

# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

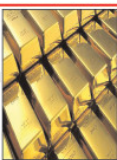
## Heartland

PPP's Hyderabad rally reflected massive public support for party leadership, says Jam Zaheer Ali Khan



## Money

Gold Skyrockets To Unprecedented Record High In Pakistan, Sparking Fears Of Economic Meltdown



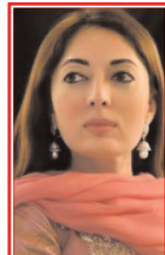
## NATIONAL

Maryam Orders Groundbreaking Establishment Of Bar Rooms And Daycare Centers For Women Lawyers



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Amir Fires Back: 'Keep It Professional,' Slams Babar Azam's Critics



Breast Cancer Mortality Rate Soars To Alarming 48%, Sharmila Farooqui Demands Urgent Action



Big Butted Kim Kardashian Eyes Bold New Ambitions, Aims Higher

## PM Shehbaz Holds Emergency Cabinet Meeting To Push Through Explosive Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: After day-long rigorous efforts to bring the treasury and the opposition parties on the same page, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal cabinet gave approval to the contentious 26th constitutional amendment draft on late Saturday night.



The approved draft is likely to be tabled in Senate session expected to begin shortly after it was adjourned till 12.30am today (Sunday). The Senate session, chaired by deputy chairman Syedal Khan Nasar, kicked off on late Saturday night but it was adjourned for half an hour till 12.30 am. The National Assembly session rescheduled for 9pm today also began shortly after the Senate session only to be adjourned till 11.30am today (Sunday). In a late night development, the federal cabinet met tonight with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair to discuss the much-typed constitutional amendment. The meeting was initially scheduled to begin early morning. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, IPP's Awn Chaudhry and leaders of the allied parties were among the attendees of the key cabinet meeting, said the sources. After numerous political twists and turns, the government and opposition members "have reportedly agreed on a joint draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The draft envisages reforming constitutional bench, parliamentary role in appointment of chief justice of the Supreme Court from list of three judges, restructuring of Judicial Council as well as Supreme Judicial Council, and fixing a three-year tenure of chief justice. If the cabinet approves the draft of the proposed amendments, it will be presented in Senate for approval. The federal cabinet meeting would be held in the PM's chamber in parliament, said sources.—RT/Agency

## Imran Secretly Orders PTI To Keep Cozying Up To Fazl Over Controversial Judicial Package

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Saturday said that jailed former prime minister Imran Khan instructed the party leaders to continue consultations with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the proposed constitutional amendments. Speaking during a press conference flanked by other PTI leaders, Barrister Gohar said, "We held discussion over the amendments with the PTI founder and he has asked us to continue deliberations as it is very sensitive matter."



The PTI chief made these comments after holding an "inconclusive" meeting with party founder—who is currently incarcerated in Adiala jail—on the constitutional amendments. Gohar said that Khan also named four party members to accompany for consultations with the JUI-F chief as "we want that I should form my opinion on a broader consensus and give further direction". Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub, Leader of the Opposition in Senate Shibli Faraz, Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Bhachar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will join the PTI chairman for talks with JUI-F, the party chief said. The development comes a day after the special parliamentary committee—comprising government and opposition members "unanimously approved" the draft for 26th constitutional amendment. Muttabaha Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar claimed that PTI had principally agreed on the draft but the party had reservations on some points. However, Gohar had said that consultation on the fourth draft shared by the government was underway, adding that they would make final decision on the constitutional package after meeting Khan. Gohar began the presser today by speaking about the PTI founder's health, jail conditions and the lack of facilities, saying that he was in good health, however, leader Farooq Sattar claimed that PTI had principally agreed on the draft but the party had reservations on some points. However, Gohar had said that consultation on the fourth draft shared by the government was underway, adding that they would make final decision on the constitutional package after meeting Khan. Gohar began the presser today by speaking about the PTI founder's health, jail conditions and the lack of facilities, saying that he was in good health, however,

national and undemocratic," he said. Gohar said that they informed the JUI-F chief that the party will not be in a position to vote until the PTI founder gives clear instructions on the matter. "We have not agreed to anything at this point." Giving clarification after Gohar's presser, Adiala jail administration said the PTI founder is provided with all B Class facilities in the prison as per the law. "The PTI founder's diet, health, study including exercise are given special attention," said the jail admin, adding that there is uninterrupted power supply at Adiala jail. The administration mentioned that an inmate cook has been provided to the PTI founder to prepare his food. The admin added that the PTI founder is given curry, desi chicken, souhurat, chapati, mutton, soft drink salad, and green tea in lunch. It said that he is given porridge, coconut water and grapes in the evening. "Jail doctors examine PTI founder thrice a day. He does not have any disease and is completely healthy," it added.—RT/Agency

## 5 Dangerous Terrorists Captured In High-Stakes Intelligence Operation In Pishin: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Security forces apprehended five terrorists—or "Khawarij"—in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Balochistan's Pishin, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Saturday. During the operation, a large number of weapons, ammunition, and explosives, including three suicide vests, were seized from the militants involved in multiple terrorist attacks who were planning to target security forces as well as innocent civilians, added the military's media wing. The development comes amid security forces' ongoing efforts to curb the scourge of terrorism which has witnessed a notable spike in recent times. As per the third quarterly report (Q3) issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the total fatalities from three quarters of this year have surpassed the total fatalities recorded for the entire of 2023 with 1,534 deaths compared to last year's 1,523. A total of 722 people were killed, including civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, while 615 others



were wounded in as many as 328 incidents recorded during the third quarter. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been on the forefront of the country's war against terror and have faced the brunt of terror attacks. Separately, the ISPR also said that the security forces carried out an IBO in Balochistan's Zhob district on Thursday wherein two khawarij were eliminated and weapons and ammunition were recovered during the sanitisation operation. Security forces of Pakistan remain steadfast in their commitment to eradicate terrorism from the country and protect innocent civilians from this menace, added the ISPR.—RT/Agency

## Imran and Gandapur Cleared In Explosive 'Azadi March' Vandalism Case



ISLAMABAD: In yet another relief, a district and sessions court in Islamabad on Saturday acquitted incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa firebrand Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a case pertinent to violence and vandalism during the former ruling party's May 25 "Azadi March". Following the PTI government's ouster through a vote of no-confidence in 2022, the former prime minister had given call for march towards the federal capital, demanding a fresh elections and the dissolution of assemblies. The law and order situation in the federal capital turned chaotic after Khan and his convoy entered the city and started marching towards the D-Chowk despite the Supreme Court's order to hold a jalsa at a ground between H9 and G9 areas of Islamabad. PTI protesters continued to engage in violent clashes with the police and other law enforcement agencies and continued moving towards the D-Chowk defying the court's prohibition. During the riots, the protesters also damaged public and private properties in the capital. Subsequently, an FIR was also registered against the PTI leadership at the Secretariat police station for inciting the protesters to damage public properties, interference in government affairs and other charges. After hearing arguments from both sides, the Islamabad bench reserved its verdict earlier today, Civil Judge Shahzad Khan announced the reserved verdict in the vandalism case.—RT/Agency

## PPP and JUI-F Achieve '100% Consensus' On Game-Changing Constitutional Tweaks: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: After holding back-to-back meetings with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari on Saturday said that his party and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief have reached a 100% consensus on the proposed constitutional amendment. The statement comes as the PPP chief is making last ditch effort to evolve a consensus on the judicial package among all political parties including the PTI. Addressing a public gathering in Hyderabad last night, the PPP chairman warned that he would be compelled to take a "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. Moreover, the special parliamentary committee—comprising government and opposition members—had "unanimously approved" the draft for the 26th constitutional amendment, said PPP lawmaker Syed Khurshid Shah on Friday. Talking to journalist following his fresh meeting with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Bilawal said that he was in consistent contact with the latter on the matter related to constitutional amendment. "We have reached consensus over legislation on judicial reforms."



The PPP chairman said that he wished Maulana Fazl to table the 26th constitution amendment bill in parliament as "the draft is the same as Maulana Fazlur Rehman wanted". Responding to a question, the PPP leader expressed hope that the JUI-F could convince PTI to vote for the constitution amendment bill. "PTI can vote for the Maulana Fazlur Rehman's draft." Referring to PTI's past "political behaviour", Bilawal said: "PTI should prove that it is a political party." "Politics is the name of seeking consensus and reconciliation," the PPP chairman advised the PTI. He was of the view that PTI should have introduced judicial reforms during its tenure instead of him and added that the government should not table the constitutional amendment bill in parliament. To another query, the PPP chairman said: "Both the parties [PPP and JUI-F] have agreed on constitutional reforms. The joint draft was authored by the JUI-F chief." At the same time, Bilawal lauded the PM-N-led federal government for showing patience over the matter.—RT/Agency

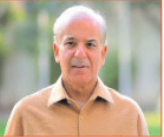
## CJP Isa Demands Answers From SC Staff Over Confusing Clarification In Reserved Seats Case

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has sought an explanation from Supreme Court staff following the release of a second clarification by eight judges in the reserved seats case without submitting the original case file. The CJP has directed Deputy Registrar Mujahid Mahmood, Assistant Registrar Shahid Habib, and Webmaster Asim Javed to explain how the clarification was published on the court's website without following standard procedure. "How was the clarification issued without submitting the original file?" Justice Isa questioned in a notice sent to the concerned staff members on Saturday. According to sources within the Supreme Court, the Deputy Registrar and Assistant Registrar have been officially notified and asked to provide details regarding the procedural lapse. The court has also requested a response from Webmaster Asim Javed regarding the incident. Yesterday, eight Supreme Court judges issued a second clarification concerning their decision on reserved seats, stating that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) must implement the court's ruling, despite amendments to the Elections Act, 2017. The court had ruled in July that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was entitled to the seats reserved for women and minorities, a decision that was challenged after the government amended the election law. However, the bench reaffirmed that these changes cannot override the original ruling.—RT/Agency



## PM Hails Security Forces For Crushing Victory Against Terrorists In Major Operation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday commended the officers and soldiers of security forces for successful operation against Fina al-Khawarij terrorists in districts Pishin and Zhob. In a statement, the prime minister congratulated the security forces for their commendable efforts, which resulted in the arrest of five Khawarij, and killing of two others. The operation also led to the seizure of a large amount of weapons and explosive materials. "The entire nation including myself, pays tribute to the brave Pak army soldiers and officers for purging the country from Fina al-Khawarij." He said the entire nation stood united with the Pakistan Armed Forces in their mission to thwart the ambitions of Pakistan's enemies, who aim to spread unrest and instability in the country.—RT/Agency



