: In Badah, villagers staged a protest demanding justice against the filing of a false FIR. Residents of Hyder Brohi village in the Bakrani taluka, led by Nazir Ahmed Brohi, Koshan Brohi, Ramadan, and Noor Ahmed Brohi protested in front of the Press Club Badah, chanting slogans against the Bakrani police. The protesters expressed their grievances to the

media, stating that their group was not involved in the murder of three family members in Hyder Brohi a month ago. They lamented that the Bakrani police, under the influence of powerful individuals, accepted heavy bribes and filed a false FIR against ten people, including UC Chairman Mashori Sharif Mir Shakil Ahmed, Dost Muhammad Brohi, and Muhammad Ishaq Brohi, without any investigation. They alleged that the police were raiding their homes daily, harassing innocent children and women. They further asserted their innocence, stating they had no connection to the murder incident and that a conspiracy was underway to file false charges against them. They demanded the IG of Sindh, the DIG of Larkana, and the SSP of Larkana conduct an impartial investigation into the matter to reveal the truth.

## Latif Day celebrated at Govt Girls Degree College Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A grand program titled "Latif's Day" was held at Government Girls Degree College Larkana on Friday. The event took place in the college's multipurpose hall and was attended by special guests including Additional Regional Director of Colleges Larkana, Professor Mubeen Ahmed Langah, honorary guest Professor Mukhtar Samo, and other senior professors. Professor Ayoub Gad Latif expressed pride in celebrating Latif Day, mentioning that many PhD scholars have emerged from his teachings. He urged every student to read Shah's poetry. Professor Mukhtar Samo described Latif as a poet for all times, emphasizing that his works should be present in every



home. Professor Rizwan Gul noted that Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (RA) is the voice of the oppressed, calling him the world's first feminist poet. The program concluded with addresses from Additional Director of Inspection Professor Aijaz Jamali and Professor Mubeen Ahmed Langah, who spoke about Latif's themes of love and resistance, highlighting female characters in his poetry. Students participated in recitations, poetry, and tableau performances, showcasing their talent.

## Dr. Badruddin Abro assumes charge as MS Taluka Hospital Moro



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: Newly appointed Medical Superintendent of the Taluka Hospital Moro, Dr. Badruddin Abro stated that health services will be provided to the underprivileged, with medications and tests offered free of charge. He aims to transform the hospital into a model facility. Dr. Abro emphasized that any issues faced by doctors and staff will be prioritized for resolution. He encouraged individuals to contact him directly with their concerns to ensure timely solutions. He highlighted that the hospital serves a large population in the subdivision, and collective efforts will be made to address all challenges effectively.

## Ombudsman's Regional Director Manzoor Ali Soomro holds an open katchery



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Regional Ombudsman Director Manzoor Ali Soomro held an open meeting at the District Accounts Office in Badin to address public concerns about pensions, GP funds, and salaries. He listened to attendees and ordered immediate resolutions for several issues.

Soomro emphasized that the open call aims to prioritize the problems of government and retired employees, and instructed the Finance Department to include recruitment dates on salary slips starting this month. He reassured a petitioner, Urs Khaskheli, that her long-standing issue would be resolved and encouraged others to bring their concerns directly to his office if not addressed. Arif Hussain Mirani reported that 57 GP Fund cases, 35 Teaching Allowance cases, and 39 pension cases were resolved this month, with 125 LPR cases to follow. The meeting saw strong participation from retired and serving employees.

## SC Strikes Down Quota System For Government Employees' Children

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has declared the quota policy and packages for government employees' children as null and void. The 11-page ruling, penned by Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, deemed all policies and packages regarding the quota for government employees' children "unconstitutional".

The apex court granted the appeal of the General Post Office (GPO) and annulled the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) 2021 decision. Furthermore, the top court invalidated the Prime Minister's Package for Employment Policy and its office memorandum related to the quota. It also struck down Section 11-A of the Sindh Civil Servants Rules 1974 and Section 10 Subsection 4 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servants Rules 1989. Additionally, it declared Section 12 of the Balochistan Civil Servants Rule 2009 as null and void. The court ruled that granting jobs to widows or children of government employees without advertisement or open merit contradicts Articles 3, 4, 5(2), 25, and 27 of the Constitution. In its ruling, the court directed all federal and provincial governments to abolish the policy of providing employment to government employees' children without advertisement or open merit. The judicial ruling will not affect the quotas already granted to government employees' children. It also clarified that the decision does not apply to the legal heirs of individuals killed in terrorist incidents. The court stated that the ruling would not impact the packages and policies awarded to the heirs of martyrs. It emphasized that the prime minister does not have the authority to soften the rules regarding the quota. "Good governance cannot be achieved through unequal treatment," the court noted.—RT/Agency

## Railway Workers Facing Late Paychecks Due To Delayed Government Grant, Reveals Awaissi

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Railways, Muhammad Usman Awaissi on Friday submitted before the lower house of the Parliament that the lower cadre staff of Pakistan Railways was receiving late salaries due to grant in aid provided by the Ministry of Finance.



