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# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

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## Senate Passes 26th Constitutional Amendment After Lengthy Standoff

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Sunday approved long-awaited 26th constitutional amendment with two third majority (65 votes) aimed at ensuring speedy justice in the country and bringing transparency in judicial system, by incorporating all amendments proposed by Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tahir piloted the Constitution (Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House. The House passed the bill through clause by clause reading.

In the bill having 27 clauses, amendments to various Articles of the constitutional law have been proposed. A new Article 9 A regarding clean and healthy environment is also incorporated in the bill under which every person shall be entitled to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

As many as 65 members voted in favor of the bill



while only four voted against it.

Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F moved amendments one by one which were incorporated in the bill after not opposing by the government.

Earlier, speaking in the House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tahir said that the government, its allied parties and JUI-F reached a consensus on the draft of the constitutional amendment bill. As part of the government's efforts, a special parliamentary committee comprising representatives of all the political parties including the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) discussed the proposed constitutional package.

He went on to say that the procedure to appoint judges in the superior judiciary had been changed in the 18th Amendment. Both the prime minister and the president surrendered their powers and handed over their authorities

to the parliament to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges, he added.

He said the parliamentary committee was empowered to approve or reject nomination of judges. However, he said the 18th Constitutional Amendment was challenged in court of law and message was given to the then government during the proceeding of the case that the amendment would be struck down.

The minister conceded that 19th Amendment was passed in haste to change the composition of the judicial commission (JC) and parliamentary committee on appointment of judges. Hence, the powers of parliamentary committee were reduced, he added.

Azam Nazeer said even the bar councils and other lawyers representative organizations including Pakistan Bar Council criticized and demanded to revisit the decision. They demanded to make appropriate amendments in Article 175-A of the constitution, he said.

Now, he said that the JC, responsible for the appointment and confirmation of judges would consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), four senior Supreme Court judges, four parliamentarians, the Law Minister, an advocate having at least 15 years experience, and the Attorney General. Out of four parliamentarians, two members each from Senate and National Assembly, he added.

He said one member of the JC would be either a woman or a non-Muslim qualified to become a senator on a technocrat seat, clarifying the nomination would be made by the Speaker National Assembly.

He said no changes have been made to the provincial Judicial Commissions, where the Chief Justice of the High Court, a senior judge, and the provincial law minister would continue to assess judges' performance.

The minister said that the amendment outlines the procedure for appointing the CJP, clarifying that the Prime Minister would no longer exercise this authority, instead delegating it to the Parliament. A 12-member committee would finalize the nominations and forward them to the PM, with the CJP serving either until retirement or for a maximum of three years, he said.

He said that the appointment of the CJP was a part of the reform package, with three senior judges being considered for the position, from which one would be selected as Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The minister said that the mechanism for forming constitutional benches at the Supreme Court and provincial levels had been clarified, with logistical preparations needed at the provincial level. Provincial assemblies, with a 51 percent majority, could pass a resolution to establish a provincial constitutional bench, he said.

He said the formation of these benches would be under the authority of the JC headed by the CJP.

He said setting up constitutional court was part of Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed by Shahab-e-Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2006. The Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto also took up the matter which was pending agenda part of the CoD, he added.

He said in past, elected prime ministers were removed from their offices by exercising Article 184 of the Constitution although there was clear procedure given in the Article 195 of the constitution. In 2022, the elected prime minister was removed under the Article 195 through vote of no confidence, he added.

He clarified that incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa was not interested in any extension adding, "During the proceedings that I had held with the top Judge, he reiterated his disinterest in his extension of his tenure, saying that any amendment would come into effect after his retirement".

Azam Tahir said that the JC would have the authority to draft rules and establish a clear process for evaluating judges' professional capabilities. The JC in collaboration with the CJP and provincial high courts, would regularly review judges' performance, he added. He said the JC would provide reports on judges' professional skills, and five technical advisors could be appointed in the National and Provincial Assemblies under the constitution. He said Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) proposed five amendments which have already been included in the draft.—RT/Agency

## PTI Turncoats Strike Five Defectors Join Treasury Benches In Shock Move As More In The Waiting

ISLAMABAD: In a stunning political upheaval, the National Assembly is set to vote on pivotal changes as five former PTI members-Chaudhry Ilyas, Usman Ali, Mubarak Zaib, Zahoor Qureshi, and Aurangzeb Khichi- occupied treasury benches, sending shock-

## Bilawal Cheers Nation On Landmark Passage Of 26th Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday extended his felicitations to the nation on the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment package.

Talking to the media here at the Parliament House, he said that the PPP is fulfilling the promises made in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) particularly those concerning judicial reforms.

He described the day as monumental both politically and personally, as he would be implementing one of the points of his mother's unfinished mission.

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that this achievement,

## Bilawal Cheers Nation On Landmark Passage Of 26th Amendment

like others, has been secured through political consensus, even in the current political environment.

He noted that there were no objectionable or controversial points in the Bill.

He said the government and opposition parties involved in the discussions have reached a compromise.

Even parties that may not vote for the Bill today have no substantive objections, as they have already endorsed the consensus formed between Maulana Fazal ur Rehman and the PPP.

Describing it as a historic day, Bilawal Bhutto said that he had contacted Maulana Fazal ur Rehman by phone to congratulate him.

He praised the efforts of the JUI and Maulana Fazal ur Rehman in evolving consensus on the amendment, saying that their dedication was not for political gain but for the integrity of the Constitution, which is as vital to them as it is to the PPP.

In a separate address at the PPP parliamentary party meeting, Bilawal Bhutto said that as Parliamentary Party Leader of the PPP and PPPP, it is his instruction to all parliamentary members that they are to vote in favour of the constitutional amendment being presented in the House. Bilawal Bhutto said that he would be there to guide the members on the specifics, and Sherry Rehman would do the same in the Senate. He said that all members should consider his official instructions. Those who are not or could not be present here today, should consider the video message his public instructions that they are bound to vote in accordance to party instructions, he added.—RT/Agency

## US State Department Presses Pakistan And India To Clarify Scope Of Dialogue

WASHINGTON: After some ice finally melted between Pakistan and India during the recently held Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit in Islamabad, Washington has said that it is for both the nations to decide the scope and role of any bilateral dialogue.

Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the United States Department of State, reacted to the positive development between the two rival countries in the mega diplomatic event held in the federal capital last week.

"We have bilateral relations with Pakistan and India. The US values its relations with both countries," said Miller in an exclusive conversation with Geo News in Washington.

Reacting to the meeting between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar with Pakistani leaders during the summit, the spokesperson said that it is now up to both the nations to decide the scope and role of any dialogue that they may have with regards to bilateral ties.

Both Pakistan and India witnessed their usually contentious relations ease during the SCO Council of Heads of Government Summit that welcomed top leaders of member countries in the federal capital.

India, ensuring its participation in the high-level summit, sent its External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who termed the event as a "productive meeting", soon after his speech on October 16. Jaishankar, who attended the SCO mood held in Islamabad, was the first foreign minister of the neighbouring country to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade.

"Signed eight outcome documents. India made a positive and constructive contribution to the deliberations," he wrote on X. While departing from Islamabad after the regional event, Jaishankar thanked PM

## IHC Judge Lauds Judiciary's Role In Defending Citizens' Rights Amid Tough Times

LONDON: Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri has said that judicial independence is essential for any society, its progress and its survival through the maintenance and implementation of the rule of law.

The IHC judge was speaking at the Annual Law Conference organised by the International Lawyers (global), a group of Pakistan-origin lawyers working in the UK as solicitors and barristers.

IHC Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice (retired) Shahid Jamil, who recently resigned from the Lahore High Court, also addressed the conference, held at the Society of Lincoln's Inn.

Justice Jahangiri said: "In Pakistan, judicial independence is enshrined in our Constitution as a fun-

damental pillar. Judicial independence means that the courts must be free from any kind of pressure and interference. It allows judges to make decisions solely on the basis of law and nothing else. Pakistan's Constitution safeguards independence of the judiciary and it also safeguards the judiciary from any kind of interference, ensuring it operates as a distinct and equal branch of the government.

Justice Jahangiri said the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been at the forefront of fighting for the freedom of the judiciary and the rights of the people as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

He accepted that there are huge backlog of cases but largely it has happened due to adjournments and litigants as well as the systemic deficiencies which should be fixed and that can happen when the judiciary is empowered through resources to deal with the burdens.

The judge praised the role of the Supreme Court and high courts in how they have delivered under challenging circumstances.

"Despite the challenges the judiciary has faced over the decades, it has made commendable strides. The SC and high courts have performed well despite several limitations and have introduced many game-changing reforms. Our courts have taken steps to end unnecessary litigations by introducing Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) and mediation to avoid lengthy court proceedings to save money and to protect the system from taxing burden on the system," he said.

"Meditation centres have been established in many parts." The judge said that fair trial is right of the citizens and along with the rule of law — ensured by an independent judiciary — they must be strengthened to protect rights of all citizens in every sense. He told the audience: "The SC and high courts are acting as the champion of judicial reforms and are facilitating institutional capacity to deal with numerous challenges." Justice Jahangiri added: "The courts have ensured that justice is served and rule of law is held. The judiciary has made significant progress in the protection of human rights. Courts have been instrumental in defending and maintaining the rights of religious minorities, gender equality and ending enforced disappearances. The courts are acting as the defenders of people rights."—RT/Agency

## PTI Senator Ali Zafar Slams 26th Amendment, Calls It 'Unconstitutional'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Ali Zafar has refused to support the 26th Constitutional Amendment, terming the manner in which it is being passed a "crime".

During his speech in a Senate session on Sunday, the parliamentary leader for PTI expressed his concerns, stating that the constitution unites the people rather than divides them. He argued that without consensus on a constitution, it loses its legitimacy. He drew comparisons to the 1956 and 1962 consti-

## CJP Isa Demands Answers From Eight SC Judges Over Reserved Seats Controversy

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, for a second time, expressed reprehension over the clarification issued by eight judges on the reserved seats case.

According to the clarification, the amendments made in the Elections Act 2017 cannot overrule the apex court's July 12 judgment pertaining to the matter, media reported on Sunday.