## Hafiz Naeem Urges Deep-Dive Consultations On Controversial Constitutional Amendment

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said on Saturday that the government should hold threadbare consultations on the matter of much-touted constitutional amendment. Holding a press conference in Lahore, the JI emir said that sale and purchase of votes had become a common practice in the parliament. "This practice resumes whenever a new amendment is forced to be passed by those who actually orchestrate these moves. The politicians are made figureheads. The Supreme Court must summon those who are behind this amendment," he mentioned. Taking potshots at political parties, he said people didn't have any trust in whatever political parties said, adding that mere 3 to 4 judges won't be able to address issues when a whole parliament was unable to redress the grievances of people. He said people didn't have access to justice in Pakistan as the judiciary lacked trust by the masses. The JI emir also condemned the martyrdom of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.—RT/Agency



# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magsoo, addresses media persons during a press conference in Qasimabad.—RT

## PPP's Hyderabad rally reflected massive public support for party leadership, says Jam Zaheer Ali Khan



**By Khuda Dino Kachhai**  
SANGHAR: The recent Pakistan People's Party (PPP) rally in Hyderabad was a significant political event, affirming the public's support for the party, according to Jam Zaheer Ali Khan, the party's Taluka President and District Vice Chairman. Speaking at the event, Jam Zaheer stated that the rally, attended by millions, showcased the strong backing of the Sindh populace for the PPP, which he described as synonymous with public service. He highlighted that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's historic address at the rally dispelled the opposition's narratives. Jam Zaheer firmly asserted that no dams would be accepted on the Indus River, standing with the people of Sindh. He also mentioned ongoing development efforts through the Sanghar District Council to provide relief to the district's residents.



HYDERABAD: Members of the District Bar Association hold a protest outside the District and Sessions Court premises, demanding the release of a senior lawyer who was arrested.—RT

## Syed Zain Shah, Dr Safdar Abbasi condemn proposed construction of new canals on Sindh's waterways

**By Khuda Bux Brohi**

THATTA: SUP President Syed Zain Shah has expressed concern over the federal government's decision to build six new canals from the Indus River, aimed at irrigating 4.8 million acres of land in Cholistan, Punjab. Speaking at a press conference at the Thatta Press Club, Shah criticized the move, stating that while efforts are being made to cultivate barren lands in Punjab, existing populated areas in Sindh are being neglected and risk becoming barren. He urged policymakers to reconsider their decisions, which he said are unacceptable to the people of Sindh. GDA General Secretary Dr. Safdar Abbasi added that the failure to release water downstream of the Kotri Barrage has already caused 4 million acres of land in Sindh's coastal belt to become submerged. He warned that the construction



of new canals could further harm the Kotri, Sukkur, and Gudu barrages, leading to widespread devastation in Sindh. Other leaders present at the event, including representatives from the National People's Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Functional League, and Awami Jamhoori Party, echoed these concerns. Following the press conference, the Sindh Bachao Tehreek's awareness march continued its journey towards Sujawal and Badin.

## HESCO and FIA crackdown on electricity theft in Hyderabad



**By GM Chandio**  
HYDERABAD: HESCO team, in collaboration with FIA officials, has intensified its crackdown on electricity theft. A joint operation was conducted at a bungalow in Citizen Colony, led by SDO Waqas Tareen and XEN Qasimabad Mujib Sial. During the operation, Assistant Director FIA and SHO FIA Hyderabad Muhammad Bux Marri were also present. The team discovered electricity theft at the bungalow, which has outstanding dues amounting to 9 million PKR. Connections were disconnected during the operation, and further actions are ongoing.

## DC Shahryar Gul Memon chairs meeting on health programs in Shaheed Benazirabad

**By Farooq Junejo**

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting at the DC Office to review the performance of the Immunization Program (EPI), surveillance, and Lady Health Workers Program. He emphasized the need for focused efforts on immunization to protect newborns and unvaccinated children. Memon instructed the inclusion of top-performing vaccinators in future meetings for recognition. He expressed



satisfaction with ongoing monitoring and called for immediate vaccination campaigns in areas reporting diseases like measles. PPHI officials were urged to enhance public health services and nutrition programs. The meeting included updates from health officials on vaccination efforts and performance.

## NTS test passed candidates rally in Thul

**By Khair Muhammad Golo**

THUL: Hundreds of candidates who passed the NTS test in 2013 protested in Thul, demanding their offer orders despite scoring between 60 and 80 marks in the NTS test for PST positions. They highlighted past promises made by former Secretary of Education Akbar Laghari and Provincial Minister Sardar Shah, who assured them that a committee would be formed to strategize on issuing the orders.

Sindhi, Hamid Sarki, and Noor Noonari, expressed their frustration over the government's failure to issue offer orders despite scoring between 60 and 80 marks in the NTS test for PST positions. They criticized the government for injustices, stating that 33 candidates who failed were wrongly passed while they remained in limbo. Habib Sindh announced that the protest campaign would continue, culminating in a peaceful sit-in in Karachi on October 7, urging the government to address their grievances.

## Recovery of missing Sujawal youth demanded

**By Kamran Hidayat**

SUJAWAL: Pir Riaz, son of Pir Nazir, went missing while seeking employment in Karachi. His brother, Pir Naqem, reported that Riaz had planned to return for a wedding scheduled in a month. After leaving for Karachi, he was in contact for just one day, and it has been 34 days since then without any communication. Naqem expressed concern over their mother's deteriorating health due to the stress of Riaz's disappearance. The



family has appealed to the SSP Sujawal and authorities for assistance in locating him.

## Assistant Director Faisal Majid Gujjar urges women to get registered with BISP

**By Khadim Khaskheli**

SANGHAR: Faisal Majid Gujjar, Assistant Director of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) in Sanghar, has issued an important message for eligible women receiving assistance. He urged beneficiaries to visit their nearest BISP centers as soon as possible to complete the necessary demographic survey to ensure they continue receiving their payments. Gujjar emphasized that any eligible family failing to complete the survey will have their payments suspended. He advised families to bring their original CNICs and their children's B forms when



visiting the centers. Additionally, Gujjar called on local community leaders, including political and social workers, as well as municipal committee officials, to help disseminate the message widely. He stressed that having a valid CNIC, B form, and mobile number is essential for the demographic survey.

## Larkana man protests for recovery of his stolen donkey cart from Civil Hospital

**By Saleem Soomro**

LARKANA: Muhammad Mureed Mirbahar, a local worker, has called for urgent action after his donkey cart, vital for transporting goods and supporting his

family, was stolen near Civil Hospital last Saturday. Despite lodging a complaint at Civil Lines police station, a week has passed with no recovery of the cart or apprehension of the thief. Mureed expressed

## SEPCO launches grand operation against electricity theft despite weekend holidays



**By Saleem Soomro**  
LARKANA: SEPCO has decided to continue its grand operation against electricity thefts and defaulters over the weekend. Under the leadership of Superintendent Engineer Shah Muhammad Bajkani, SEPCO teams conducted operations in Larkana, Qamber, Shahdadkot, Ratodero, Baqran, Naudero, and Dokri. During this operation, thousands of illegal electricity connections were removed. In a media statement, Bajkani noted that there are outstanding dues of 42 billion PKR from defaulters, and the operation will continue until these amounts are recovered. Since September 2023, the operations have yielded 880 million PKR and resulted in 1,600 cases against defaulters. Additionally, departmental action has been taken against 150 SEPCO employees involved in electricity theft. Bajkani urged consumers to install meters and regularize their connections to avoid legal action against defaulters.

## Shikarpur's Civil Society Rises Up in Fierce Protest, Demanding the Safe Recovery of Two Abducted Boys

**By Adeel Alvi**

SHIKARPUR: Two abducted children from Shikarpur, Nasir Bakhrani and Walid Memon, have yet to be recovered, prompting their families and civil society to stage a protest at Hazaridar Chowk. The families, including Naveed Memon and Latifullah Memon, expressed frustration that police have been unable to recover the children after 38 days. Protesters stated that the police are only offering false reassurances, and highlighted ongoing issues with crime, drug trafficking, and abduction situation in Shikarpur. They demanded that the Inspector General of Sindh take notice of bringing the abducted children back.



LARKANA: Muhammad Mithal Bhati, a resident of Shaikh Zayed Colony, addresses media persons during a press conference at the Larkana Press Club.—RT

# NATIONAL



## CNS Visits Netherlands For High-Stakes Engagements With Senior Military Leaders

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on the Military and Naval Leadership of Netherlands during an official visit to Netherlands.

The Naval Chief held combined meeting with top Military and Naval Leadership of Netherlands at Ministry of Defence, a Pakistan Navy news release on Saturday said.



Professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral defence collaboration were discussed.

The Naval Chief underscored the importance of enhancing interactions between the armed forces of both countries through exercises and training exchange programmes.

The Deputy Chief of Defence, Vice Admiral Boudevijn Boots while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military cooperation in diverse realms, stressed on enhancing collaborations in expanded military domains.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also visited Royal Netherlands Navy Headquarters and called on Commander Royal Netherlands Navy, Vice Admiral René Tas.

During the meeting matters of defence ties and mutual bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed.

The Naval Chief underscored the contribution of Pakistan Navy towards regional maritime peace and stability through its initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and participation in Combined Maritime Force.

Later on, the Naval Chief visited DAMEN Shipyard of Royal Netherlands Navy and Zeven Provinciën Class Frigate.

During his visits, CNS was given a detailed brief on ships' maintenance and construction activities.

The visit of Naval Chief will further augment and expand defence ties between the two countries in general and navies in particular.—RT/Agency

## Maryam Orders Groundbreaking Establishment Of Bar Rooms And Daycare Centers For Women Lawyers



LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz has directed for establishment of bar rooms and day care centers for women lawyers in three districts of Punjab.

Women lawyers requested the high court for the provision of said facilities.

Punjab CM directed the Department of Communication and Works for immediate establishment of ladies bar rooms.

Action has been initiated for the construction of ladies bar rooms in the far flung areas of Attock, Bahawalpur and Lodhran.

The Department of C and W had devised a standard map for bar rooms in three districts.

Punjab CM stressed for provision of basic facilities in the workplace for women lawyers.