The Parliamentary Secretary was responding to a calling attention notice of Member National Assembly (MNA) Aliya Kamran regarding failure of Pakistan Railways to pay monthly salaries to its employees on the due date, causing grave concern amongst the public. Muhammad Usman Awaissi apprised the House that basically the Railways payment of salaries awaits grant in aid to ensure disbursement of its salaries. However, the Finance Ministry needs to resolve the matter by disbursing grant in aid at the end of the previous month instead of start of the

month to ensure swift transfer of salaries, he added. He expressed his support for the employees receiving late salaries and assured the move to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Revenue citing the calling attention notice to resolve the matter. The mover, MNA Aliya Kamran said the issue is persisting for the past three years and the former Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique had vowed to address the matter. She underlined that almost 85% of this staff belong to the lower cadres who were given salaries on the 17th, 18th, and 19th day of every month that made it impossible to manage their household expenditures. The pensions, gratuity, leave encashment payments were delayed, leaving the retired employees unable to get their post retirement benefits, she added. The Minister should be directed to ensure timely disbursement of salaries to the Railways employees, she urged.—RT/Agency

## Private Company Bags Rs135m Deal To Overhaul Lahore Safari Park

LAHORE: The Punjab Wildlife Department has awarded a contract worth Rs135 million to a private company for the management of Lahore Safari Park. The department will continue to oversee the care and breeding of wildlife, including animals and birds.



Under the agreement, the private company will manage key operations such as parking, entry tickets, aquarium maintenance, electric vehicles, and lion safari vehicles. The contract was signed today, and the company has already begun reviewing operations alongside the Lahore Safari Zoo administration. Project Director Mudassar Hassan stated that the reserve price was set at Rs80 million, taking into account all associated costs. "We are pleased that the contract was awarded

for Rs135 million," he said. Hassan added that the contractor will be responsible for vehicle repairs, electricity bills, and the upkeep and feeding of fish in the aquarium. Separate auctions will be held for the café, electric rides area, and horse riding concessions, with a review of previous contracts also in the works. Hassan further noted that the park staff previously involved in parking management, ticket collection, and driving electric vehicles will now focus solely on caring for the animals and birds. "Efforts will also be made to ensure that contract-based employees continue their work under the new contract, preserving their jobs",—RT/Agency

## PTI Backs Constitutional Amendment Draft-But With Conditions, Says Raja Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister, Speaker National Assembly and Member National Assembly (MNA), Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) delegation headed by chief whip of the party Aamir Dogar agreed on the Constitutional Amendment Draft with some changes subject to consultation with its leadership.



The former Speaker National Assembly was speaking at a previous day debate on legislative reforms during the 10th session of the lower house of the Parliament. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said all political parties should reconcile to start a new dawn of peace and progress and na-

been accepted by all political parties with small changes and it should be approved by all," he said. In response from the Opposition Benches, SIC MNA, Ali Muhammad Khan said the Parliament was the supreme forum and the government should do legislation but it should not be at the cost of political compromises. The Constitutional Amendment Draft should be prepared in the Parliament that would be presented before the PTI founder and the party members would persuade him to accept its passage for basic human rights and betterment of the Constitution, he said.—RT/Agency

## Thari Mirwah's civil society protests against drug trafficking and deteriorating law and order situation

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: A rally was held in Thari Mirwah against insecurity and drug trafficking, attended by a large number of citizens, lawyers, teachers, and students. Speakers at the rally included Dr. Hosh Muhammad Jogi, Advocate Mehtab



Shar, and senior journalists against drugs and take measures to control the prevailing insecurity in the area.

# METRO KARACHI



## Murad Defends Government's Actions In Dr. Shahnawaz Case, Slams Section 144 Violators

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, addressing the media after paying tribute at the Karsaz Martyrs' Memorial, reaffirmed the PPP-led government's transparent stance on the Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar incident. He criticized those violating Section 144, stating that they claim tolerance while ignoring the law.