Seeking an explanation from the relevant department on the second clarification issued by the judges, CJP Isa on Saturday questioned how the

eight judges issued a clarification without filing the original file of the case.

He has sought an explanation from Deputy Registrar Mujahid Mahmood, Assistant Registrar Shahid Habib and Web Master Asim Javed.

The eight-member majority judges of the apex court in the reserved seats case on Friday held that the amendments made in the Elections Act cannot undo their judgment with retrospective effect, so the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was bound to implement the judgment in letter and spirit.

In response to the Civil Miscellaneous Applications (CMAs) filed by the ECP and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking clarification, the eight judges of the Supreme Court issued the clarification in chambers at Islamabad and Karachi.

The eight judges included Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Athar Minallah,

# THE HEARTLAND



## GDA plans to continue protest movement against IRSA Act amendment and illegal canal construction

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) and allied parties commenced a protest march from Karachi to Badin against the amendment of the IRSA Act, illegal canal construction from the Indus River, unconstitutional amendments, and other public issues. The protest march, which started from Karachi Malir, aims to address several issues, including the amendment of the IRSA Act, illegal canals from the Indus River, undemocratic constitutional changes, and the reduction of paddy prices in Sindh. A joint meeting of leaders and workers from coalition parties involved in the GDA was held at the Mirza farmhouse of former Interior Minister Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza to prepare for the protest march and the public meeting in Badin. During this meeting, GDA leader Barrister Hasnain Mirza, along with Advocate Ameer Azad Panhwar, Central Vice President of the Sindh United Party, and leaders from the Muslim League Functional, addressed the attendees. They stated that once again, forces hostile to Sindh are attempting to exploit the IRSA Act to divert water from the Sindh region of the Indus River, with plans to extract six to seven illegal canals.



Pro-Sindh parties, along with the people of Sindh and various political, social, academic, and literary circles, have reacted strongly against this conspiracy and initiated their struggle. In addition to protesting against the amendment of the IRSA Act and illegal canal construction, there will also be protests against the reduction in paddy prices. There are concerns about a conspiracy to undermine democracy and the constitution once again. Hasnain Mirza highlighted that Dr. Fehmida Mirza was instrumental during the 18th amendment, as she consulted all political parties over nine months. The GDA comprises various parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League Functional, Mirza Group, Sindh United Party, Awami Jamhoori Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl, and Sindh Progressive Party. Additionally, intellectual, literary, and social circles from Sindh are involved in this struggle. Participants emphasized that water is a matter of life and death, and the people of Sindh have united to fight against every conspiracy threatening Sindh and democracy. Key figures including Zain Shah, Dr. Safdar Abbasi, Ayaz Latif Palijo, Dr. Qadir Magsi, Liaquat Jatoi, Arbab Gulam Rahim, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Mirza, and Muhammad Hussain from Jamaat-e-Islami are expected to speak at the public meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, provincial officials from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam will address the gathering instead of the central leadership.



HYDERABAD: Employees of Sindh Agriculture University are holding a protest demonstration at Hyderabad Press Club, demanding the acceptance of their demands. —RT



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Jamshoro are holding a press conference at Hyderabad Press Club, calling for the acceptance of their demands. —RT



HYDERABAD: The Home-Based Workers Convention, organized by the Home-Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF), is currently underway. —RT



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Jeay Sindh Students Organization are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club, demanding the acceptance of their demands. —RT



HYDERABAD: Students are protesting at Hyderabad Press Club against the alleged rape of a first-year female student by a security guard on college premises in Lahore. —RT



HYDERABAD: Leaders and activists of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Party are addressing the audience during the Party Conference at the Hyderabad Press Club. —RT



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Larkana Social Alliance, along with Muhammad Mithal Bhatti and his heirs, are holding a protest at Jinnah Bagh against the alleged high-handedness of Chandka Medical College Principal, Dr. Zameer Soomro. —RT

## Fifth Latif Literature And Music Festival To Be Held At SAU On October 26

By Ifran Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: The fifth edition of the Latif Literature and Music Festival, titled Parado Soi Sud, will take place on October 26 at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam, organized by the Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies. The festival aims to present a renewed perspective on the works of the great Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Supported by Sindh Agriculture University, the Sindh Government's Information and Culture Departments, and the Indus Youth Welfare Organization, the event promises a diverse celebration of Sindh's literary and cultural heritage.



more than 50 stalls showcasing cultural artifacts. Families are encouraged to attend, with special arrangements made for their participation.

The event will unfold over three sessions. It will begin with a traditional Wai performance by Bhattai's fakirs. Notable dignitaries, including Provincial Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Culture Minister Zulfiqar Ali Shah, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri and attended by notable figures, including Dr. Fehmida Hussain, Chairperson of the Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies; Secretary Aneesa Memon; Dean Dr. Inayatullah Rajper, Registrar Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi; and other university officials. The gathering finalized arrangements related to security, program structure, and logistical preparations.

The festival will feature a rich array of cultural activities, including an inaugural session, artistic performances, intellectual debates, and book launches. The university's auditorium will serve as the main venue, while the cricket ground will host a musical evening and

The second session will highlight music by Faheem Allan Faqir and include speeches by Provincial Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, Minister Shahid Thaeem, and Sindh Madressatul Islam University's Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai. Key presentations will be thought leaders such as

Ayaz Latif Palijo and Bakhtawar Mazhar will follow. In the third and final session, hosted by Ghazal Siddiq, the Sindh song Bhalo Tu Janeen Dhiyarg Amman, written by Aneesa Memon, will be performed. The Siraj Awards ceremony will also be held, with appearances by Dr. Fehmida Hussain, Noor-ul-Huda Shah, and Dr. Arfan Mullah. The festival will close with a play titled Tanhinji Tand Tanwar by Siraj Memon, performed by Rafiq Essani Memon. A musical night featuring renowned singers Saif Samejo, Akhtar Dargahi, Nirmala Manghwani, Bahadur Ali, Faheem Allan Faqir, and Janab Soomro will follow, along with a Sufi dance presentation by Azeem Bhatti. Hosted by Saqib Abro, the musical evening will be attended by Nadim Rehman Memon, Shams-ul-Haq Memon, Khair Muhammad Kalwar, Ali Hassan Brohi, and others.

## CSSP holds environmental awareness march in Mirpurkhas

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas, Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan, stated that every year, environmental changes cause significant damage to agriculture, livestock, human life, and the climate. He emphasized the need to enhance institutional cooperation at the grassroots level and to increase the planting of eco-friendly trees to maintain a green environment. He made these remarks while leading an environmental awareness march organized by the Civil Society Support Program in the village of Mangho Patel. Participants held posters that raised awareness about environmental issues, land, and water usage. Dr. Rasheed further stated that it is essential to plant environmentally friendly trees in response to climate change, promote careful water usage in agriculture, and take precautions during home construction to mitigate the effects of climate change. The district administration is actively promoting a tree-planting campaign at all levels and developing alternative projects to create a better and greener environment while also reducing environmental pollution.



He added that the Mirpurkhas district administration is working to improve education and health services to ensure that urban and rural populations have access to better healthcare facilities. Earlier, Muhammad Bux Kapri, District Manager of the Civil Society Support Program, expressed that the program is committed to providing basic facilities in underprivileged rural areas, alongside establishing training and awareness initiatives to engage informed individuals and incorporate these backward areas into the social framework.

The event featured speeches from Shahzad Malik of the Arts Foundation, Razia Begum, a leader in Women Leadership, as well as Afshin Iqbal and Tahira Ajiz. Social leaders including Ali Hassan Noon, Rotary Club Central President Dr. Abdul Wahid Khaskheli, Qari Abdul Wahed, and officers from the Sindh Environment Protection Agency, including Shahid Rehman and Aziz Mahar, were also present. After the speeches, a theater performance addressing pre-monsoon and post-monsoon recovery was presented. Subsequently, Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas visited the home of Lali, a girl who secured first place in the First Commissioner Marathon Race, to congratulate her parents on her achievement.

## Thousands Participate In Babul Islam Sindh Conference Organized By Pakistan Central Muslim League

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Pakistan Central Muslim League hosted the Babul Islam Sindh Conference in Badin, drawing participation from thousands of young Muslims. The event, held under the leadership of Mufti Muhammad Yusuf Kashmiri, a member of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, and other key figures, focused on the importance of Islam's message of peace and unity. During his address, Mufti Kashmiri emphasized that individuals attempting to challenge the sanctity of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were only harming their own worldly and spiritual lives. "Islam teaches peace and brotherhood. Sindh's identity as Babul-Islam cannot be altered," he stated, urging people to remain steadfast in their faith. He reiterated that true happiness comes from remaining connected to Islam. Faisal Nadeem, President of the Pakistan Central Muslim League for Sindh and Balochistan, also took the stage, criticizing those who manipulate public sentiment in the name of rights. "The real inheritor of rights is Islam. Today, minorities are safe in Pakistan because of Islam," he declared. Nadeem questioned the silence of those who advocate tolerance when faced with the ongoing atrocities in Palestine, accusing certain factions of attempting to disturb the peace in Sindh under foreign influence. "The Pakistan Central Muslim League will not allow anyone to disrupt the harmony of this land. Sindh is the land of the proud, and as long as even one Muslim lives here, they will stand against these impure ambitions."



The event also featured speeches by Provincial President of Ulama and Sheikh Hafiz Muhammad Anwar, Badin's General Secretary Muhammad Atif Gujjar, and Divisional Secretary Aqel Ahmed Laghari, among other leaders.

## Over 11,000 Candidates Take Part In SU Pre-Entry Test at Jamshoro Campus In Second Phase

By Munwar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The second phase of the pre-entry test for admissions to 70 bachelor's degree programs for the academic year 2025 was successfully conducted at Sindh University (SU) on Sunday. A total of 11,068 candidates, including 3,390 females, participated in the test at the Jamshoro campus, competing for approximately 11,000 available seats.



In the first phase, 9,001 candidates had already taken the test for various degree programs, further underscoring the high demand for SU's academic offerings.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Meritorious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, visited the examination centers at the main campus to oversee the process and interact with candidates to ensure they were satisfied with the facilities provided. He was accompanied by key university officials, including Registrar Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko and Director Admissions Prof. Dr. Ayaz Keerio.