Establishment of ladies bar rooms in other districts was also being considered.—RT/Agency

## CENTRAL PUNJAB

### Global Tablighi Ijtimaa in Raiwind to begin on October 31

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The global Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Raiwind will commence on Thursday, October 31. As in previous years, the gathering has been divided into two phases, and there will be two sessions of the global Ijtimaa this year as well. In the first phase, millions of people from the Lahore, Pe-

shawar, Multan, and Quetta divisions will participate. The concluding prayer of the first session will be held after the Fajr prayer on Sunday, November 3. Similarly, the second phase of the Ijtimaa will start after Asr prayer on Thursday, November 7, and conclude on Sunday, November 10, with the final prayer. People from the Faisalabad, Swat, Dera Ismail Khan, and Karachi divisions, along with surrounding areas, will take part in this phase. The district administration, railway police, Punjab police, bomb disposal squad, solid waste management, LESCO, MCL, and other relevant departments have already begun making the necessary arrangements. A special committee is continuously monitoring the preparations to finalize everything.

### Faisalabad Traffic Chief emphasizes commitment to public service and professionalism

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Faisalabad, Farhan Aslam, has been praised for his professionalism and people-friendly approach. During a recent meeting, he emphasized the importance of treating citizens with respect and courtesy, stating that he would not tolerate rudeness among traffic police. CTO Aslam highlighted that fixing traffic issues in the city is his



top priority and warned that employees bringing disruptive behavior would face consequences. He urged officers to prioritize public service and honesty, ensuring the safety of citizens and the traffic system. He reiterated the importance of wearing helmets for safety and mentioned that under the guidance of Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Inspector General Dr Usman Anwar, the department will continue to serve the community diligently.

## Pakistan Reaffirms Unwavering Commitment To Deliver Urgent Relief For Gaza and Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has renewed its commitment to ensuring timely and effective delivery of relief goods to the people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The resolve was expressed at a high-level meeting held at the headquarters of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Islamabad.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik.



The meeting reviewed Pakistan's ongoing relief measures for the war-affected people in Gaza and Lebanon, and discussed plans to deal with any problems in this regard.

To date, Pakistan has dispatched a total of 12 consignments containing 1,251 tons of relief goods, with 10 sent to Gaza and 2 to Lebanon.

The supplies included essential items such as tents, tarpaulins, food packs, winter bedding, medicines, and hygiene kits.

The Ambassador of Lebanon to Pakistan praised Pakistan's timely assistance, and said that it is among the first three countries to provide relief to Lebanon during this challenging time and is actively working to send more aid.

Development Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued special directives for the provision of aid to the people of Lebanon and Gaza.

He explained that the establishment of the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," as per the prime minister's directives, aims to facilitate donations from the people of Pakistan to their Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and sisters in need.—RT/Agency

## 10 Notorious Criminals Arrested In Major Bust; Drugs And Weapons Seized



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered during busts in various areas of the city during the last 24 hours.

DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority, DIG added.

Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or via the "ICT 15" app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.—RT/Agency

## Toba Tek Singh Police arrest a notorious criminal in ongoing operations

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the leadership of District Police Officer Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar, the Toba Police continue their operations against gangs involved in theft, robbery, looting, and road robbery across the district. In a recent operation, a police team led by DSP/SPO Gojra Akhtar Ali Vains, along with SHO Police Station Nawan Lahore Inspector Sarfraz Ahmed and other officers, acted on intelligence information and an informant's tip. They arrested the suspect, Sheron, son of Haroon Masih, who was involved in



severe robberies and looting in Nawan Lahore and surrounding areas. According to details, the suspect sometimes acted alone and at other times with accomplices, carrying out continuous robberies in Nawan Lahore and nearby areas. The search for his two other accomplices is ongoing. During interrogation, based on the suspect's confession, the police team recovered illegal weapons, including a 30-bore pistol used in the crimes, and Rs. 200,000 in stolen cash. The arrest has helped resolve three robbery cases.

## MPA Qaisar Iqbal Sindhu, DC Naveed Ahmed enhance municipal services in Gujranwala



By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed continued his morning inspections across the city, focusing on cleanliness and the best possible municipal services. He, along with MPA Qaisar Iqbal Sindhu and District Monitoring Committee Convener Iman Khalid Butt, visited various parks in People's Colony, including Usman Ghani Park

and Al Fateh Park, emphasizing the importance of maintaining public spaces. During visits to areas like West Bypass and Shahkot Road, he instructed the Gujranwala Waste Management Company to clear garbage and directed WASA officials to clean sewage canals to prevent water accumulation and road damage. Ahmed highlighted the ongoing comprehensive cleaning campaign under the Chief Minister's Vision Suthra Punjab program, urging effective resource utilization for improved municipal services. He also inspected the Government Emergency Center Hospital in People's Colony, assessing medical facilities and staff attendance. He stressed the need for punctuality and good patient care, warning that negligence in cleanliness and duty would not be tolerated.

## Pakistan Dazzles As A Global Tech Powerhouse At GITEX

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shazia Fatima Khawaja on Saturday Pakistan's emergence as a global technology hub was solidified as the country was named "Tech Destination of the Year" at GITEX.



The minister in her congratulatory message extended congratulations to all the participants, delegates and companies who represented Pakistan at GITEX Global 2024 held in Dubai.

She said, "Your dedication and hard work have made this event a huge success for Pakistan, showcasing the remarkable potential of our IT industry on the global stage."

Shazia Fatima said Pakistan's growing influence as a global technology hub was firmly established as Pakistan was named Tech Destination of the Year at GITEX. "Our remarkable participation, with over 200 companies, startups, and industry experts, reflects Pakistan's unwavering commitment and the immense potential of our IT industry," she said.

"I also want to congratulate all the Pakistani companies that signed MoUs and established key partnerships with international tech leaders. These collaborations mark an important step forward for our IT industry, opening doors to new markets, and creating opportunities for innovation", she maintained.

The minister said the success of GITEX will not only fuel the growth of Pakistan's IT industry but also contribute significantly to our nation's economy. The government remains fully committed to supporting the IT industry, fostering innovations, and ensuring that the momentum gained at GITEX continues to fuel both technological and economic progress, she added.

"I am proud of what we have achieved together, and I am confident that the success at GITEX will translate into long-term benefits for Pakistan's technology sector in the days to come" she added.—RT/Agency

## FIA Launches Major Probe, Establishing Three Committees To Investigate Lahore Education Scandals

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has formed three committees to crack down on those involved in the social media propaganda over alleged incidents in educational institutions.

The agency has formed the committees on the directions of director general and they would investigate harassment of a student at the Lahore College for Women University, fake

news involving a private college and a suicide incident at the Punjab University.

According to FIA, coordination in the zonal office and cybercrimes would be done by AD Ayesha Agha Khan.

There will be a seven-member team to identify and investigate the propagandists. It will be headed by Muhammad Sulaiman Liaquat, Deputy Director Immigration. A case has already been registered against those who spread fake news on social media.

A six-member team has been formed to investigate the Punjab University incident which will be headed by Kashif Mustafa, Deputy Director Corporate Crime Circle. Meanwhile, a four-member team headed by Malik Sikandar Hayat, Deputy Director Commercial, will look into the case of the Lahore College for Women University.—RT/Agency

## Three Members Of Notorious Theft Gang Captured, Stolen Valuables Recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Shahzad Town police station team arrested three wanted members of the thief gang involved in numerous theft activities and recovered cash and mobile phone from their possession.

A police spokesperson told APP, under the directives of Inspector General Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified its crackdown against the criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city.

In this regard, the ICT Police Ramna, Tarnol, Sihala, Humak and Bhara Kahu police station teams took legal action against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and arrested six accused.

He said Police teams also

and further investigation is underway.

DIG Syed Ali Raza, also directed all senior officials for an effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities and to take all possible measures to protect the life and property of the citizens, no criminal element will be allowed to disturb the peace of the people, he added.

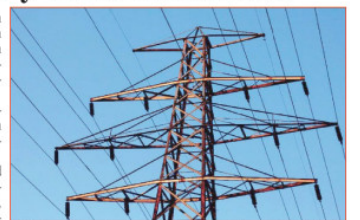
Citizens are urged to report any suspicious individual or activity through the emergency helpline "Pukar-15" or via the "ICT-15"—RT/Agency

Cases were registered against the nabbed accused

## Authorities Recover Jaw-Dropping Rs122 Billion In Nationwide Electricity Theft Crackdown

ISLAMABAD: More than 86,000 individuals have been arrested across Pakistan in an ongoing nationwide crackdown on electricity theft, Express News reported.

The campaign has also recovered Rs122.35 billion since it launched in September 2023.



Operations were carried out in several cities, including Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Multan, Peshawar, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Quetta, resulting in the recovery of over Rs1.35 billion from offenders in October alone.

Authorities have vowed to continue these efforts until electricity theft is completely eliminated, with 224 individuals apprehended during this month's operations.

Previously, Ministry of Energy sources told The Express Tribune that the gross

addition to the circular debt had been estimated at Rs417 billion for fiscal year 2024-25 in spite of raising power tariffs from July.

The circular debt stood at Rs2.383 trillion by June this year, already higher than the commitment given to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and more than the threshold approved by the federal cabinet last year under the Circular Debt Management Plan 2023-24. After adding an estimated Rs417 billion, the debt will jump to Rs2.8 trillion by taking into account the power sector losses and inefficiencies. Sources said that under an understanding reached with the IMF, the government would provide Rs381 billion in subsidies from the budget. This will restrict the debt to Rs2.42 trillion by June next year.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL



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

Sunday, October 20, 2024

## Naive and delusional!

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent remarks about the possibility of improved ties with India reflect a simplistic and overly optimistic approach that overlooks core issues. While normalization of relations is undoubtedly desirable, it cannot be achieved by ignoring the fundamental disagreements that continue to divide the two nations. Mr. Sharif's assertion that the Indo-Pak "ice is melting" based solely on India's participation in a multilateral summit seems more like wishful thinking than a realistic assessment.

During his meeting with Indian journalists, Mr. Sharif highlighted areas where both

countries could benefit from cooperation, such as trade, cricket, and climate change. However, he failed to address the more con-



tentious topics, such as the unresolved status of Jammu and Kashmir, cross-border tensions, and India's recent policy shifts that have strained relations even further. By glossing over these "elephants in the room," Mr. Sharif's statements risk appearing out of touch with the real complexities of Indo-Pak relations.

Peace cannot be achieved without acknowledging and addressing these critical issues. True normalization requires a dialogue that is rooted in dignity, equality, and a willingness from both sides to engage on the matters that have long been a source of conflict. Mr. Sharif's diplomatic optimism, while commendable, needs to be backed by a more strategic and realistic approach that respects Pakistan's stance and addresses the actions of the Indian government, which have, in recent years, only escalated hostilities. Without confronting these challenges head-on, hopes for lasting peace will remain just that—hopes.