The CM highlighted the swift disclosure of the initial report and emphasized the government's commitment to transparency, noting that senior police officers were named in the FIR and placed under investigation. Despite this, he said some were politicizing the issue rather than recognizing the government's efforts.

Shah explained that Section 144 was enforced to prevent clashes between religious groups and the Rawadari March but was still violated. He reiterated that law enforcement and the judiciary, not mobs, should handle such matters. He also apologized to the March participants and ordered an impartial inquiry into the incident.

Reflecting on the Karsaz incident, Shah remembered Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's return from exile and the tragic blast that claimed 180 lives during her convoy. He praised her bravery, recalling how she visited the injured and bereaved families the very next day.

Shah emphasized that the sacrifice of Bhutto and the party workers helped restore democracy in Pakistan, calling it a "priceless" gift bought with her life. He expressed frustration over the lack of evidence hindering investigations into the Karsaz attack, citing the washing of the crime scene as a major obstacle.—RT/Agency

## Social Media Influencer Issues Apology For Controversial Video Targeting Sindh Police

KARACHI: A TikTok influencer, who sparked controversy with a video criticizing the Sindh Police, has issued a public apology, media reported on Friday.

The individual, identified as Shahnawaz from Rahim Yar Khan, currently residing in Manzoor Colony, expressed deep regret over the viral video, which was filmed near the

Defense Police Station and surfaced online at 3 PM the previous day.

"I should not have made the video. It was a serious mistake," Shahnawaz admitted, apologizing to the officers and employees of the Sindh Police. "I sincerely ask for forgiveness from the Sindh Police. I am deeply ashamed of my actions and plead for your forgiveness."—RT/Agency

## Stone-Pelting Protest In Karachi Leaves Six Police Officers Injured

KARACHI: Tensions at Regal Chowk were brought under control after protesters dispersed following a heavy police presence, media reported on Friday.



Authorities confirmed that a large contingent of anti-riot police was deployed in the area to restore order. Police personnel entered the streets surrounding Regal Chowk, and partial traffic flow resumed on the main roads.

The injured personnel - identified as Taha, Munir Ali, Ismail, Manthar Ali, and Shaheen - were stationed at Kalri, Napier, and Eidgah police stations. The Karachi administration has imposed a two-day ban under Section 144, prohibiting gatherings

and rallies on October 18 and 19 to maintain public order. The ban covers assemblies of five or more people, processions, and public meetings. It's worth noting that the Punjab government has also enforced Section 144 across the province for two days, starting Friday, October 18.—RT/Agency

## SSGC Adds Geyser Charges To Gas Bills, Sparking Debate

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has started collecting conical baffle charges as part of its geyser campaign, media reported.

Consumers across SSGC's 3.2 million customer base have received additional charges of Rs2,085 in their gas bills under the label "conical baffle" charges. Many customers expressed frustration as they were billed despite not having geysers installed in their homes, with the extra charges applied before the baffle installations.

SSGC officials confirmed that surveys were conducted prior to the application of charges, following OGRA's approval, and contractors have begun installing the baffles. Customers facing issues are urged to contact their nearest Customer Facilitation Center (CFC) for assistance.

This move follows a government directive from a January 2023 meeting, chaired by the prime minister, which mandated the installation of conical baffles in existing geysers as part of energy conservation measures.—RT/Agency

In response to the outcry, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) clarified that the conical baffles were approved to enhance safety and lower gas bills. The regulator advised affected consumers to lodge complaints with either SSGC or OGRA if they were incorrectly charged.

SSGC officials confirmed that surveys were conducted prior to the application of charges, following OGRA's approval, and contractors have begun installing the baffles. Customers facing issues are urged to contact their nearest Customer Facilitation Center (CFC) for assistance.

## Karachi Administration Extends Colonial Era Section 144 Clampdown For Two More Days

KARACHI: The Karachi administration has extended the enforcement of Section 144 for an additional two days, until October 19, as per a notification issued on Friday.



Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naqvi, under the powers delegated by the Sindh Home Department, has implemented a complete ban on protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, rallies, and gatherings of more than five people in the city.