Stringent security measures were implemented at all centers, with walkthrough gates, police presence, and SU security personnel ensuring a peaceful environment.

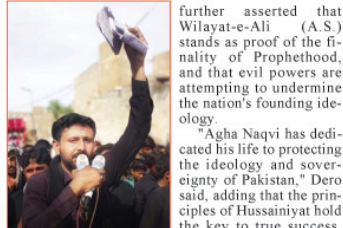
The test began at 10:20 am and lasted for 90 minutes. Separate blocks were allocated for the female candidates at various institutes, including the Institute of Microbiology, Institute of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering, and the Department of Media & Communication Studies. Male candidates were placed in different buildings such as the Arts Faculty Building and the Institute of Physics.

Stringent security measures were implemented at all centers, with walkthrough gates, police presence, and SU security personnel ensuring a peaceful environment. Speaking to the media, Dr. Kalhoro highlighted the increasing interest in SU's undergraduate programs, especially with the introduction of new market-oriented degrees that focus on modern technological and scientific advancements. He emphasized that the participation of women in science and technology was crucial and expressed the university's commitment to supporting their academic success.

## Shia Ulema Council Leader Reaffirms Commitment To Quaid-e-Millat Agha Sajid Ali Naqvi's Path

By Dildar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: Speaking to the youth of Tando Adam, Mr. Ghous Bux Dero, General Secretary of the Shia Ulema Council, pledged unwavering loyalty to the leadership of Quaid-e-Millat-e-Jafaria, Agha Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi. He emphasized that colonial and evil forces are fearful of Agha Sajid Ali Naqvi, whose presence, he said, is a blessing from Almighty Allah. Dero underscored the importance of unity between Shia and Sunni communities in thwarting anti-Pakistan conspiracies. He called on the government to identify and bring to justice the masterminds behind terrorist attacks, stressing that the nation must be safeguarded from these threats. Highlighting Agha Naqvi's pivotal role in preserving national stability, Dero noted that he had successfully foiled conspiracies aimed at inciting insurgency and promoting civil war in Pakistan. He



further asserted that Wilayat-e-Ali (A.S.) stands as proof of the finality of Prophethood, and that evil powers are attempting to undermine the nation's founding ideology. "Agha Naqvi has dedicated his life to protecting the ideology and sovereignty of Pakistan," Dero said, adding that the principles of Hussainiyat hold the key to true success. "Those who stand with Deen-e-Mustafa attain eternity, just as the martyrs of Karbala played an indelible role in defending the faith." Mr. Dero concluded by reiterating the Shia Ulema Council's commitment to promoting unity and protecting Pakistan's ideological foundation.

# GLOBAL WATCH



## Boat carrying more than 100 Rohingya sighted off Indonesia

INDONESIA: A boat loaded with more than 100 Rohingya refugees was spotted off Indonesia's westernmost province with at least one dead body seen on board, local officials said.



body of a Rohingya woman was found at sea.

The mostly Muslim ethnic Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and dangerous sea journeys to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia.

The Rohingya boat is anchored around three to four miles (5-6km) off the coast of South Aceh district with its engine turned off, community leader Muhammad Jabal told AFP.

He said the boat was first seen on Friday when he and others set out to deliver food and water to the refugees, estimating more than a hundred were on board.

"I saw with my own eyes there was a body. There were many children too aboard the boat," Jabal said.

The day before the sighting of the boat, the

Local police chief Sabda Man Sobri confirmed she was a member of the ethnic group, but could not comment on whether she was connected to the boat.

Yuhelmi, a South Aceh district spokesperson, confirmed the boat sighting but said locals were waiting for an immigration team from provincial capital Banda Aceh to arrive before deciding the next step for the refugees.

"Whether (the refugees) will be (returned) on land, that's within the authority of the immigration. For now, there has been no decision," said Yuhelmi, who

## Israel Hits Hezbollah Intelligence HQ After Drone Launched At Netanyahu Home



Fighting raged on two fronts Sunday as Israel targeted what it said was a Hezbollah "command centre" in the Lebanese capital, while in Gaza rescuers reported 73 people killed in a single air strike.

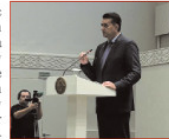
Many Lebanese are sympathetic to the plight of the Rohingya but some locals have opposed their arrival, accusing members of anti-social behaviour.

In December 2023, hundreds of students forced the relocation of more than a hundred Rohingya refugees, storming a function hall in Aceh where they were sheltered and kicking their belongings.— Agency

# NATIONAL

## Allama Iqbal Open University Unveils First-Ever Urdu Translation Of Algerian Classic

ISLAMABAD: In a historic first for cultural ties between Algeria and Pakistan, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has published the Urdu translation of When Life Desires You, a novel by renowned Algerian author Dr. Fadila Melhag. This second edition, with a foreword by AIU Chairman Professor Nasir Mahmood, marks the first-ever Algerian novel to be translated into Urdu.



the "Pen League of Karachi" alongside two short story collections. Professor Nasir Mahmood praised the initiative, calling it a groundbreaking step in promoting cultural exchange between Pakistan and Algeria, both of which share deep historical ties dating back to Pakistan's support for the Algerian revolution.

He emphasized the importance of translating literature as a means of fostering dialogue and understanding between cultures, particularly those rooted in the shared heritage of Islamic civilization. The translation of When Life Desires You is a pioneering effort that introduces Algerian literature to Pakistani readers and South Asia at large. The novel explores the complex social and cultural dimensions of illegal immigration, offering a creative and thought-provoking narrative. Dr. Fadila Melhag, a distinguished academic and writer, is celebrated for her work in literature and law. She holds a PhD in law and has an impressive career in the judiciary, along with numerous publications in legal studies, political science, and literature.—RT/Agency

## Murder Suspects Captured After Intense, Prolonged Manhunt

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, Bani Gala police station team has arrested an absconder involved in a murder case. A public relations officer told media, that the Bani Gala police station received a report from a citizen that the accused Sajjad Ur Rehman and others had murdered his



ing the report, the Bani Gala police station registered a first information report (FIR) and a special investigation team was constituted. The police team used technical and scientific methods and arrested the accused Sajjad Ur Rehman. DIG Syed Ali Raza, directed all senior officials to launch an effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities and to prioritize the safety of citizens' lives and property.—RT/Agency

## Prabowo Subianto takes oath to become Indonesia's eighth president

Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto on Sunday took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy, vowing to combat internal issues such as corruption and to make it more self-sufficient.



The 73-year-old has undergone a remarkable transformation, from being a former military commander facing unproven allegations of rights abuses to sweeping the polls and now leading the country of 280 million people.

Prabowo officially became Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday morning after he was sworn in during a ceremony at Indonesia's parliament.

The ex-military commander, who unsuccessfully ran for presidency twice before, said in a fiery speech to lawmakers he would be president for all Indonesians and challenged the nation to help him face down the country's problems.

"We must always realise that a free nation is where the people are free," Prabowo said, at times raising his voice.

"They must be freed of fear, poverty, hunger, ignorance, oppression, suffering," he said.

In a wide-ranging speech lasting about an hour, Prabowo said self-sufficiency for food was possible within five years, while also pledging to be-

come self-sufficient in energy. Flower boards outside the palace either congratulated Prabowo and Gibran or thanked Jokowi for his decade of service.

Indonesian police and military have put in place strict security measures, deploying at least 100,000 personnel across the city, including snipers and anti-riot units.

Prabowo is expected to meet with foreign dignitaries, including a number of heads of state, later on Sunday at the presidential palace, said Hasan Nasibi, the head of the presidential communications organisation. Prabowo also touched on foreign policy during his speech, saying Indonesia was non-aligned on the global stage, but that he stood in support of the Palestinian people and said Jakarta was ready to send more aid to Gaza.

During his campaign, Prabowo billed himself to voters and investors alike as the "continuity candidate".— Agency

## Musk gives away millions to attract Republican supporters



Founder and CEO of SpaceX and The Boring Company Elon Musk vowed on Saturday to hand out \$1 million each day until November 5 to people signing his online petition underpinning the US Constitution.

Keeping his word, Musk immediately granted a \$1 million cheque to John Dreher, a participant of event intended for gathering supporters for former US president and Republican representative Donald Trump, according to event staff.

"By the way, John had no idea. So anyway, you're welcome," the Tesla founder said as he handed Dreher the check.

The generosity is the latest example of Musk using his extraordinary wealth to influence the tightly-contested presidential race between Trump and his Democratic rival Kamala Harris.— Agency

# CENTRAL PUNJAB

## Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman Inaugurates Takaful Branch, Urges Muslim Unity Against Injustice



By Abid Mahmood Chaudhry

TOBA TEK SINGH: Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, Former Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and President of Tanzeem-ul-Madaris Ahle Sunnat Pakistan, inaugurated a new branch of Dawood Family Takaful in Toba Tek Singh. The event was attended by prominent figures including Zonal Manager Mian Muhammad

Shahid Rafiq, Mian Muhammad Sufyan Nazir, TLP District Head Mian Shahab ur Sarpanch, Sahibzada Munim Hassan Siddiqi, Maulana Dr. Abu Bakr Sialvi, Allama Muhammad Shams-uz-Zaman Qadri, Allama Qamar Sialvi, and Mufti Muhammad Inam-ul-Hasnain Siddiqi, alongside many political, social, and religious leaders.

In his address, Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman condemned the brutalities being carried out in Palestine and Lebanon. He criticized the so-called civilized nations for siding with the oppressors instead of standing for the oppressed, highlighting the support of the U.S. and its allies for Israel's actions. He stressed that only through the unity of the Muslim Ummah can there be hope to defend the oppression and further aggression and injustice.

## UK Man Bites Off Teen Girl's Face In Front Of Horrified Bus Passengers

A teenager in the UK suffered a horrific attack on a bus when an inebriated stranger allegedly assaulted her. According to Metro, the incident occurred last year when Darren Taylor, 53, began making inappropriate comments about Ella Dowling and her friends. An argument between them followed, but as the bus pulled up at the Promenade and the teen tried to get off, Taylor lunged at her. He grabbed the 19-year-old's face and repeatedly bit her nose and mouth.