## THE HEARTLAND



### Crumbling GGHS Arazi Puts Students and Staff in Grave Danger

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The Government Girls High School in Arazi, Sehwan Taluka, is in a deteriorating and hazardous condition, posing a significant threat to the lives of students and teachers. Following the floods from the 2022 rains and Manchar Lake, the school walls have developed cracks, and the floors are completely damaged. The washrooms are unusable, and due to the risk of roof collapses, three classrooms and the science hall have been closed. The ongoing risk of roof damage has created an environment of fear among students and staff, negatively impacting girls' education, with many parents hesitant to send their daughters to school. Over 300 girls are enrolled, but the building has been



in disrepair for two years without any action taken for repairs. Affected students, including Tanzil Memon, are urging the education department and higher authorities to take immediate steps for the school's restoration to safeguard the lives and education of hundreds of students.

### Grow Green Network calls on ADB to stop fossil fuel financing

By Farooq Bugti



SANGHAR: The Grow Green Network urged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to cease funding fossil fuel projects in Pakistan during a public forum organized by the Sustainable Development Foundation and Indus Consortium. Participants criticized the environmental impact of the Jamshoro Power Company Limited (JPCL) and called for its early retirement, advocating for renewable energy investments. Key speakers emphasized the need for reforms in Pakistan's energy sector, highlighting issues like reliance on imported fuels and a significant energy shortfall. The forum also called for government investment in flood-resilient infrastructure and rejected further expansion of LNG and fossil fuels. It concluded with a demand for multilateral development banks to address funding gaps and support Pakistan's transition to renewable energy.

### Children's Parliament Launched in Sindh to Champion Educational Rights

By Ashraf Kunbhar



MITHI: The Education Alliance's Reform Support Unit and UNICEF have signed an agreement to establish a Children's Parliament in Sindh, aimed at promoting educational rights and bringing out-of-school children back to school. This initiative will involve children from 30 districts, with two representatives from each district, and six from Saujawal due to its low literacy rate. The project, part of the 'Children's Parliament for the Right to Education,' aims to raise awareness of children's educational rights under Article 25-A of Pakistan's Constitution. Elected children will choose their leaders and advocate for educational issues, gender equality, and religious har-

mony. Currently, the enrollment rate for girls in Sindh is only 39%, with significant barriers like limited access to schools and a shortage of qualified teachers. The Children's Parliament will educate around 200 youths on their rights, reserving 35% of seats for girls to ensure their voices are heard. This initiative seeks to foster dialogue among diverse groups and develop children's problem-solving and leadership skills. The selection process for representatives will begin soon, including children from various backgrounds.

### Birhamani community protests against Gozo Police's In-charge

By Ayaz Burro



KN SHAH: The Gozo police conducted a raid in village Jan Muhammad Korjo, violating the sanctity of homes during the late night. Under the command of Gozo In-Charge Faqir Muhammad Birhamani, the police allegedly assaulted women, children, and villagers, leading to charges against 17 individuals, including a jour-

nalist. The villagers protested against the police's actions, demanding strict action and the dismissal of ASI Faqir Muhammad Birhamani from IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and SSP Dadu. The incident involved violent assaults on residents and a false FIR for "duty obstruction" against those protesting. Residents expressed their anger, stating that Brahmani has repeatedly harassed them and invaded their homes while intoxicated, disregarding their privacy. They accused the police of creating a hostile environment instead of providing protection, facilitating thefts and other crimes in the area. The affected villagers have vowed to escalate their protests if action is not taken against Birhamani.

### SU awards SEEF scholarships to 124 deserving students

By Munawar Chandio



JAMSHORO: Sindh University's Student Financial Aid Office hosted a scholarship cheque distribution ceremony, awarding scholarships to 124 meritorious students under the Sindh Educational Endowment Fund (SEEF). The ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, who personally distributed the cheques to the recipients. The scholarships, which ranged from PKR 27,100 to PKR 80,100 per student, provided a finan-

### Annual Urs of Syed Jhandolo Badshah (RA) concludes

By Sajjan Jani Dotho



SHAHADDPUR: The annual Urs of Sufi saint Syed Madad Ali Shah, known as Syed Jhandolo Badshah, concluded near Shahdadpur. The event featured Sufi singer Wazir Ali Shah, adding vibrancy to the celebrations. During the festivities, traditional wrestling competitions attracted participants from Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab, with six wrestlers rendered unconscious during intense matches. The mela saw a large turnout of women, children, and youth. The event began with offerings by the shrine's custodians, including Syed Ali Akbar Shah and Syed Ali Asghar Shah, who prayed for the nation's safety and prosperity. Winners of the wrestling contests received cash prizes, with the first place awarded 2,000 PKR, second 1,500 PKR, and third 1,000 PKR. The festival featured stalls selling local sweets and toys, alongside Sufi poetry perform-

ances by renowned Sindh artists. Syed Ali Akbar Shah emphasized that and harmony.

### Training workshop held for Dadu journalists

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A one-day training workshop for journalists was held at the Dadu Press Club, featuring speakers like Nisar Zaidi and Syed Abdul Ahad. The event addressed challenges such as health, job security, and risks faced by journalists, especially in disaster-affected areas. Participants called for unity among journalists and emphasized the need for security training and funding to support press freedom. Organizations like the Federation of Unions of



Journalists (FUJ) and the Sindh Journalists Council were highlighted for their advocacy efforts. The workshop concluded with a push for ongoing training and financial support for journalists.

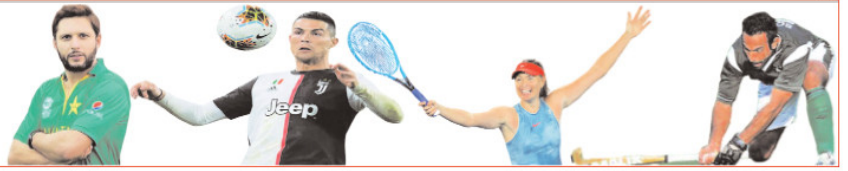
### Handiari residents protest for recovery of stolen motorcycle

By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: The residents of Handiari protested against the theft of a motorcycle that occurred three days ago. Dr.

Rahim Ali Shah, along with others, stated that his motorcycle was stolen but the SSP Khairpur and DIG Thari Mirwah police station have still not recovered it. Despite multiple visits to the police station, they reported no progress. They called on the SSP Khairpur and DIG Sukkur to take immediate action to recover the stolen motorcycle.

SPORTS



Amir Fires Back: 'Keep It Professional,' Slams Babar Azam's Critics



LAHORE: Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir backed former skipper Babar Azam as he called out critics, urging them to not "get personal".

Taking to X, the left-arm fast-bowler expressed anger in response to the negative comments against his T20I teammate Babar. "Please get rid of your ridiculous mentality that the team won Babar was not part of the team or some player was not playing. We were playing with better planning, took advantage and won. Just don't get personal with a player, talk about performance, but don't get personal," he wrote.

Aaqib Javed Makes Shocking Exit From Lahore Qalandars For National Cricket Role



LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars' management has announced the amicable end of Aaqib Javed's journey with the franchise, as he steps into responsibilities with Pakistan Cricket.

After serving as the Director of Cricket Operations and Head Coach for eight years, Aaqib Javed's tenure with Lahore Qalandars has come to a close. During this period, Aaqib led the team to remarkable success, including three PSL finals between 2020 and 2023, where they secured two consecutive titles. "Aaqib Javed's association with Lahore Qalandars has been crucial in shaping the team's direction and success," said the Qalandars management.

His contributions, particularly in advancing the franchise's Player Development Program (PDP), have been key to Lahore Qalandars' vision of nurturing young talent.

Reflecting on his time with the franchise, Aaqib Javed said, "My journey with Qalandars has been unforgettable, filled with memorable moments and significant achievements. The Player Development Program, which has been close to my heart, gave me immense satisfaction as I saw young talent flourish."

He further added, "It has been a proud experience to contribute to the franchise's success both on and off the field. After eight wonderful years, I feel it's the right time to take on a new challenge with the national team. I am excited to serve Pakistan cricket in this new capacity."

Lahore Qalandars' CEO, Sameen Rana, praised Aaqib's contributions, saying, "We are proud of the achievements Aaqib Javed brought to us. His tireless efforts helped elevate the franchise's vision and philosophy. From winning PSL titles to nurturing young talent through PDP, Aaqib's legacy will always be a source of pride for Qalandars." While parting with a "heavy heart," Sameen Rana expressed his happiness over Aaqib Javed's future endeavors with Pakistan cricket.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Shameer Khan Location: Karachi About me: I love talking selfies! Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

Mushtaq Ahmed Returns To Bangladesh Cricket, Takes Spin Bowling Reins

DHAKA: Former Pakistani leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has officially rejoined the Bangladesh cricket team as the spin bowling coach, following his recent commitments.

He was part of the coaching staff during the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and the Bangladesh tour of Pakistan but missed the tour to India due to prior obligations.

Mushtaq was actively involved in the team's training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on October 19, where he provided guidance to players and collaborated with the newly appointed head coach, Phil Simmons, who replaced Chandika Hathurusinghe.



A senior official from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) mentioned that Mushtaq will be available for the upcoming Test series against South Africa and will continue to work with the team on a series-by-series basis. The board is reportedly keen to secure a long-term contract with him by the end of the year, contingent on his availability.

His return comes at a crucial time as Bangladesh prepares for the two-match Test series against South Africa, with the first match starting on 21 October in Chattogram.

Mushtaq's previous influence was evident during the T20 World Cup, particularly in the development of young leg-spinner Rishad Hossain.

After missing the recent series against India, Mushtaq's presence is expected to bolster the squad's performance against South Africa. Reports indicate that he arrived in Bangladesh late on Friday night and was seen during the team's training session on Saturday.

Bangladesh's Test series against South Africa is followed by another ODI series against Afghanistan and the West Indies, with Mushtaq's future involvement depending on both his schedule and the BCB's requirements.—Agency

Aadam Syed Dominates Bahrain Amateur Open, Seals Championship Glory



KARACHI: Aadam Syed of Rawalpindi Golf Club secured an impressive victory at the Bahrain Amateur Open Golf Championship, finishing on top with a score of -13 after three rounds and 54 holes.

His total of 203 strokes (68, 67, 68) placed him ahead of his nearest competitor, Jay Mullane, who concluded the tournament at -9 (207).

The championship featured a competitive field, with Issa Abou El Ela in third place at -8 (208). Aadam's consistent performance throughout the tournament showcased his emerging talent in the sport.

Recently graduated with a master's degree in sports sciences from the University of Tampa, USA, Aadam has ambitions of turning professional.