Previously, Section 144 had been imposed for five days, from October 13 to 17, as a security measure ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced a nationwide protest on Friday (today) against the proposed 26th constitutional amendment package. In a declaration issued on Wednesday, the PTI's political committee vowed to oppose the constitutional amendments and directed regional and local bodies to hold peaceful protests. The party aims to block the passage of the proposed amendments, which include the establishment of a federal constitutional court and the fixation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan's tenure at three years.—RT/Agency

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced a nationwide protest on Friday (today) against the proposed 26th constitutional amendment package. In a declaration issued on Wednesday, the PTI's political committee vowed to oppose the constitutional amendments and directed regional and local bodies to hold peaceful protests. The party aims to block the passage of the proposed amendments, which include the establishment of a federal constitutional court and the fixation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan's tenure at three years.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Sees 50% Drop In Street Crimes In Early 2024: Police Chief Reveals

KARACHI: Karachi Police Chief Javed Alam Odho announced on Friday that street crimes in the city have decreased by 50% in the first quarter of 2024, despite the fact that 100 lives have been lost to such incidents so far.



Odho, who assumed his role as Karachi's top cop in July, emphasized the police force's dedicated focus on combating street crimes. Last week, he ordered combing operations, increased patrols, and other measures to crack down on criminal activity in the city.

Speaking on a private TV show, the police chief highlighted the need for a modern command and control center to effectively address crime. He revealed that in the first phase of the Safe City project, 25% of the cameras will be installed to enhance surveillance across Karachi.

The Safe City project, which has faced delays over the years, is crucial to improving security, though its progress has been slow. Last month, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah provided an update on the project, calling it a key initiative to boost the city's safety through advanced surveillance and response systems. Shah noted that work on the first phase of the project has been significantly expedited.

Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon added that 1,300 cameras will be installed at various locations throughout the city. Surveys for 300 pole sites and 18 points of presence (POP) have been completed as part of the project's implementation.—RT/Agency

This move follows a government directive from a January 2023 meeting, chaired by the prime minister, which mandated the installation of conical baffles in existing geysers as part of energy conservation measures.—RT/Agency

## Gadap Town Auction For Collection Rights Held Transparently

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: The Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Gadap, Tariq Aziz Baloch, emphasized the importance of transparency, stating that every task is monitored thoroughly. An auction was held for the collection rights of the mulching animal fee and health clearance certificate fee for the fiscal year 2024-2025, in which twelve contractors participated. This auction was conducted under the supervision of Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch, High Court Nazer Syed Ahmed Younis, and Municipal Commissioner Ahmed Yar. After a

complete verification of the contractors' documents, the bidding commenced, resulting in stiff competition. The highest bidder Messrs TK Enterprises won the contract by placing the highest bid. Director of Tax Humayoon Imran Khan stated that the contract will be awarded

after fulfilling all legal requirements. Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch noted that this revenue will be utilized for the development of Gadap Town and providing municipal services, which is a national duty. Other key officials were also present at the occasion.

## Plots In Malir Industrial Park To Be Allocated Within 48 Hours

KARACHI: Brigadier Muhammad Asad, Administrator of the Pakistan Economic Zone Development and Management Company (PEZDMC), announced that land allotments in the Malir Industrial Park (MIP) will be finalized within 48 hours. He made this statement during a visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), emphasizing the park's potential to enhance industrial activity and economic stability in Karachi.



Flexible payment plans will be offered, and the project aims to create over 200,000 jobs in its first five years. Brigadier Asad confirmed KATI's inclusion in the park's advisory council to facilitate stakeholder engagement and streamline processes through one-window operations. He highlighted that MIP will feature

reliable infrastructure and enhanced security, differentiating it from other industrial zones in the city.

KATI President Junaid Naqi praised the initiative, stressing that industrialization is crucial for Pakistan's economic stability, as it can boost exports, reduce imports, and create jobs. However, he pointed out ongoing challenges in existing industrial areas like Korangi, including inadequate infrastructure and utilities. Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya echoed the importance of industrialization for economic growth and referenced the successful Sunder Industrial Estate as a model for authorities. He urged the need to learn from the issues faced by the Korangi Creek Industrial Park. The event also featured insights from KATI's former presidents, Ehteshamuddin and SM Yahya.—RT

## Pakistan Hotels Association Unveils New Leadership For 2024-2026

KARACHI: The Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA) has unveiled its newly elected leadership following the annual elections held between July and September 2024. The results were announced at the 60th Annual General Meeting at Pearl-Continental Hotel, Karachi.