The young woman was quickly taken to Cheltenham General Hospital before moving to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital for emergency surgery. She required 50 stitches for her injuries.

In March 2024, Taylor pleaded guilty to GBH with intent at Gloucester Crown Court. On July 18, he received a sentence of six years and nine months in prison, accompanied by a lifelong restraining order. A man has been jailed after he bit a woman's face and caused significant injuries to her.

Ella, a social work student at Portsmouth University from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, said, "The pain I felt when he sank his teeth into my face is something which will stay with me forever. He was like a dog with a toy - moving his head side to side - I put my hands around the back of his head because I knew if I didn't he would rip my lip and nose off completely. When I saw my face for the first time after the attack, I didn't recognise my own reflection, and I couldn't look in the mirror for months after that.— Agency

## Saudi Arabia arrests over 21,950 illegal immigrants in one week

RIYADH: The authorities in Saudi Arabia have arrested 21,971 people in one week for breaching laws related to border security, residency and labour.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), on Saturday, reported that the Ministry of Interior conducted inspection campaigns in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) between October 10 and October 16 to ensure compliance with the residency, labour and border security laws.

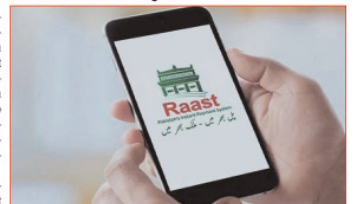
The authorities found 13,186 people non-compliant with the laws of residency, 5,427 of border security, and 3,358 of labour laws across the country, as per an official report.

The SPA said 1,421 individuals were found attempting to illegally cross the border into the KSA. It said 34% of them were Yemenis, 64% Ethiopians, and 2% of other nationalities. Whereas, 53 people were arrested for trying to leave the Kingdom illegally.

# MONEY

## Raast Payment System Shatters Records, Processes Rs1 Trillion In Just 16 Days

KARACHI: Pakistanis recently made financial transactions totalling Rs1 trillion via Raast, an instant payment system, in just 16 days, compared to the first Rs1 trillion transacted over 336 days two years ago, marking a significant shift towards the adoption of digital payment solutions.



The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported that Raast has processed 892 million transactions amounting to Rs20 trillion, with the latest trillion achieved in just 16 days. "This reflects SBP's commitment to making digital payments easier and accessible for all," the bank stated. The data suggests that the average payment size through the online system stood at Rs22,421.52.

According to the SBP's Governor's Annual Report 2023-24, the major driver of this volumetric growth in Raast transactions was the Person-to-Person (P2P) module, which was launched in February 2022. Pakistan's digital payments and financial markets are experiencing continuous improvements, including the SBP's introduction of the Person-to-Merchant (P2M) module in Raast. This module allows businesses to accept payments via QR codes, Raast IDs, bank account numbers, and request-to-pay options, thereby expanding payment choices for customers and further boosting digital payments. This initiative is expected to enhance convenience for businesses in carrying out their transactions. Meanwhile, the expansion in the total number of accounts maintained a double-digit growth, up 18% to reach 215 million accounts by the end of FY24. "This fast growth is conducive to raising financial inclusion in the country," the report highlighted. The significant increase in accounts was supported by the expansion of SBP-regulated entities, including banks, microfinance banks (MFBs), and development financial institutions (DFIs), whose branch networks grew to 18,355 in FY24, up from 17,751 in FY23. These branches, along with increasing alternate delivery channels (ADCs), facilitated financial intermediation and served a large number of customers during FY24.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Monday, October 21, 2024



## 26th Amendment: A Wake-Up Call for PTI and Imran Khan's Everest of an Ego!

The ease with which the coalition government secured a two-thirds majority in the Senate for the 26th Amendment should be a harsh reality check for Imran Khan and his party, PTI. Despite vocal opposition and attempts to disrupt the process, the bill passed with overwhelming support, and is likely to sail through the National Assembly as well. This marks a significant psychological and strategic defeat for PTI, revealing their diminishing influence within the political arena.

The government's success in pushing through controversial judicial reforms demonstrates that it has managed to unite its allies, while PTI finds itself increasingly isolated. This development

underscores a critical flaw in PTI's political strategy — a failure to build consensus and adapt to the changing dynamics of Pakistan's



political landscape. Imran Khan's reluctance to engage meaningfully with other parties and his confrontational approach have only alienated potential allies, leaving him with little leverage at crucial junctures.

For Imran Khan, this setback should serve as a moment of introspection. The former prime minister's political missteps and ego have led to

a steady decline in his support among key stakeholders, who are now aligning themselves with his rivals. His party's decision to boycott the vote, instead of participating in the legislative process to offer amendments, highlights a lack of strategic planning and adaptability.

If PTI hopes to regain its footing, it must accept the political realities and re-evaluate its approach. Building alliances, engaging in constructive dialogue, and shedding the confrontational mindset are essential if the party intends to remain relevant in the future. The 26th Amendment has proven that political victories are won not through obstinacy, but through negotiation and collaboration.

# THE HEARTLAND



# NATIONAL

## Hyderabad Chamber VP Praises Loan Schemes For SMEs, Calls For Increased Awareness By Banks

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Shan Elahi Sehgal, Vice President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, has lauded the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) for introducing new loan schemes aimed at supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), agricultural financing, and commercial vehicle loans. He emphasized that these initiatives will provide crucial financial backing, such as working capital and business expansion opportunities, helping to stabilize the national economy.

Concerns about the lack of proper awareness among the public regarding these schemes. He pointed out that many bank branches are failing to conduct formal awareness sessions, and in some cases, bank staff lack sufficient knowledge about the details of the loan options, making it difficult for business owners to access the correct information. "This negligence could undermine the very purpose of these loan schemes, which are meant to uplift SMEs and the agricultural sector," Sehgal warned. He urged banks to immediately launch comprehensive awareness campaigns in Hyderabad to ensure that these financial opportunities reach a wider audience and that more people can benefit from them.

Sehgal offered the services of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry—the only registered chamber in Hyderabad under the Ministry of

## University Of Sindh Thatta Campus Holds Successful Pre-Entrance Test, Signaling Rising Interest In Higher Education



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Dr. Mukhtiar Mahar, Convener of the Entrance Test at the University of Sindh's Thatta Campus, highlighted the importance of merit-based enrollment at the university during the recent pre-entrance test. Speaking to participants, he commended their dedication and preparation, stating, "We are thrilled to see such enthusiasm among the applicants, reflecting the growing interest in higher education and the programs we offer at the Thatta campus."

underscoring the university's commitment to the wellbeing of participants. Faculty members, staff, and university officials were on hand to oversee the smooth execution of the test, ensuring transparency and upholding high standards of integrity throughout the process. The success of the event further demonstrated the growing reputation of the Thatta campus, which continues to provide students with valuable opportunities to pursue academic excellence and contribute positively to their communities. The University of Sindh Thatta Campus offers a diverse range of disciplines aimed at fostering research, innovation, and personal development. The test results are expected to be announced soon, with successful candidates advancing to the next stages of the admission process. The university administration extended its best wishes to all participants and looks forward to welcoming the next generation of scholars.

## Youth Makers Host Career Counseling Seminar 'Asan Azad Ahoon' in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A career counseling seminar titled 'Asan Azad Ahoon' was organized by Youth Makers at the Gymkhana Badin for students in the region. The event aimed to highlight the importance of education, particularly for girls, and shed light on the current challenges faced by Sindh's educational system.

He emphasized the pivotal role of girls in society, condemning the violence and mistreatment they face in Sindh. "Girls are the greatest strength of our society and the world. Yet, in Sindh, they are treated like slaves, kidnapped, and even killed. Violence against girls is a serious violation of human rights. Sindh will only prosper through education, basic human rights, and equality for girls," he added.

Puleji, representing the National Awami Tehreek, stressed that every child in Sindh should have access to education and knowledge. He lamented the deplorable state of educational institutions in rural Sindh, highlighting the significant gap between village schools and city schools. "The education system must be reformed for Sindh's development. Teachers should be appointed, and rural schools provided with necessary facilities. The education of girls, in particular, must be prioritized," Palijo urged.

He also called for modernization of Sindh's educational curriculum, emphasizing that it should be humane, scientific, and reflective of contemporary research. "Our current curriculum is outdated. It must be modernized to promote peace, equality, and love—the very foundation of Sindh's culture," Palijo concluded.

The seminar encouraged students to step out of their "depressing fantasy world" and engage with the real, scientific world. Palijo urged students to play an active role in promoting education, peace, and health in the country, and to oppose crime and ignorance in Sindh. He further emphasized the need for tolerance, equality, and the protection of minorities to ensure a successful and progressive Pakistan.

## Workshop on improving medical education and health standards held at Ziauddin University Hospital Sukkur



By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: A significant workshop on surgery was held at Ziauddin University Hospital Sukkur, with Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh as the special guest. Also present were Dr. Asim Hussain, Chairman of Ziauddin University Hospital Campus Sukkur, and Dr. Kamal Ziyad Rajpar, Administrator, DMS, and Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Ziauddin University/Hospital Campus. Dr. Fiza Iftikhar explained that the workshop aimed to enhance the surgical skills of medical personnel during emergencies involving accidents or burn injuries. He highlighted that improving these skills is crucial for saving lives in critical situations, mentioning that 50 doctors received training during the work-

shop. Dr. Asim Hussain remarked that such training plays an important role in improving patient health and reducing mortality rates. Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh, the special guest of the workshop, emphasized that these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to advancing medical education and health standards. He noted that providing such facilities in Sukkur will serve the community better. The workshop showcased the enthusiastic participation of medical professionals, reflecting their dedication to providing exceptional patient care. At the end of the event, certificates were awarded to the trainees, and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh received a shield and Ajrak in recognition of his support.