He earned his professional playing card for the 2025 season at the Professional Qualifying School in Pakistan and also secured a card for the Clutch Tour in the UK for the same year. Aadam will kick off his professional career at the upcoming Garrison Open Golf Championship in Lahore, scheduled for October 30 to November 3, 2024. He is set to arrive in Lahore on his debut event.

His victory at the Bahrain Amateur Open not only adds to his accolades but also grants him a spot in the DP World Tour and an invitation to the King Hamad Trophy. The success reflects the growing strength of Pakistan's golfing community and serves as an inspiration for aspiring golfers in the country.—Agency

Ronaldo's Last-Minute Heroics: Penalty Secures Dramatic Al-Nassr Victory

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a dramatic late winner from the penalty spot as Al-Nassr defeated Al-Shabab 2-1 in a thrilling Saudi Pro League encounter. The match saw high tension in the final minutes, with Al-Shabab missing their own penalty after Ronaldo's decisive goal.



Ronaldo stepped up and restored Al-Nassr's lead from the penalty spot. The drama didn't end there, as Al-Nassr's Mohamed Simakan was sent off for a foul on Nader Al-Sharari. Al-Shabab had a chance to level again, but Abderrazzaq Hamed-Allah's penalty was off target.

Al-Nassr now sit in second place in the league, four points behind leaders Al-Hilal. Ronaldo has been in fine form, scoring six goals in seven league matches so far this season.—Agency

Ten Hag Blasts 'Baseless Rumors,' Calls Them 'Fairy Tales'

LONDON: Erik ten Hag defiantly slammed "fairy tales and lies" about his Manchester United future as the under-fire boss insisted he is not in danger of the sack.



But the 54-year-old eventually signed a new contract in a move seen as a show of faith during the close season. Ten Hag won the League Cup in his first season to end United's six-year trophy drought, then lifted the FA Cup last term in a shock final triumph against Manchester City that is credited with saving his job.

Ten Hag is widely believed to be in a fight to save his job after presiding over United's worst start to a top-flight season since 1989-90. United are languishing in 14th place in the Premier League ahead of Saturday's visit from Brentford, whose manager Thomas Frank has been linked with replacing the Dutchman at Old Trafford.

Without a victory in their last five games in all competitions, Ten Hag's side have won just twice in seven league matches this term. Another flop against Brentford will pile further pressure on Ten Hag ahead of a tricky week featuring away games at Jose Mourinho's Fenerbahce in the Europa League and West Ham in the Premier League.

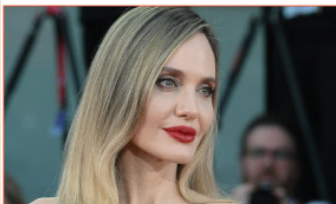
However, the embattled Ten Hag is once again engaged in a struggle to stave off the axe. United's inconsistent form during his reign shows no signs of improving and he acknowledged the climb back to respectability would not be easy. "We have to climb a mountain. That is top football and sometimes you have to face challenges. I am sure we will make a success, as we did the last two seasons," he said. "Underneath I see good things and good stats that confirm we are in a good direction. But of course the ranking is not lying. We are where we are and that is not good enough." —Agency

PCB 'Delays' Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Amid Growing Controversy



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has postponed the upcoming first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, originally scheduled to start on October 20, according to sources. The country's premier domestic cricket tournament faces uncertainty, with final details for the current season yet to be decided. Sources within the PCB revealed that the board's domestic department is awaiting approval from chairman Mohsin Naqvi on several key matters, including the new dates for the tournament. The board is expected to announce the revised schedule soon. This is not the first disruption to PCB's domestic calendar. Earlier, the Under-19 domestic tournament was also suspended after just one day of play. Sources say the domestic department has also instructed departmental teams to prepare for the Presidents Trophy, a backup tournament, should the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy experience further delays. "As a contingency, departments have been asked to be prepared," said a source.—Agency

Brad-less Angelina Jolie Embraces 'Artistic Masterpiece' Role In 'Maria'



Angelina Jolie just got candid about her role in the hot biopic, Maria. Speaking of the challenges she faced while portraying the character of the famed opera singer, Maria Callas. While attending the London Film Festival gala screening of Maria at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, she spoke to the Irish Independent, about her experience of filming the movie. "It's such a beautiful art form," Jolie began. The Maleficent actress also expressed the difficulties she faced, stating, "And so, as much as it was terrifying, I felt like it was impossible to do and I hadn't really sung."

Big Butted Kim Kardashian Eyes Bold New Ambitions, Aims Higher



Kim Kardashian has a long dream of becoming a lawyer. For this, she is reportedly working hard to achieve this goal. Sources say The Kardashians star is studying day and night to pass the bar exam. "Kim's passion and drive to become a bona fide lawyer is still going strong and her plan is to take the bar exam in February," the insider told In Touch. "The mole squealed," She has a ton of work to do to prepare and knows that the odds of passing it the first time aren't super high."



REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND

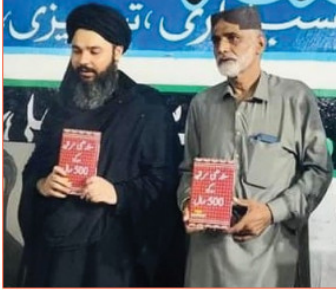


REGIONAL TIMES

# NATIONAL

## Historical Migration Of Prophet's Descendants To Sindh Highlighted At TMK Event

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Following the tragedy of Karbala, the descendants of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) faced immense hardship in Arabia, prompting their migration to various regions, including Sindh. Historians document that the first caravan, led by Lady Ruqayyah bint Ali (A.S.), daughter of Hazrat Ali (A.S.), arrived in Sindh around 65-66 AH. Known locally as "Bibi Pak Daman," she settled in Sindh soon after Karbala. These insights were shared by renowned researcher Zawar Abdul Sattar at an event organized at the shrine of Bibi Badshah Zadi Shamsi Tabriz in Tando Muhammad Khan, dedicated to honoring Lady Khadija and Bibi Maham (S.A.).



Dars highlighted that the migration of Sayyid caravans continued for years, with notable figures such as Syed Abdullah Shah Ashtar, a great-grandson of Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (A.S.), arriving in Sindh around 145 AH. His martyrdom at the hands of an Arabian army earned him the revered title of Syed Abdullah Shah Ghazi. Around the same period, Lady Khadija Maham (A.S.), daughter of Imam Musa Kazim (A.S.), also settled in Sindh, making her home in Agham Kot, Badin district, where her shrine remains a place of pilgrimage. Dars emphasized the importance of preserving these sacred sites, as commanded in the Holy Quran, to honor the Prophet's family (PBUH) and their legacy. The event

## Education Department's Ghulam Ali Tariq visits various schools in Thari Mirwah

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: Following directives from Zain-ul-Abidin Ansari, the Director General of Monitoring and Evaluation for the Education and Literacy Department Sindh, Chief Monitoring Officer Khairpur, Ghulam Ali Tariq, visited various schools in the Thari Mirwah and Faiz Ganj areas. During the visit, 14 staff members, including 10 teachers, were found absent. Letters have been issued to the relevant authorities for action against the absent employees. Ghulam



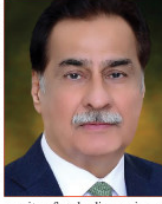
Ali Tariq emphasized that the Director General has instructed regular school visits to improve education quality. Reports on absenteeism are being submitted daily, and monitoring teams are actively visiting schools.

## Ayaz Calls For Nationwide Unity In The Fight Against Breast Cancer

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday called for coordinated efforts at both government and community levels to combat breast cancer.

In his message on the occasion of World Breast Cancer Day, the Speaker assured that the National Assembly would continue to support policies and awareness campaigns focused on prevention and treatment.

Sardar Ayaz highlighted the serious threat of breast cancer posed to women's health both in Pakistan and globally and pointed out that in developing countries, it was the leading cause of death among women. The Speaker underscored the ne-



cessity of early diagnosis and adequate medical facilities for effectively managing breast cancer. He stressed the importance of raising public awareness about the disease, emphasizing that education is crucial. Sardar Ayaz encouraged preventive measures to help

control the spread of this life-threatening illness and stressed that women should regularly undergo medical check-ups to safeguard their health.

The Speaker also acknowledged the essential role of media in raising awareness about breast cancer, adding that print, electronic and social media can play a significant part in saving lives by sharing vital information on this health issue. He urged relevant agencies to improve access to better treatment options for breast cancer and concluded by emphasizing that collective national efforts are crucial for enhancing public health and well-being.—RT/Agency

## Indus Medical College holds 6th convocation ceremony



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Indus Medical College celebrated its 6th convocation, awarding degrees to 100 graduates, marking a significant milestone in their medical careers. Dr. Sahar Batool was recognized as the best graduate, earning six gold medals for her outstanding academic achievements. A total of 25 gold medals were distributed among graduates. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Memon, CEO of Indus Medical College, with attendance from

key figures including Principal Prof. Dr. Feroz Memon, Pro Vice Chancellor Engineer Qazi Faiz Muhammad, and Secretary of Information Technology and Sciences, Noor Ahmed Samo. Special guests, including the Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, congratulated the graduates, emphasizing the importance of dedication and compassion in serving humanity. Prof. Ujjan encouraged graduates to pursue continuous learning and uphold ethical standards in their practice.

## Tragic Roof Collapse In Multan Following Firework Explosion Claims 3 Lives, Injures 3 Others

MULTAN: Three people were killed and as many others were injured in a roof collapse caused by an explosion of firework material stored in a house in Multan's Aghapura area, police said on Saturday.

"Three people died while three were injured in an unfortunate incident of a roof collapse caused by an explosion resulting from firework materials stored at a home in Aghapura [...]," a statement issued by Multan City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar said.

The injured were shifted to Nishtar Hospital for treatment, the statement added. The deceased were identified as Riaz, Mansha and Safia Bano, it added.

Relief activities were carried out by teams of Multan Police, Rescue 1122, Crime Record Office (CRO), bomb disposal and other authorities at the spot, according to the



statement. CPO Dogar and Multan Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu inspected the relief activities and the site of the incident, the statement said.

Citing the initial investigation, the CPO statement said firework used to be manufactured inside the house, which caused the incident. However, further investigations were underway, it added.

While directing police officers to participate in the re-

lief activities, CPO Multan expressed sorrow over the incident and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family, the statement noted.