Mr. Shakir Abu Bakar Bhura has been elected as the new Chairman, set to lead the association with his vast experience in the hospitality sector. Other key appointments include a Senior Vice Chairman and regional Vice Chairmen for the North and South, all of whom bring diverse expertise from the hospitality, real estate, legal, and digital industries.

As the leading representative body for the country's hotel industry, the Pakistan Hotels Association continues to champion industry advancement through collaboration and innovative efforts.—RT

## CM Pressed To Expand Emergency Services In Hospitals Amid Rising Demand

KARACHI: Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), has expressed urgent concerns over the increasing prevalence of viral and epidemic diseases in Karachi and throughout Sindh. He has requested Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to direct the Health Department to enhance the capacity of emergency departments in all hospitals. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Bilwani highlighted a recent KCCI survey indicating that emergency departments across hospitals are overwhelmed,

often forcing patients to wait for hours for available beds. He urged the Sindh government to verify this by conducting similar surveys at various hospitals in Karachi to fully understand the situation's severity. Bilwani emphasized the critical need for action, noting that Sindh is currently grappling with a surge in epidemic diseases. He warned that any negligence could lead to tragic loss of life and that the existing strain on hospitals could escalate to disastrous levels in the event of a natural disaster. He pointed out that emergency departments, including those

run by the Sindh Government, KMC, NGOs, the armed forces, and private hospitals, are struggling to accommodate the growing influx of patients. This increase is attributed to rising cases of Chikungunya, dengue, Zika, monkeypox, and other viral infections across Sindh, particularly in Karachi. Bilwani expressed hope that the Chief Minister would recognize the urgency of the situation and promptly issue directives to the Health Department, instructing all hospitals to significantly expand their emergency department capacities.—RT/Agency

## Save River Indus Movement Fights Back Against Proposed Canal Projects

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: Leaders of the Save River Indus Movement, including Syed Zain Shah, Dr. Safdar Abbasi, and Sardar Abdul Rahim, held a press conference at the District Malir Press Club to discuss a two-day awareness campaign from Karachi to Badin. They expressed concerns that the construction of a new canal will first impact Karachi, Thatta, Badin, and Sujawal, as it will prevent water from flowing from Kotri to the Indus River, leading to drought and rising sea levels in these areas. Dr. Safdar Abbasi criticized the IRSA Act and the decision to extract six canals from the

Indus River, stating it was a deliberate attempt to destroy Sindh's water resources. He noted the increasing salinity affecting agriculture and emphasized the urgent need to raise public awareness about the water crisis impacting the entire region. The leaders urged the people of Sindh to mobilize

for their rights, highlighting the critical water shortage that could devastate both agriculture and drinking water supplies in cities like Hyderabad and Karachi. After the press conference, leaders of the awareness march set off in a convoy of hundreds of vehicles toward Thatta and Badin.

## PIA Secures Official Airline Status For IDEAS 2024



KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been designated as the official airline for the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024, according to media reports. PIA will promote IDEAS 2024 through a dedicated publicity campaign on its aircraft. As part of the initiative, the logos of IDEAS 2024 have been placed on two

Boeing 777s and two Airbus planes of PIA. The International Defence Exhibition and Seminar is scheduled to take place from November 19 to 22 at the Karachi Expo Centre. The event, highly regarded by the Pakistan government, attracts a significant number of international delegates and plays a key role in promoting the country's arms trade.—RT/Agency

## UBG Applauds Government For Successful Hosting Of SCO Summit

KARACHI: The United Business Group (UBG) extends heartfelt congratulations to the Government of Pakistan for the successful hosting of the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad. This significant event brought together heads of state from SCO member nations, including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, India, Belarus, Turkmenistan, and Mongolia, showcasing Pakistan's ability to host high-profile international gatherings.

UBG leaders, including Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, and Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, commended the government's exemplary efforts in executing the summit, which highlighted Pakistan's hospitality and organizational skills. The summit not only enhances Pakistan's global image but also reinforces its role as a key player in regional and international cooperation. The UBG leaders hailed the event as a diplomatic success, emphasizing Pakistan's capacity to unite di-

verse nations and foster dialogue and collaboration. Furthermore, the SCO summit opened avenues for potential collaborations and investments, positively impacting Pakistan's economy and solidifying its reputation as a reliable partner. The UBG appreciates the government's commitment to creating an environment conducive to international diplomacy and trade, noting that the summit marks a milestone in Pakistan's pursuit of greater global engagement and regional ties.—RT