## Embattled PTI Claims 12 Parliamentarians Mysteriously Missing Before Key 26th Amendment Vote

ISLAMABAD: Ahead of the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has claimed that 12 of its party leaders—including 10 MNAs and two Senators—have disappeared. The party said it had lost contact with 10 members of the National Assembly and two members of the Senate.



In this regard, Omar Ayub confirmed that he has not contacted seven members, while PTI chairman Barrister Gohar has also said that he has not been able to contact two senators. Sources said Zain Qureshi, Zahoor Qureshi, Aslam Ghaman, Usman Ali,

difficult time. Party chairman Barrister Gohar confirmed that Senator Faisal Salim and Sarqat Taimur Shahid have sided with the government to vote in the support of the constitutional amendment bill.—RT/Agency

## Hafiz Naeem Accuses Government Of Power Grab Over Judiciary

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman on Sunday mocked the ongoing tussle on the 26th constitutional amendment saying "well done all". In his message on social media site X, he wrote that Bilawal asserted that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has 100 per cent agreed with the PPP on the constitutional amendment. The PTI chairman also claimed to have consensus with the Maulana.



He added that Rana Sanaullah declared that the Maulana supported the government's draft on the proposed constitutional amendment. "It shows that all parties are agreed that the next Chief Justice of Pakistan would not be Mansoor Ali Shah; the most senior judge would not be the CJP," Hafiz Naeem wrote.

These tactics showed that the government would determine to pass the control of the judiciary, "well done all," he sarcastically may, today.—RT/Agency

## Fawad Chaudhry Confident Mansoor Ali Shah Will Be The Next Chief Justice

LAHORE: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah would be the next chief justice of the Supreme Court. Sharing his message on social media site X, Fawad Chaudhry hailed the draft of Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the appointment and performance of high courts judges, saying it was credible.



He stated the appointment of judges would not be made on the principle of seniority. The 12-member committee needed 2/3 majority which could only be met through support of opposition, therefore Mansoor

Ali Shah would be the amendment unfavorable CJP, Chaudhry emphasized. He stressed that the concept of constitutional amendment was unfaithful. The amendment there was no problem in finalizing rules for appointment on benches. Declaring the constitutional ally.—RT/Agency

## CMO Shazia Jokhio caught stealing electricity in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A SEPCO team continues operations against power thieves and defaulters in Larkana. In this regard it was learnt that the SEPCO team dis-

connected illegal power supply to the residence of the Education Department's Chief Monitoring Officer, Shazia Jokhio in the area of Zulfikar Bagh. SEPCO Shah Muhammad Bajkani said that the operations

against power theft and defaulters will be continued without fear or favor. He also warned the people to avoid installing illegal power connections, otherwise stern action will be taken against them.

# SPORTS



## Pakistani Pacer Sparks Debate: Claims Naseem Shah Outshines Jasprit Bumrah



LAHORE: Pakistan's rising star, Ihsanullah, has made headlines with his bold claims regarding the comparative prowess of ace pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Naseem Shah.

The 22-year-old right-arm pacer, who has quickly made a name for himself in the cricketing world, stated emphatically that Naseem Shah is a better bowler than Bumrah, which has stunned fans and experts alike.

Jasprit Bumrah, widely regarded as one of the best bowlers across all formats, has set high standards in international cricket.

Despite his established reputation, Ihsanullah's assertion that the young Pakistani pacer outshines Bumrah has sparked considerable debate.

While Naseem Shah has shown immense potential, he has yet to realize it at the highest level of the game fully.

Ihsanullah, known for his exceptional pace and swing,

first garnered attention during the Pakistan Super League (PSL), where he delivered a remarkable spell of 5 wickets for just 12 runs against the Quetta Gladiators in PSL 2023.

His impressive performance positioned him as a key figure in Pakistan's bowling lineup, and he made his debut in white-ball cricket for the national team in 2023.

In the viral clip from the podcast, Ihsanullah is quoted saying, "If I compare Bumrah, then Naseem Shah is a better bowler than Bumrah." The host, visibly taken aback by the statement, pointed out Bumrah's recent form and achievements.

However, the right-arm pacer remained firm in his stance, arguing, "No, you are seeing that. Naseem Shah also performed like this in the 2021 (2022) World Cup. It doesn't matter if someone doesn't perform too well in a year. Still, Naseem Shah is better than him."—Agency

## PCB Rolls Out Red Carpet For Team India: Venue Facilitation Offered For Champions Trophy 2025

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed that the Indian team may return to their country after each match to minimise their stay in Pakistan during the Champions Trophy 2025, media reported on Sunday.

The board, owing to security concerns, has suggested that the Men in Blue's return to Chandigarh or New Delhi after each match in the mega tournament set to be hosted by Pakistan from February 19 to March 9, 2025.

The development comes due to uncertainty over India's participation in the tournament, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) seeks the Indian government's approval to visit the country for the mega tournament.



In light of the fact that the neighbouring country's cricket team have not travelled to Pakistan since 2008. The arch-rivals have also not had any bilateral series since 2012-13.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to feature eight elite teams including India, Australia, New Zealand, England, South Africa, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, based on their performances in the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Three venues - Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore - will host the matches of eight teams and according to PCB's proposed schedule to ICC, all of India's matches will take place in Lahore.

The PCB has reassured the BCCI of its commitment to providing every possible comfort and security to the Indian team, offering flexible arrangements to ensure their involvement in the highly anticipated event.

Initially, all of India's matches were scheduled to take place in Lahore for convenience and ease of access for the Indian team and their fans.

However, recent proposals suggest that one of India's group-stage matches - potentially against New Zealand - might be shifted to Rawalpindi. This adjustment was suggested by broadcasters, who recommended distributing India's matches between Lahore and Rawalpindi to enhance broadcast reach and fan engagement.—Agency

## Mbappé's Shocking Inclusion In Madrid Squad Despite Explosive Rape Allegations



SPAIN: Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappé will start for the Spanish champions at Celta Vigo in La Liga amid reports he is being investigated for an alleged rape during a visit to Sweden.

The 25-year-old France striker, who visited Stockholm during time off granted by Madrid, said the reports were "fake news" and his lawyer said Mbappé will take action for libel.

A Swedish prosecutor confirmed that an investigation has been opened, without naming Mbappé.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti selected Mbappé in attack for the visit to face Celta, along with Vinicius Junior.

Ancelotti said Friday Mbappé looked a "different player" after the international break, having worked on his fitness following an injury, and said he thought the player seemed unaffected by the investigation reports.

"In this moment (the reports) are speculations. I see him working every day, he is happy, content, he doesn't seem affected to me at all," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"He's looking forward to keep on helping the team." Mbappé completed a dream move to Madrid in the summer after seven years in French champions PSG. The striker scored five goals in his first seven La Liga appearances before suffering a thigh injury.—Agency

## New Zealand Ends India's Dominance: Stuns Hosts For First Test Win In 36 Years

BENGALURU: New Zealand on Sunday secured an eight-wicket win to mark their first victory in India since 1988 as the Black Caps chased down 107 and humbled the home side early on the final day of the rain-interrupted series opener.

Dismissing the Indian team for their worst home total of 46 and making 402 in reply, the visitors bowled out Rohit Sharma's side for 462 in the second innings on Saturday to lay the platform for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Will Young (48\*) and Rishabh Pant (39\*) remained calm under pressure after the loss of two early wickets to get the job done, earning New Zealand only their third win on Indian soil in 38 attempts going back to 1955.



"It was probably a good toss to lose," said New Zealand skipper Tom Latham.

"The guys came out in that first innings, put the ball in the right areas for long periods of time and managed to get the results." "The first two innings of the game [...] I think we set the game up beautifully. We knew India were going to come back in the third innings and they put us under pressure, but the way the seamers came back with the new ball [...] fantastic performance." The visitors got off to a wobbly start when play began after a rain delay, as new permanent skipper Latham was trapped leg-before-wicket (lbw) by Jasprit Bumrah on the second ball of the day for a duck with the tourists yet to score.

Bowler Mohammed Siraj made life difficult for the New Zealand batsmen early in the day, as India looked to do what no team has done in test history and win a match after conceding a first-innings lead of more than 350 runs.

Conway endured a couple of painful body blows, balls that whizzed past the blade and unfriendly glares from the bowlers amid jeers from partisan fans at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium before falling lbw to Bumrah for 17.

The wicket appeared to turn placid after the arrival of first-innings centurion Ravindra, and the Wellington-born left-hander with roots in Bengaluru superbly steered New Zealand out of rough waters before Young hit the winning runs.—Agency

## Messi Magic: Scores Hat-Trick For Inter Miami Just Days After Dazzling for Argentina



ARGENTINA: Argentinian football legend Lionel Messi scored his second hat-trick of the week as Inter Miami beat the New England Revolution 6-2 to smash the Major League Soccer's (MLS) regular season points record.

Inter Miami's win, in their final game of the regular season, took them to 74 points, securing the team's Supporters' Shield for the best record in the regular season to stamp themselves clear favourites in the MLS Cup playoffs which start next week.

Inter Miami, with the 74 points, surpassed New England's 2021 record, by one point.

Messi, 36, who came off the bench in the 58th minute and led the late flurry of goals, has now scored 20 goals in 19 appearances in MLS with his former Barcelona team-mate Luis Suarez also notching 20, from 27 games.

The challenge of breaking the record added some spice to the final game of the regular season.

The match began with Revolution in a 2-0 lead which was soon levelled thanks to Luis Suarez's brace in three minutes, closing out the half.

Then, Messi, who had scored a hat-trick for Argentina against Bolivia earlier this week to level with Cristiano Ronaldo's international hat-trick record, entered the field in the 58th minute.

The Argentine attacker combined with Jordi Alba to start, with the fullback feeding midfielder Benjamin Cremaschi for the go-ahead strike, putting Miami up 3-2 from close range in the 59th minute.—Agency

## 'Don't Quit Tennis!': Djokovic's Emotional Plea To Nadal Amid Their Epic Rivalry

RIYADH: Novak Djokovic requested long-time adversary Rafael Nadal to defer his planned retirement from the game as the duo faced each other in what was likely to be the final chapter of their "amazing rivalry" on the court through the years.