Multan Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Lieutenant (retired) General Kamran Amir Khan, City Superintendent of Police (SP) Hasan Raza Khakhi, Delhi Gate Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mazhar Harji, DSP Mamoona Ali and other officers were also present at the incident site.—RT/Agency

## PML-N holds Youth Convention in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: The Pakistan Muslim League (N) organized a divisional youth convention attended by Fahd Shafiq, the Prime Minister's Youth Program Coordinator for Sindh. He expressed gratitude for the chance to address youth issues, emphasizing the program's goal to resolve problems and promote the rights of Sindh's people. Shafiq highlighted that 70% of Pakistan's population is youth and noted the program's initiation in 2013, which has benefited thousands through education and employment. Plans were an-



nounced to appoint focal persons for better outreach and distribute laptops and smartphones to young people. He also emphasized support for businesses and agriculture through low-interest loans. He reiterated a

## DEO Abdul Sami Bhanbhro visits schools in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The District Education Officer (Secondary) Khairpur, Abdul Sami Bhanbhro, and Zahoor Ahmed Jagirani unexpectedly attended an assembly at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rasoolabad, where three teachers were absent and required to provide explanations. They then visited Government Girls High School Rasoolabad, where all teachers, including the headmistress, were present. The officials assessed the performance of students and teachers, checked records and infrastructure, and engaged students with questions, encouraging them in their studies.



During the visit, DEO Khairpur Abdul Sami Bhanbhro emphasized that the Sindh government is making significant efforts to improve education. He stated that national development is not possible without educational progress, and he warned that negligent teachers in Khairpur district would not be tolerated.

## President Pays Tribute To Security Forces For Crushing Counterterrorism Operations



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday paid tribute to security forces for their successful operations against terrorists in Balochistan districts of Pishin and Zhoob. The president, in a statement issued by the Presidency, lauded the professional skills of the security forces for conducting operations against Khawarij terrorists.

He expressed resolve to continue operations against the terrorists, saying "We will continue actions till complete eradication of Fimna al-Khawarij." President Zardari said the security forces were bravely fighting against terrorists. "The entire nation stands united with security forces in war against terrorism."—RT/Agency

## Leaders of Anjuman Sarfaroshan Islam Pakistan denounce false allegations in Kotri press conference

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: Leaders of Anjuman Sarfaroshan Islam Pakistan, including Rana Muhammad Jamshed, Ghulam Fared Qadri, Waheed Anwar Qadri, and Muhammad Shahzad Rajput, held a press conference where they stated that

certain miscreants are spreading false propaganda to defame them. They specifically pointed out an individual named Younis, who is allegedly propagating against Islamic teachings from London, claiming he has no ties to their organization or any individual. They accused

Younis of using the name of their mentor, Gohar Shah, and the Mahdi Foundation to incite religious hatred. In this context, they have filed a written complaint against police officers in Hyderabad and Jamshoro and announced their intent to seek justice through the courts.

## OGRA Demands Urgent Clarification From SSGC Over Controversial Geyser Charges On Gas Bills

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has sought a response from the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) regarding the charges for geysers in gas bills, media reported.

In a statement, OGRA said that it has asked SSGC to provide a written response regarding the prices of geysers and their installation charges. The authority has clarified that consumers are not bound to install geysers through SSGC contractors and can install them themselves.

However, OGRA emphasized that it is the consumer's responsibility to ensure the installation of geysers to conserve energy. Additionally, gas companies have the right to inspect geysers in consumers' premises to ensure safety and compliance with regulations. Yesterday, the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) started collecting conical baffle charges under geyser campaign. According to details, SSGC sent additional bills amounting to Rs2,085 to the consumers under the name of "conical baffle" charges.—RT/Agency

## Punjab Government Moves To Reinstate Registration Of Private Colleges

LAHORE: As the special committee formed by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz denied any incident in a private college, the Punjab government decided on Saturday to restore its registration.

Sources said the education department had informed the provincial high courts about the matter of the licence restoration. The decision has also been conveyed to the college authorities.

The private college will continue to perform educational activities. The registration of college was suspended on the order of the minister after students-led protests caused uproar.—RT/Agency

## GDA protests against IRSA Act amendments

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The GDA and allied parties began a protest march from Karachi to Badin, opposing the amendment of the IRSA Act, illegal canal construction from the Indus River, and other public issues. A major public meeting is scheduled in Badin. The march

includes participation from Jamaat-e-Islami and other political groups, who expressed concerns over the proposed amendments and reduced paddy prices in Sindh. Leaders, including Hassan Mirza and representatives from various parties, condemned attempts to divert water from the Indus. The march will

pass through Thatta and Sujawal before reaching Badin, where a large rally is planned. Leaders emphasized the importance of water rights for Sindh and urged unity against perceived threats to democracy and provincial interests. The protest is expected to arrive in Badin by 4 PM tomorrow.

REGIONAL TIMES

# MONEY

## Gold Skyrockets To Unprecedented Record High In Pakistan, Sparking Fears Of Economic Meltdown

KARACHI: Gold prices in Pakistan maintained their upward trend on Saturday 10, 19, 2024 in line with the increase in the international market.

In the domestic market, the price of gold per tola increased by Rs900 to Rs281,800, which is the latest record high in Pakistan. Similarly, 10-gram gold was sold at Rs241,598 after recording an increase of Rs772, according to rates shared by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGISA). Globally, the rate was set at \$2,721 per ounce after increasing \$9 during the



day. Silver prices gained Rs50 to settle at Rs3,150 per tola. On Friday, gold price had increased by Rs3,000 to settle at a then-record high level of Rs280,900. Experts have attributed the ongoing rally in gold prices to escalating tensions in the Middle East.—RT/Agency

# METRO KARACHI



**KARACHI:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addresses media persons during the World Culture Festival Karachi 2024, organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan and held at the Arts Council building.—RT

## Breast Cancer Mortality Rate Soars To Alarming 48%, Sharmila Farooqui Demands Urgent Action

**KARACHI:** Pakistan Peoples Party MNA Dr. Sharmila Farooqui has raised alarm over the rising death rate among breast cancer patients in Pakistan, which has reached 48%. Speaking on the eve of the International Day Against Breast Cancer, she called for immediate nationwide efforts to combat this deadly disease through awareness and early detection.

Dr. Sharmila emphasized the importance of a door-to-door awareness campaign to destigmatize discussions

around breast cancer, noting that timely diagnosis is crucial. Globally, the early diagnosis rate is 98%, but in Pakistan, most cases are detected at late stages, where the risk of death is significantly higher.

She highlighted that over 80% of breast cancer cases in Pakistan occur without any family history, and approximately 70% of women receive a diagnosis at advanced

stages. Women aged 40 to 70 are particularly vulnerable, she said.

Dr. Sharmila urged health authorities to enhance access to screening and early detection services while prioritizing better treatment and patient care. She noted that technological advancements in imaging are opening new possibilities for improving breast cancer screening. She also called on the federal government to increase the health budget from the current 1% of GDP to at least 4%, with provinces following suit. With nearly 100,000 new breast cancer cases reported each year in Pakistan, Dr. Sharmila stressed the need for hospitals to hold free screening camps to improve early detection. She also encouraged women to practice regular self-examination to help reduce the mortality rate. "Awareness is key," she said, "and every woman should make self-checking a habit to ensure early diagnosis and timely treatment."—RT/Agency

## SHC Delivers Temporary Blow To FBR's Affidavit Rule For Sales Tax Returns

**KARACHI:** The Sindh High Court (SHC) has temporarily suspended the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) mandate requiring taxpayers to submit an affidavit alongside their sales tax returns, following a petition filed by the business community. The petitioners, including Asad Ashfaq Tola, argued that the requirement contradicts the Sales Tax Act of 1990, as it forces businesses to verify the actions of their suppliers.



In response, the court has asked the FBR and other involved parties to submit their replies by November 1, while also summoning relevant commissioners to the next hearing. In the interim, the SHC directed the FBR to allow the filing of September 2024 sales tax returns without the affidavit.

Business leaders, including President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, have urged the FBR to defer the affidavit requirement, stating that taxpayers are being unfairly held responsible for potential errors by vendors. They argued that while businesses can verify suppliers' status on the FBR system, they have no access to the full supply chain and may face penalties for vendors' mistakes.

In a separate statement, Khuram Mukhtar, Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA), called for the deferral of the affidavit requirement for Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), emphasizing that buyers should not be held accountable for the entire supply chain. Both leaders stressed the need for a business-friendly environment that supports compliance without placing undue burdens on taxpayers.—RT/Agency

## Shocking Arrest: Man And Two Sons Nabbed In Brutal Murder Of Four Women In Lyari



**KARACHI:** Police have arrested a man and his two sons following the discovery of four women's bodies with their throats slit in a residential flat in Lyari's Lea Market area on Saturday. The victims, identified as a mother, her daughter, granddaughter, and daughter-in-law, were found in separate rooms of the seventh-floor apartment, all showing signs of severe torture.

The gruesome murders shocked the neighborhood, and police promptly shifted the bodies to Civil Hospital Karachi for post-mortem examinations. A Crime Scene Unit collected evidence from the flat as part of an ongoing investigation.

Muhammad Farooq, the head of the household, along with his two sons, was taken into custody for questioning. Authorities are currently investigating multiple leads and reviewing surveillance footage from around the building to determine the motive and identify the perpetrators behind the brutal slayings.—RT/Agency

## Former First Lady Rallies For Nationwide Grassroots Movement To Battle Breast Cancer Crisis

**KARACHI:** Former First Lady Begum Samina Alvi has called for a nationwide grassroots campaign to raise breast cancer awareness, emphasizing self-examination for early detection. Speaking at a seminar on "Breast Cancer Prevention and Wellness," organized by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) on the International Day against Breast Cancer, Begum Alvi highlighted Pakistan's high breast cancer incidence rate—the highest in Asia.



She stressed that mammograms, while crucial for early detection, are often too expensive for women in low- and middle-income households, and public healthcare facilities offering mammography are limited. Self-examination, she argued, should be promoted as a key preventive measure and awareness efforts should continue year-round, not just in October, which is globally recognized as

Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Begum Alvi also urged society to remove the stigma surrounding breast cancer, recognizing it as a medical issue that requires early detection to protect women's health. She emphasized the importance of psychological support for cancer patients and urged men to be informed about the disease to help in early diagnosis for women in their families.

With up to 100,000 new cases of breast cancer detected annually in Pakistan, Begum Alvi called for collective action and reaffirmed her commitment to improving healthcare and rehabilitation services for cancer patients and those with mental health challenges. Dr. Bushra Maham of Shaikat Khanum Cancer Hospital highlighted that 22% of patients treated there suffer from breast cancer. She urged women over 40 to undergo annual mammograms. Other experts stressed the importance of a healthy lifestyle and genetic testing for those with a family history of cancer.—RT

## KU Students Declare Victory, End Protest After Successful Talks With Vice Chancellor

**KARACHI:** Students of Karachi University (KU) have called off their eight-day protest against fee hikes and inadequate campus facilities following successful negotiations with Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Ibraqui. The protests, organized by the Student Organisations' Alliance, focused on issues such as a 50% late fee surcharge, poor transportation services, and deteriorating campus infrastructure.