"Don't leave tennis, man," said Djokovic in an on-court interview after beating Nadal in straight sets 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) at the "Six Kings Slam" exhibition in Saudi Arabia.

He added that their battles over the years had been "very intense" and told Nadal he hoped they could one day "sit on a beach somewhere" and have a drink.

The Serbian player's remarks follow Nadal's Octo-



ber 10 announcement where he said that he would bid farewell to the game after the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga next month.

Organisers of the Saudi event billed Saturday's match as perhaps Nadal's last singles contest as a professional.

each other 60 times on the main tour prior to Saturday's exhibition match, with Djokovic holding a narrow 31-29 edge.

Their last encounter came during the Paris Olympics on the same Roland Garros courts where Nadal won 14 French Open titles, though Djokovic triumphed easily 6-1, 6-4.

Djokovic has racked up 24 Grand Slam titles in his career, two more than Nadal.

Saturday's match was mostly one-sided, with Nadal spraying errors and Djokovic wrapping up the first set in just 31 minutes.—Agency

## Kids' Corner



Name: Muhammad Hamdan Bin Awais  
Location: Gujranwala  
About me: I love to go shopping with my Mother  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Nicki Minaj Embraces Her Flaws: 'I've Learned To Love My Imperfections'



Nicki Minaj just revealed how growing older plays a role in her "confidence."

The 41-year-old Pink Friday Girls hitmaker had an exclusive conversation with Vogue, where she explained how the increase in her self-esteem came after every milestone she achieved.

Detailing how she could not stand to look at pictures of her younger self, the rapper has now come to embrace that phase too, stating how she now understands what "looks good" on her. "When you turn a certain age—especially milestone ages like 30, 40, 50—your confidence as a woman just grows and grows," she told the publication.

### Scarlett Johansson's Sweet Revenge: Playfully Gets Back At Colin Jost Over 'SNL' Jabs



Scarlett Johansson just displayed the playful dynamics she has with her husband, Colin Jost.

As the A-list couple enjoyed their date at New York City's Cit Field, she took the opportunity to tease the American comedian and writer, at the baseball stadium on Thursday.

Black Widow star and the media personality, watched the Los Angeles Dodgers face off against the New York Mets.

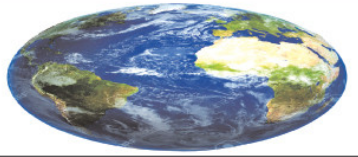
For those unaware, Colin is a die-hard fan of the Mets and showed off his choice of hat to his followers, while Scarlett, who supports the New York Yankees, made a different statement with her

hat. As per PEOPLE magazine, the couple was photographed at the game where the Lucy star wore a hat that had the words, "The Met," written, showcasing her love for The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Scarlett has also previously told the publication that her favourite MLB teams is "a sore subject" admitting that she chooses "to ignore" some of his hot takes.

The actress's playful dig on her husband was a light-hearted way to supposedly get back at him since Jost has taken liberty to poke fun at his wife during different skits that are performed on the famous comedy sketch, Saturday Night Live.

# GLOBAL WATCH

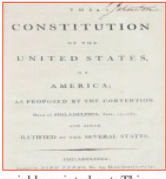


## Rare US Constitution Copy From 1787 Fetches Over \$11 Million At Auction

A rare copy of the United States Constitution, printed after the 1787 Constitutional Convention, has sold for more than \$11 million during a live auction in Asheville, North Carolina, on Thursday evening.

The auction, conducted by Brunk Auctions, ended with a final bid of \$9 million, excluding a 23 per cent buyer's premium and undisclosed taxes. The identity of the buyer remains confidential as of now. The bidding of this rare copy commenced at \$1.1 million and escalated fast, reaching the final bid within a period of a brief seven minutes. NBC Los Angeles reported that there were 62 bids in total.

The Constitutional Convention, which took place in Philadelphia from May to September 1787, was a pivotal moment in American history. Initially assembled to amend the Articles of Confederation, the need for a new framework of government due to the loopholes in the existing system was



North Carolina. The farm was owned by Samuel Johnston, the governor of North Carolina from 1787 to 1789. It is one of approximately 100 copies printed back then, with only eight or nine known remaining today.

In addition to the Constitution, other notable items sold at the auction included a painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware River, which fetched over \$307,000, and a copy of the Articles of Confederation that sold for more than \$1.2 million.

Seth Kaller, a historical document expert involved in the auction, said that while there were hopes for a sale price comparable to a previous record-setting sale in 2021 when another early Constitution copy sold for over \$43 million, this outcome was anticipated due to differing market conditions this time.

Kaller was also representing one of the bidders in this auction. — Agency

## Pakistan Ambassador Participates in Mogilev International Economic Forum



MOGILEV: Pakistan's Ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan, attended the Mogilev International Economic Forum at the invitation of the Chairman of the Mogilev Region's Executive Committee. The forum, focused on "import substitution," aimed to explore alternative suppliers and bolster ties between manufacturers and consumers from SCO countries.

The Plenary Session, chaired by the Governors of Mogilev and Kaliningrad (Russia), drew over 300 participants, including government officials, industry leaders, and investors, particularly from SCO member states like China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan.

In his address, Ambassador Khan highlighted the potential for stronger Pakistan-Belarus cooperation

and emphasized the strategic importance of the SCO, which covers 40% of the world's population and 30% of global GDP. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the SCO and discussed opportunities for collaboration in trade, investment, and various sectors. He also noted the success of the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting held in Islamabad in October 2024.

The Ambassador celebrated the 30th anniversary of Pakistan-Belarus diplomatic relations, highlighting shared achievements and opportunities for cooperation in fields such as agriculture, textiles, machinery, defense, renewable energy, IT, healthcare, and tourism. He invited Belarusian citizens to explore Pakistan's rich tourism offerings, made more accessible through recent visa liberalization. — Agency

-Can you believe this?

## "Had Weird Taste": Woman Freed From ISIS Reveals They Made Them Eat Babies



Two weeks after her rescue by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) from Gaza, Yazidi survivor Fawzia Sido has recounted the harrowing atrocities she endured during her time in captivity under ISIS. Ms Sido recounted how, at the age of nine, she was captured along with her brothers and forced to march from Sinjar to Tal Afar. The group was starved for three days before being fed rice and meat, which they later discovered was the flesh of Yazidi babies.

"They made rice and gave us meat to eat with it. The meat had a weird taste, and some of us had stomach aches afterwards," Ms Sido recalled, as per the Jerusalem Post.

"When we were done, they told us that this was the meat of Yazidi babies. They showed us pictures of beheaded babies and said, 'these are the kids that you ate now.'"

"One woman suffered heart failure and died shortly after," Ms Sido said, adding that no mother even recognized her own child because of the baby's hands. "They forced us. But it's very hard to know that it happened. But it was not in our hands," she said.

Fawzia Sido was one of many Yazidi women enslaved by ISIS in 2014 during the group's reign of terror. The Yazidis, a religious minority in northern Iraq, were subjected to unimaginable horrors. Ms Sido's revelation follows previous accusations that ISIS fed human meat to their captives. Yazidi parliamentarian Vian Dakhlil first brought this practice to light in 2017, but Ms Sido's firsthand account is one of the clearest confirmations of this depravity.

Fawzia Sido's ordeal did not end with the forced consumption of human flesh. She was held captive for nine months in an underground prison alongside 200 other Yazidi women and children. Some of the children died due to contaminated water. Ms Sido was also sold to multiple jihadi fighters, including Abu Amar al-Makdisi, with whom she had two children. After years of captivity, she was rescued by the IDF in a joint operation with the US Embassy and returned to her family in Iraq. However, her children remain in Gaza with her parents' family, where they are being raised as Arab Muslims. — Agency

## UK Woman Fired After Coming Back From Maternity Leave Pregnant Again, Awarded Compensation

A woman in the UK who was fired from her job when she came back from maternity leave pregnant again, has been awarded 28,000 pounds by an employment tribunal. Nikita Twitchen, a former admin assistant at First Grade Projects in Pontypriid launched an unfair dismissal claim, alleging her pregnancy was the reason for her termination, Metro reported. During her back-to-work meeting with Managing Director Jeremy Morgan in early 2022, Ms Twitchen revealed she was expecting another child, which she claims caught her boss off guard.



any evidence of the alleged financial difficulties or the new software" during the court case. He also pointed out that at no stage did Ms Twitchen receive a written statement setting out the reasons for her dismissal. Judge Havard ruled that Ms Twitchen was dismissed because she was pregnant.

He said that her dismissal was "unfair, discriminatory, and caused significant emotional distress." He emphasized that being fired while pregnant and losing financial stability had a profound impact on her, particularly given her family responsibilities.

First Grade Projects told Metro that the tribunal was "extremely disappointed with the outcome of the tribunal. We are actively reviewing all relevant information and considering all available options. At this point in time we are unable to provide any further comment." — Agency

However, the tribunal ruled in Ms Twitchen's favour, finding First Grade Projects liable for unfair dismissal and awarding her 28,000 pounds in compensation. Judge Robin Harward pointed out a significant inconsistency in Jeremy Morgan's reasoning for making her redundant. During their February meeting, Mr Morgan had claimed the business was doing well and made no mention of financial difficulties. He also didn't mention the new software that supposedly made Ms Twitchen's role obsolete, even during their April phone call.

The judge criticised First Grade's failure to "produce

## Trudeau has wrecked Canada-India political relations, says expelled envoy



OTTAWA: India's envoy to Canada, who is being expelled over what Ottawa says are links to the murder of a Sikh leader, insisted in an interview he was innocent and said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had wrecked bilateral political ties.

Both countries on Monday ordered six diplomats in tit-for-tat moves over Ottawa's allegations that New Delhi was targeting Indian dissidents on Canadian soil. Trudeau specifically tied the six to the murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year in British Columbia. Sanjay Kumar Verma, India's envoy to Canada, told CTV

that Trudeau had been relying on intelligence rather than evidence. "On the basis of intelligence, if you want to destroy a relationship, be my guest. And that's what he did," Verma said in an interview broadcast on Sunday. "Asked whether he had anything to do with Nijjar's murder, Verma said, 'Nothing at all. No evidence was presented. (This is) politically motivated.'"

Canada is home to the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab and demonstrations in favor of a separate homeland carved out of British Columbia. Sanjay Kumar Verma, India's envoy to Canada, told CTV

## Trump brings McDonald's into political spotlight during final days of election campaign

Donald Trump is bringing McDonald's into the political spotlight during the final days of his third bid for the White House.

The former US president is expected to visit one of the fast-food chain's Pennsylvania franchises during his campaign stop on Sunday. Trump is reportedly planning to take on the role of a fry attendant, according to CNN.

This move mirrors a job Vice President Kamala Harris held as a young woman, a key part of her middle-class upbringing narrative during her presidential campaign. Harris worked at McDonald's while she was a student, a detail that has featured prominently in her political biography.

Trump, known for his love of McDonald's, has been fixated on Harris' employment there. On the campaign trail and in interviews, he frequently casts doubt on her claim, accusing her of fabricating the story. His visit to the fast-food chain appears to be an attempt to undermine her work history.

"I'm going to McDonald's to work the french fry," Trump told supporters at a rally in the Pittsburgh area. "I think I'm doing it tomorrow, and I think it's in Pennsylvania."

Harris has not responded to Trump's allegations or the questions raised by conservative media. Her campaign has remained silent



on Trump's planned visit to McDonald's.

However, a campaign official told CNN that Harris worked at a McDonald's in Alameda, California, during the summer of 1983. She was then a student at Howard University and took on tasks such as working the register and the fry machine.

In a recent interview on Drew Barrymore's talk show, Harris recalled her time at the chain, saying, "I did fries. And then I did the cashier." She also mentioned her McDonald's stint during the 2019 campaign when she stood with striking workers on the picket line. During this summer's Democratic National Convention, Harris' time at McDonald's was repeatedly mentioned as a contrast to Trump's wealthy upbringing.

Former President Bill Clinton joked that she might surpass his record for spending time at the fast-food chain. Others emphasized her modest background compared to Trump's privileged lifestyle. "Can you picture Donald Trump working at a McDonald's?" quipped Harris' running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. "He couldn't even run the McClurry machine."

Trump has often attacked the backgrounds of his political opponents without evidence. He previously led the debunked "birther" movement against Barack Obama and falsely linked Ted Cruz's father to JFK's assassination. This time, he has turned his focus to Harris, questioning her heritage and work history. Despite these accusations, Trump has exaggerated his own biography on multiple occasions. In his autobiography "The Art of the Deal", he coined the term "truthful hyperbole" to describe his tendency to stretch the truth, claiming it was a promotional tool. — Agency

## Harris to celebrate birthday with church visits, Trump to 'leisure' in McDonald's

Democrat Kamala Harris will commence her 60th birthday celebrations on Sunday with two church visits in Georgia where she will strategise to rally early voters.



However, her Republican opponent Donald Trump will be enjoying his weekend at McDonald's in Pennsylvania.

With only 16 days before the election on November 5, both candidates are almost deadlocked for the presidency in the most contested states.

The candidates have intensified their criticism recently, encouraging early votes by mail or in person.

Earlier, Harris said that she worked at McDonald's when she was young but Trump says he does not believe her.

Trump, after escalating personal attacks on Harris on Saturday, told Breitbart News he would work at a McDonald's restaurant in Pennsylvania on Sunday "just for fun" to mock Harris.

Trump adviser Jason Miller said Trump would be working in the french fries area of the restaurant.

Trump also plans a rally in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the late afternoon. He is seeking to take advantage of

what he felt was an improved position for him in opinion polls that show a tight race.

Moreover, VP Harris and former President Trump, are concentrating on Pennsylvania, Michigan, and a few other states that will probably determine the outcome of the election, where both parties have substantial support, as electoral outcomes have been tight in previous election cycles.

Following her Saturday appearances with hometown rapper Lizzo in Detroit and pop singer Usher in Atlanta, the VP will also receive a birthday boost on Sunday from Stevie Wonder, another music giant, when he drops by one of the churches she plans to visit.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, will double down on Sunday on a "Souls to the Polls" initiative aimed at using gospel performances, national and state faith lead-

ers, elected officials and others to mobilise voters.

Harris will attend a service and speak at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Georgia, about 30 miles (50km) east of Atlanta, the campaign said.

She will also speak at Divine Faith Ministries International in Jonesboro, just south of Atlanta, where she plans to encourage worshippers to exercise their voting rights.

After her events, Harris will record an interview with civil rights leader Al Sharpton that will air Sunday night on MSNBC. Harris will need strong results in the majority non-white cities of Detroit and Atlanta and their surrounding suburbs to repeat President Joe Biden's 2020 wins in Michigan and Georgia.

Some voters already have mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania, the biggest prize on Election Day among battleground states. — Agency

## Millions Of Cubans Still Without Power After 3rd Grid Failure



Millions of Cubans awoke on Sunday to find their homes still without power after another partial grid failure overnight, deepening a crisis that has raised questions over the viability of the government's efforts to reestablish electrical service.

The country's top electricity official, Lazaro Guerra, confirmed a partial grid collapse in the western provinces of Cuba, which includes Havana, late on Saturday.

Technicians were working to resolve the issue, Guerra said, but did not provide a timeline for when power would be restored to the region.

The capital of nearly two million residents appeared to be entirely without electricity early on Sunday, as many Cubans formed lines for subsidized rations and mulled the situation outside their homes.

State-run digital news outlet CubaDebate reported

that the country's largest power plant, Antonio Guiteras, was back online Sunday and would begin contributing to a restoration of service over the course of the day.

A third grid failure late on Saturday marked a major setback in the government's efforts to quickly restore power to exhausted residents already suffering from severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

The clock was ticking as Hurricane Oscar bore down on northeastern Cuba early on Sunday, threatening to further complicate the government's plans to restore power.

Cuba's meteorological survey warned of "an extremely dangerous situation" in eastern Cuba. The entire region was largely without electricity or communication ahead of the storm, which packed winds as high as 100 miles per hour (161 kph) by midmorning Sunday. — Agency

## Classified US Intelligence Leaked, Documents Show Israel's Plans For Iran

Two highly classified US intelligence documents have leaked, allegedly exposing Israel's military preparations for a potential strike on Iran, the New York Times reported. The documents, originating from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) - "responsible for analysing images and information collected by American spy satellites" - offer insights into Israeli military exercises and operational readiness.

The two documents, dated October 15 and 16, were circulated on Telegram by accounts largely associated with pro-Israel sentiments. They provide detailed analyses of satellite images showing Israel's military exercises, which appear to be in preparation for a retaliatory strike on Iran. The potential strike comes in the wake of escalating tensions following an Iranian missile barrage on October 1, itself a retaliation for an earlier Israeli attack.

One of the documents is titled "Israel: Air Force Continues Preparations for Strike on Iran" and outlines recent Israeli exercises that seem to rehearse a potential military operation against Iran. These preparations reportedly in-



clude air-to-air refuelling operations, search-and-rescue missions, and the repositioning of missile systems in anticipation of potential Iranian strikes. The second document reveals Israeli efforts to move munitions and other military assets to strategic locations.

Although the documents describe Israeli military movements and exercises, they do not provide satellite images themselves. The US intelligence gathered from these images suggests that Israel is gearing up for a strike, but it is unclear whether these documents reveal the full scope of Israel's plans for Iran.

The leaks have reportedly prompted immediate concern within the US government. US officials are divided over the severity of the leak, with some downplaying its impact while others warn that the documents could follow. — Agency

not reveal new American capabilities. Others, however, are alarmed by the exposure of Israel's sensitive military plans, particularly at a time of heightened tensions in the Middle East.

President Joe Biden, when asked during a recent trip to Germany whether he was aware of Israel's planned strike on Iran and its targets, responded with a brief "Yes and yes," but declined to elaborate.

While the exact source of the leak remains unknown, early indications suggest that the documents may have been taken by a lower-level US government employee. A joint investigation by the Pentagon, US intelligence agencies, and the FBI is underway to determine how the information was leaked and whether more documents could follow. — Agency

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh Education Minister Honors Top Matric Students In Glitzy Ceremony Proud Parents Celebrate Academic Excellence

KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah attended a ceremony hosted by the Delhi School Old Boys Welfare Association to recognize students who excelled in the Karachi Matric Board exams. The event, held at the Karachi Medical and Dental College auditorium, was attended by students, teachers, and education officials.



Minister Shah praised the students' achievements, proudly stating, "These children have made both their parents and me proud." He shared a conversation with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhattu Zardari, where he pledged to enroll his daughter in government schools as part of his commitment to public education. He urged the community to take ownership of public schools, highlighting a government

school student who secured a top position as an inspiring example. Addressing educational challenges, Shah emphasized the need for systemic changes, noting that many children still pay for schooling despite constitutional promises of free education. He stressed that education officials should treat students like their own children. He also revealed that 92% of the education department's budget goes

toward salaries, calling for more support for schools serving underprivileged communities. As a gesture of encouragement, Shah announced cash prizes for the top performers: PKR 200,000 for first place, PKR 150,000 for second, and PKR 100,000 for third. This marked a new era for government schools, signaling renewed efforts to uplift education in Sindh after 28 years.—RT

## Sukhan Police Nab Notorious Drug Dealer Infamous Criminal Caught Red-Handed In Jumma Goth

KARACHI: Sukhan Police have arrested a notorious drug dealer following a targeted operation in Jumma Goth, based on intelligence reports. The suspect, identified as Inam, son of Bakht Rehman, was found in possession of over 1 kilogram (1020 grams) of cannabis and cash linked to drug sales. Inam had been operating covertly, selling drugs at various secret locations in the area. Authorities are now reviewing his criminal background, and a case has been registered. Further investigations are on-going.—RT/Agency

## Vusted Two Passengers Arrested At Karachi Airport For Attempting To Use Fake Documents



KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration team apprehended two passengers at Jinnah International Airport for attempting to travel abroad with counterfeit visas, according to media reports on Sunday. The suspects, identified as Nazir Abbas and Umme Salma, were arrested after the FIA team discovered fake visas affixed to their passports. Umme Salma, a resident of Multan, was trying to fly to Iraq on flight IA-432 with a fraudulent Iraqi visa, while Nazir Abbas, from Karachi, was heading to the Turks and Caicos Islands on flight TK-709 with a fake Cuban visa.