The protest was concluded on Friday after the VC approved several of the students' key demands. Among these were the reversal of the 50% late fee to 10%, adjustments to the re-admission fee, and improvements in campus security and bus services. Additionally, the examination fee structure will now be based on a per-course system, and the semester fee will see only a 10% increase. While the Student Alliance claims that 11 out of 14 demands were accepted, the university administration stated that only two major points were agreed upon. These include the reduced late fee and changes to

the re-admission policy, now applicable after four semesters. The authority to determine eligibility for certain fees has been delegated to department heads. Despite the differing accounts, the protests have officially been called off, with students hopeful for continued improvements in university policies.—RT/Agency

## Karachi's Electronic Complaint Cell Triumphantly Tackles 1,850 Grievances In Its Inaugural Year



**By Asif Qureshi**

**KARACHI:** The annual report of the Electronic Complaint Cell (ECC), established by DIG East Ghulam Azfar Maheer, shows it received 1,850 complaints since its launch in October 2023, with over 1,500 addressed promptly. Ongoing issues include property disputes and land encroachments pending court resolution. DIG Maheer reported that investigations are underway for over 900 complaints, including tracing stolen vehicles. The ECC has taken significant actions, such as suspending four officers over bribery claims and addressing harassment complaints from women in various districts, leading to arrests. For the first time, an online FIR for vehicle theft was registered by a citizen in the US. The ECC also processes complaints from Pakistanis abroad and assists those unable to visit police stations. Women's desks have been established at police stations, and the public is advised to avoid unrelated complaints to the ECC.

## SMIU Vice Chancellor Awards 21 Staff Members With Long-Awaited Promotion Letters

**By Rahib Gaho**



**KARACHI:** Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), distributed promotion letters to 21 officers and faculty members under the university's Time Scale Policy, a decision made during SMIU's 30th Syndicate meeting on September 19, 2024.

Nineteen staff members were promoted from BPS-17 to BPS-18, including Kamran Obaid, Gulam Ali Ramejo, Sunil Kumar Langhani, and others. Ms. Najmus Sahar advanced from BPS-16 to BPS-17, while Anwar Ali was promoted from BPS-19 to BPS-20.

The promotions were announced during the university's annual dinner, co-hosted by SMIU's teachers' and officers' associations. Representatives from other associations, such as the SMIU Model School teachers' association and the employees' welfare association, were also present.

In his speech, Dr. Sahrai emphasized the importance of professionalism, dedication, and honesty in the workplace. He praised the commitment of SMIU's staff

for the university's continued progress and stressed the need to enhance research, which he described as a key factor in any university's development. Dr. Sahrai also addressed financial concerns for public universities, warning of potential budget cuts due to the country's economic situation. He advised the university to focus on generating its own resources and cutting unnecessary expenses to ensure sustainability. Drawing on his 15 years of experience leading public institutions, Dr. Sahrai encouraged staff to prepare for future challenges. Faculty and officers' representatives, including Asif Hussain Samo and Abdul Waheed Jatoi, also spoke at the event, highlighting the need for unity among staff to support the university's growth. The ceremony was attended by deans, faculty members, and administrative staff.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS**  
**DIVISION MIRPURKHAS**

NO. TC/G-55/ 3775 of 2024 Dated: 17/10/2024

**SEALED NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

1. Sealed tenders are invited as per S.P.P Rules 2010 (Amended upto date), from the contractors / companies/ firms / interested persons on Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) for procurement of the following works.

S#	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(Rs. in million)	Contractor Category	Specialized Code(s)	Tender Fees	5% Bid Security in millions CDR only	Completion Period
1	Special M&R of Road From Mirpurkhas-Mirwah Road Belaro Stop Deh-381 To Deh Toori Near Village Syed Irfan Ali Shah Mile: 0/0-3/1 (5.00 Kms)	100.182	C-4 & above	CE-01 & CE-10	3000	5.009	03 Months

2. Tender will be received back up to 10:30 A.M and open on the same day at 11:30 A.M.

3. Eligibility / Mandatory.

- (i) Valid Registration Certificate upto June 2025 and onwards with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and specialized codes as mentioned against each work.
- (ii) Experience in similar nature of work(s) executed during the last five years:
  - I. At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost 80% of the estimated cost of the work.
  - II. At least two similar nature works each having minimum cost 50% of the estimated cost.
- (iii) Bio data of Engineering and Technical staff working with the firm.
- (iv) Average Annual Financial Turnover not less than equivalent cost of the scheme / project during last five years. (Turnover will be evaluated from Annual returns and Audit Reports).
- (v) Annual Audit Reports of last three years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 from (ICAP) registered audit firm. Audit report issued other than (ICAP) registered audit firms will not be accepted.
- (vi) Latest of Machinery involved in Road Construction and equipment available with documentary evidence its ownership/ rented.
- (vii) At-least 15% or more annual average balance is required in the last 03 years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 to the estimated cost of work applied. Fresh Bank Certificate (in original) must be attached stating annual average balance of given period.
- (viii) Bank Statement must be provided for the last 03 years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 starting from 1st July 30th June for each year separately.
- (ix) Registration with Income Tax Department NTN certificates with activate status with Federal Board of Revenue.
- (x) Documentary evidence showing the contractor / firm owns or rented an Asphalt Plant along with its related Machinery such as Tandem, PTR and Paver machine (Applicable on Asphalt Concrete works).
- (xi) Annual Income Tax returns of last 03 years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- (xii) Registration Certificate of Sindh Revenue Board Government of Sindh (SRB) certificate (with Active Status).
- (xiii) Each page of the technical proposal must be numbered and attested by the owner of firm/ company along with its stamp.
- (xiv) Manner of Bid Security other than CDR will not be accepted.
- (xv) Evaluation Criteria, sub-criteria, for the evaluation of Full Technical Proposals is based on Yes / No OR Pass/Fail i.e. bidder fails to obtain yes or pass in any criteria or sub-criteria then he/she shall not be qualified.

4. Method of Procurement (Single Stage Two Envelopes) Bidding / Tender Documents.

- (i) Contract documents and other terms and conditions can be seen or downloaded from the official website of SPPRA <https://ppms.prsindh.gov.pk>. The tender fee amount to PK Rs. 3000- and the bid security mentioned above in the shape of Cash/Deposit only from any scheduled bank of Pakistan in favour of the Executive Engineer Provincial Highways Division Mirpurkhas on account of (Name of firm) should be attached with the Technical Bid / Tenders, otherwise such tenders will not be entertained / accepted.
- (ii) The tender will be opened in the presence of the Procurement Committee / participating contractors / firms and their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present.
- (iii) Bid shall comprise Single Package containing two separate envelopes. Each envelope contain separately the Financial Proposal and the Technical Proposal. Envelop shall be marked Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion.
- (iv) TECHNICAL PROPOSAL opened, shall be evaluated for technical qualification of the firms. Financial bids / proposals of the technically qualified firms shall be opened on the date and time that will be communicated in writing to all the qualified contractors / firms in advance. Financial bids / proposals of technically non responsive shall be returned to the respective bidders unopened.
- (v) The CD-R's of the technically responsive bidders that reject due to higher rate will be returned back after the issuance of work order to the successful bidder.
- (vi) Increase of any member of procurement committee happens to be out of Head Quarter on the date of opening bids will be submitted and opened on next working day on same schedule.
- (vii) Joint venture will not be allowed.
- (viii) Fresh affidavit with effect that all the documents / particulars / machinery information furnished are true and correct. In case of Bogus / Tempered or false information / certificates provided by the company / firm shall be liable to be black listed at any stage. Details of a company / contractor / firm (in original), a representative should have authority on Judicial Stamp Paper from owner (in original). Authority other than Judicial Stamp paper will not be accepted and such tender will not be entertained.
- (ix) In case of Firm, giving full particulars of Directors / Proprietors or other connected along with Power of Attorney. In case opening sole proprietors such undertaking on fresh Affidavit be furnished.
- (x) Undertaking on stamp paper (in original) that firm is not involved in any kind of litigation with, any departmental rift, abandoned or consensually delayed in completion of any work.
- (xi) Undertaking on fresh affidavit (in original) that the firm / company is not currently black listed by any of the Government Department whether Federal or Provincial.
- (xii) The Tenders should be submitted along with the above required documentation / information if any of such required documents / information lacking then the tender will not be considered by the procuring committee and no such documents will be accepted after dropping date and time.

Place of submission, Inquiries and opening will be at following place & contact.

Address: Executive Engineer Provincial Highway Division, Mirpurkhas Near State Life Building, Hyderabad Road Mirpurkhas. Telephone No: 0233-9290043 Email Address: [provhighwaysmps@gmail.com](mailto:provhighwaysmps@gmail.com)

**Terms & Conditions**

- a) Under following conditions bid will be rejected.
- b) No conditional electronic and telegraphic bids / Tenders shall be accepted.
- c) Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and manner.
- d) Bids received after specified date and time.
- e) Bid Validity period 90 days.
- f) The procurement authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders / bids as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended upto date).

Note: Please follow the SOP's regarding COVID-19 on the day of opening.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION**  
**MIRPURKHAS**

INF-KRY No: 3311/24

"No human thing is of serious importance."

—Plato

# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

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SUNDAY OCTOBER 20 2024

## Mohsin Naqvi Applauds Security Forces For Crushing "Fitna Al Khawarij" Threat

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended Pakistan's security forces for their successful counter-terrorism operations against the notorious group "Fitna al Khawarij" in the regions of Pishin and Zhob.

These operations resulted in the elimination of two high-profile terrorists and the capture of five others, a critical step towards restoring peace in these areas.

In a statement, Minister Naqvi praised the professionalism and bravery of the security forces, crediting them with once again thwarting the nefarious plans of "Fitna al Khawarij".

He emphasized the significance of these operations in dismantling the network of terrorists, who have long posed a threat to national security.

"Once again, the brave security forces have thwarted the nefarious plans of the ter-



rorists of 'Fitna al Khawarij' through successful operations," Naqvi said, recognizing the dedication and skill demonstrated by the forces during the challenging mission.

He added that these victories are a testament to the unwavering commitment of the security personnel in safeguarding the nation from those who seek to destabilize it.

The Minister specifically lauded the courage of the sol-

diers involved in the operations, stating, "We salute the brave soldiers of the security forces who conducted successful operations against the terrorists of 'Fitna al Khawarij'."

He referred to these soldiers as the "nation's heroes," underscoring the admiration and respect they have earned from the public and government alike.

Naqvi further stressed the solidarity between the Pakistani people and their armed

forces, stating, "The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces." This sentiment reflects the broad-based support across the country for the military's efforts to counter terrorism and ensure peace in regions that have long been plagued by insurgency and violence.

The Interior Minister also highlighted the collective determination to completely eradicate terrorist groups like "Fitna al Khawarij" from the country.

"The nation is determined to completely eliminate the terrorists of 'Fitna al Khawarij,'" he remarked, reinforcing the government's resolve to continue its fight against extremism.

Naqvi expressed his confidence in the capabilities of Pakistan's security forces, noting that the country takes pride in the professional expertise and tactical abilities of its soldiers.

"The nation is proud of the professional skills of the brave soldiers of the security forces," he said.

In his concluding remarks, Naqvi emphasized the need for unity and cooperation between the military and the public in the ongoing war against terror.

He affirmed that with the support of the nation, Pakistan will continue to pursue and neutralize terrorists and their facilitators.

"We will, with the support of the nation, eradicate the terrorists and their facilitators," Naqvi declared, reiterating the government's commitment to securing the future of Pakistan.

The successful operations in Pishin and Zhob mark another significant blow to the "Fitna al Khawarij" network and bring the nation one step closer to peace and stability in its conflict-affected regions.—RT/Agency

## 7 PTI Lawmakers Abducted Ahead Of Critical Vote

ISLAMABAD: Omar Ayub Khan, the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, has claimed that seven members of his party have been abducted.

Speaking to the media upon his arrival at the Parliament House on Saturday, Ayub stated, "I was in communication with Barrister Gohar on the phone when the connection was lost, and we have not been able to reconnect since. We are currently consulting with our colleagues on this matter."

When asked about casting a vote in favour of the constitutional amendment, Ayub responded, "I have just come straight from the village to parliament. I met Sher Afzal Marwat here and didn't recognise him at first because his health has significantly deteriorated."

He added, "We are in consultations with our colleagues. The decision is to engage with JUL-F. We are trying to trace our parliamentary party members to continue discussions with JUL-



As Ayub expressed concern over the government's actions, stating, "We are observing what the government will do here because seven of our members have been abducted, and cases have been filed against all of us."

Meanwhile, Sher Afzal Marwat, while speaking to the media, remarked, "This is a constitutional amendment of such historical significance that no one is aware of it, while half of the National Assembly members are

fake." "The Supreme Court has paved the way for something that should not happen in any civilised society," he added.

Marwat noted that due to party directives, only a limited number of members will attend the meetings. "If they proceed with this constitutional amendment, they will push the country towards complete lawlessness. We must come out with all our strength to dismantle this system."—RT/Agency

## Petroleum Minister Rallies For Collective Action To Combat Tobacco Epidemic

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik has underscored the need for collective action against tobacco use.

He expressed these words in his address at a seminar titled 'Sustainable Tobacco Control Policies: A Way to Healthier Pakistan' organized by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) at a local hotel the other day.

The event aimed at bringing together government officials, public health advocates, civil society members, anti-tobacco activists, and youth leaders to address the growing tobacco epidemic in Pakistan and advocate for comprehensive policy reforms.

Musadik Malik stated, "Smoking is causing overall harm rather than any benefit. The fight against smoking will not be easy, but it is crucial. The real fight against smoking is a fight against the mafia."

Highlighting the severe health implications, he added, "Smoking has the deepest connection with cancer, and there is hardly any disease that isn't linked to it. Every year, 150,000 to



200,000 people die from smoking. Why can't we see the faces of our people in those numbers?" Former caretaker minister of information and broadcasting Murtaza Solangi also spoke on the occasion.

He emphasized the need to take tobacco as a national issue. "First of all, we have to see it as an issue, this is not even seen as an issue," he remarked.

He called for a unified approach, stating, "We have to create an ecosystem where media and everything around us reflects an anti-tobacco stance." Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, while addressing a seminar,

emphasized the deadly toll of tobacco use in Pakistan, explaining, "Tobacco use is costing 166,000 lives each year, which equates to almost 450 deaths per day."

He urged the government to take critical steps to curb tobacco consumption, particularly among the youth. Dr. Mati ur Rehman from the Health Services Academy, Muhammad Sabir, an economist from the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), Khalida Ahmad, a board member of SPARC, Senator Sana Jammali, Nisar Ahmad Cheema, a parliamentarian, and prominent anti-tobacco activists, among others, were also in attendance and spoke on the occasion.—RT/Agency

## 'Our Senators Were Abducted,' Akhtar Mengal Declares, Rejecting Support For Constitutional Amendments



ISLAMABAD: Akhtar Mengal, leader of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), has alleged that two of his party's senators have been abducted along with their families, adding that he will not support constitutional amendments currently being discussed in Pakistan.

Speaking to the media outside Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence in Islamabad, Mengal expressed outrage over the government's handling of the situation, questioning why the constitutional changes were being rushed without public transparency. Mengal further claimed that the family of a female senator had been held hostage to force her attendance at a luncheon with the Prime Minister.

"Is this what respect for the vote looks like?" he asked, adding that it is unacceptable for members of parliament and their families to be subjected to threats and intimidation.

The BNP leader vowed not to participate in any talks on the amendments until his missing senators are safely returned.

He criticised the secrecy surrounding the proposed changes, calling it an attack on democracy and questioning the role of external forces in the matter. Mengal has stated that his party will consult with the opposition alliance regarding the amendments, maintaining that no constitutional change should be forced under duress.—RT/Agency

## Govt Aims For Sweeping Constitutional Amendment With Broad-Based Consensus

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif said on Saturday that the government desired to pass the 26th Constitutional Amendment with broad-based consensus.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament, he said, "We have the required numbers for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, but we seek to develop a broader consensus in the National Assembly and the Senate."

The minister said that the primary objective of the amendment is to establish the supremacy of Parliament, which guarantees the Constitution of the country. "We want to put an end to the encroachment on Parliament and ensure that the supremacy of this forum, as promised by the Constitution of Pakistan, is upheld," he added.

Khawaja Asif further said that all political parties unanimously agreed that the su-



premise of Parliament must not be compromised. He said that elected representatives have the authority to legislate for the welfare of the public, and the minority should not impose its decisions on the majority.

Addressing the issue of misinformation, the minister criticized the creation of a false narrative suggesting that members of the Senate and National Assembly had been kidnapped. "They should reveal the names of those allegedly kidnapped, imprisoned, or held hostage," he said.

He cited a fabricated incident in Lahore as an example of how such falsehoods are being circulated. Without naming any specific party, the minister remarked that a particular political party consistently developed fake narratives to advance its agenda. In response to a question, Khawaja Asif dismissed claims that some parties were blackmailing the government and said that constitutional amendments always require time to reach an agreement.—RT/Agency

## Despite Majority, Efforts Underway To Forge Broader Consensus On Constitutional Package

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that despite having numbers, the coalition government was making all-out efforts for the creation of a broader consensus on the proposed constitutional package.

Talking to the media outside Parliament House along with the senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Haneef Abbasi, he said the process of consultations for the constitutional package was ongoing and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto held meetings with Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan Amir Fazlur Rahman and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"We are democratic people, we try to create a consensus among all political stakeholders," he said adding that in democratic societies, efforts were made for consensus building through consultations.

He said that by changing the rules within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the powers of posting and transfer of police officers have been taken over by the Chief Minister from the IG. The minister said that the PTI aimed to obtain political objectives from the police.

He alleged that the KP Government wanted to con-



trol the people of the province politically. Tarar said that the people from Punjab were also kept in KP and blame was shifted on the institutions for what they called their disappearance. The KP chief minister invaded the capital and used government resources against the Federation, he said.

The minister said the PTI has the habit of blaming others but they did not look into their behaviour. Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI leadership threatened that the homes and businesses of those members would be set ablaze who would cheat the founder chairman of the PTI. He said the PTI had no problem with those working against the interest of the country, but they want to punish those who ditch Imran Khan.

Foremost was the interest of the country, political leaders and political parties come

second, he opined. He said if any legislator was attacked, the state would take action and culprits would be given exemplary punishment.

The minister remarked that the PTI was crying hoarse for political face-saving, otherwise, they knew the ruling alliance had secured the numbers needed for the amendment.

Replying to media person questions, he said there are other options within the constitution and law but the PML-N leadership and party thought that a consensus should be created on the amendments.

The information minister said the government had an open mind in moving ahead with constitutional amendments. He maintained that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders were nervous about meeting their leader.—RT/Agency

## Rashid Sounds The Alarm: 'The Game Has Begun, They'll Ask Why I Was Removed Again'



RAWALPINDI: Former federal minister Sheikh Rashid said that the game has started, they will say again, "Why I was removed".

Awami Muslim League leader was talking to media outside the anti-terrorism court here. "I have already said over the constitutional amendments issue that he is Samiullah and

Kaleemullah contest," Sheikh Rashid said. "I salute Maulana, he has a better and higher repute in the eyes of people," political veteran said.

"If anyone has enhanced his dignity and honour among the entire political class that person is Maulana Fazlur Rehman," he said. "I will visit to meet him some day," he added.—RT/Agency

## Bilawal Holds High-Level Meeting With Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House on Saturday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the overall political situation of the country.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, Pakistan People's Party lead-



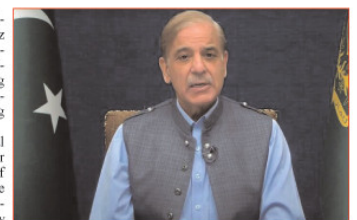
ers Sherry Rehman, Syed Wahab were also present in the meeting.—RT/Agency

## PM Calls For Unprecedented Unity In Raising Breast Cancer Awareness

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday emphasized the importance of raising awareness and promoting early detection of breast cancer, particularly among women.

Highlighting the global prevalence of breast cancer as the most common form of cancer affecting women, he noted that a significant number of deaths occur in low and middle-income countries, including Pakistan.

In a message on the occasion of International Day against Breast Cancer, the prime minister acknowledged the challenges the country faced in providing adequate screening and treat-



ment facilities for breast cancer. However, he stressed that these obstacles could be overcome through a strong focus on early diagnosis. "There is a 98% chance of permanent recovery when breast cancer is detected at an early stage," he remarked,

urging women to take proactive steps by performing regular self-examinations. The prime minister noted the positive impact of awareness campaigns in Pakistan, citing an increase in the reporting of early-stage breast cancer cases.—RT/Agency