A forensic report from the Scandline Office confirmed that the visas lacked key security features, prompting their arrest. Both individuals have been handed over to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle in Karachi for further investigation.—RT/Agency

## Aam Loeg Itehad Demands Full Disclosure Pressure Mounts On Government Over 26th Constitutional Amendment Draft



KARACHI: In a meeting at the central office of Aam Loeg Itehad, chaired by Barrister Farrukh Zia Shaikh, senior members gathered to discuss the political landscape and the ongoing debate around the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Chief Organizer Commodore Sadeed Malik called for the full draft of the amendment to be made public in both Urdu and English to ease tensions

between the public and the legal community. Sadeed Malik emphasized the importance of clarity in constitutional reforms, suggesting the formation of a special bench within the Supreme Court dedicated to handling constitutional matters. He argued that this would eliminate the need for a separate constitutional court, provided the bench remains impartial and focused.

During the meeting, the party also approved the appointment of Naem Ahmed Memon as Chief Organizer for District Badin and Majid Jaffery as Chief Organizer for Karachi Central. Both organizations plan to hold corner meetings to strengthen the party's presence, with public meetings scheduled in Gulshan Maymar, Karachi Central, and Badin.—RT

## Nabahat Lotia Unveils Stunning Debut Book Pottery Traditions Of Pakistan Brought To Life In A Must-Read Release



KARACHI: Nabahat Lotia unveiled her first book, Pottery Traditions of Pakistan, at an elegant launch event held at Mohatta Palace today. The book, the first of its kind in the country, was introduced to an audience comprising the city's art enthusiasts and literary figures. The event commenced with Nusrat Khwaja welcoming the guests and introducing the speakers: the author Nabahat Lotia, architect Tariq Qaiser, art critic Niloufar Farrukh, and writer Rumana Hussain. Nabahat Lotia opened the discussion by sharing her journey and experiences while researching rural Pakistan's pottery traditions, accompanied by a visual presentation.

Niloufar Farrukh praised the extensive research behind the book, particularly commending the chapter on women potters. Tariq Qaiser lauded the aesthetic quality of the publication and mentioned Nabahat as his former teacher, while Rumana Hussain read the foreword she had penned for the book. The event concluded with a brief Q&A session, followed by refreshments for the attendees.—RT

hind the book, particularly commending the chapter on women potters. Tariq Qaiser lauded the aesthetic quality of the publication and mentioned Nabahat as his former teacher, while Rumana Hussain read the foreword she had penned for the book. The event concluded with a brief Q&A session, followed by refreshments for the attendees.—RT

## Punjab Government Approves Three New Provincial Authorities In Major Move



LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz has formally approved the establishment of three authorities in the province. Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority and Punjab Horticulture Authority would be established in the province. Provincial authorities would devise policy and plan. Formal legislation would be made for the establishment of authorities.

Suggestions for governing board and director general for provincial authorities were also reviewed. Formation of management board and managing director on local level is being considered. Punjab CM had also directed to transfer the street lights into solar energy during the session. Provincial ministers, Bilal Yaseen, Zeeshan Rafique, chief secretary, principal secretary, relevant secretaries and other officials attended the session. Secretaries of Housing and Local Government joined the session through video link.—RT/Agency

## Barrister Saif Demands Election Commission Act Fast On Reserved Seats Notification

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Adviser, Barrister Dr. Saif, has demanded that the Election Commission immediately issue notifications for reserved seats. In a statement, Barrister Saif expressed that further delays were unacceptable despite two clarifications from the higher judiciary. He urged the Election Commission to stop procrastinating and to issue the notification without delay.



He criticised the Chief Election Commissioner for

allegedly violating Article 6 in a bid to remain loyal to political interests, suggesting that actions should be taken against him for this and for contempt of court.

The provincial information adviser stated that one election commissioner was attempting to disregard the orders of eight judges through delaying tactics, undermining the constitution and law while the Sharif family continued to attack the higher judiciary repeatedly.—RT/Agency

## FIA Strikes Lahore Resident Arrested for Visa Fraud Right Outside US Consulate In Karachi

KARACHI: In a key operation, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) apprehended a Lahore resident outside the US Consulate in Karachi for attempting to secure a US visa with forged documents tied to a cricket club. The suspect, whose name remains undisclosed, reportedly obtained the fake paperwork from an agent named Sajjad for 32,000 UAE dirhams (approximately 450,000 Pakistani rupees). During interrogation, the accused was unable to validate the authenticity of the documents. The FIA's prompt action highlights its dedication to cracking down on visa fraud. Investigations are ongoing to trace the agent and any potential accomplices.—RT/Agency



fraud. Investigations are ongoing to trace the agent and any potential accomplices.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Traffic Police Go All Out Crack Down On Illegal License Plates And Tinted Windows Across The City

KARACHI: Following the directives of Sindh Police Chief Gulam Nabi Memon, and under the supervision of DIG Traffic Karachi Ahmed Nawaz, the Karachi Traffic

Police have launched a city-wide campaign targeting vehicles with illegal license plates, fake government plates, fancy number plates, and tinted windows.

Motorists are urged to comply with regulations by using only government-approved license plates on their vehicles.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Chaos Erupted as Police Barricaded and Arrested Protesters! Baloch Yakjehti Committee Members Clashed with Authorities While Demanding Recovery of Their Missing Loved Ones at the Karachi Press Club.—RT

## Punjab To Launch Artificial Rain Project To Battle Alarming Smog Crisis



LAHORE: Punjab government has completed arrangements for artificial rain to address smog issue, media reported on Sunday. Punjab's senior minister Marriyum Aurnazeb announced that artificial rain will be induced to combat increasing threat of smog as the winter season is about to begin.

Resources have been provided for artificial rain and other measures at the direction of CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz, said Marriyum Aurnazeb. "A single session of artificial rain will cost between 5 to 7 million rupees." She said the artificial rain will be induced with the assistance of the Meteorological Department. The process for artificial rain will be carried out according to international standards. She urged the public to cooperate and join the collective effort to successfully tackle smog.—RT/Agency

## Sindh Hit by Two New Polio Cases As National Tally Climbs To 39

ISLAMABAD: Two fresh cases of the wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV1) have been confirmed in Sindh, raising the total number of country-wide cases to 39 so far in 2024, said the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).



The emergence of the new cases shows the extent of deterioration with regards to the poliovirus crisis in Pakistan.

Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) officials, on Sunday, told media that the two new victims are kids - a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar. Both are the first known instances of the disease in their respective areas this year. According to the PEI officials in Islamabad, Sindh is experiencing an increase in virus transmission, particularly after multiple environmental samples from Mirpurkhas tested positive for WPV1 earlier this year. After a nationwide anti-polio vaccine campaign from October 28, said the EOC. Misinformation and conspiracy theories continue to fuel vaccine hesitancy across Pakistan, es-

pecially in regions like Balochistan and KP. Many parents refuse polio vaccines due to baseless myths, such as the false claim that vaccines cause infertility or are part of a foreign conspiracy. These unfounded fears, spread via social media and local communities, have led to widespread vaccine refusals. The PEI officials urge parents to rely on scientific facts and consult healthcare professionals. "Vaccines are safe and essential to protect children from paralysis. Listening to conspiracy theories is putting children at grave risk," the official added.—RT/Agency

At least three children have also died due to the disease this year in Pakistan, according to National EOC sources. These victims belonged to Karachi and Balochistan. The EOC sources said the child, Abdullah, who died of poliovirus hailed from Karachi's Bin Qasim Town in the Malir district. While the other two children belonged to Balochistan's Killa Saifullah and Quetta. The government, on the other hand, is set to kick off a nationwide anti-polio vaccine campaign from October 28, said the EOC. Misinformation and conspiracy theories continue to fuel vaccine hesitancy across Pakistan, es-

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind"

—Shakespeare

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Uniting People Every Day

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MONDAY OCTOBER 21 2024

## Dar Claims Passage Of 26th Amendment Fulfills Long-Pending CoD Commitments

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed his gratitude to all political parties for voting in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the incomplete agenda of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) had now been fulfilled.



After the passage of the amendment, Ishaq Dar thanked the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam) and others for their support in passing the amendment. He called it a historic day, commending all political parties for demonstrating wisdom and political maturity. He stated that the passage of the amendments was made possible due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Ishaq Dar recalled that a parliamentary committee was formed to build consensus among political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He noted that several rounds of consultations were held with the leadership of JUI-F and PTI, and the committee reached a consensus. The Law Minister then briefed the committee on each clause. Dar also acknowledged PTI's active participation in the committee, noting that they showed unanimity on the draft. However, despite reaching a consensus in the parliamentary committee, PTI did not support the amendment during the vote. Dar remarked that this was their democratic and constitutional right. He praised Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman for his wisdom and commended his efforts in helping to build consensus on the amendment.—RT/Agency

## Jail Reveals Imran's Luxurious Menu Amid Mistreatment Claims: 'Mutton, Coffee, Coconut Juice'

ISLAMABAD: The Adiala jail authorities have rubbished the claims made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) about ill-treatment meted out to the former prime minister Imran Khan, while revealing exquisite menu of meals provided to the party founder in prison.



The menu was revealed after PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan mentioned about alleged mistreatment towards the deposed prime minister in the jail following the former's meeting with the latter in Adiala — where Imran remains incarcerated for over a year now.

Addressing journalists in Islamabad, the PTI chairman said it was for the first time after his imprisonment at the Adiala jail that Imran mentioned about conditions of

his prison cell, media reported. He said electricity supply to his cell was suspended for five days, while he had not been provided a newspaper or TV facility for the last fortnight and he was allowed to spend just two and a half hours out of his cell in a day. Condemning the "ill-treatment", Gohar said the authorities should look after

the rights of the former prime minister and provide him the facilities he was entitled to in his "solitary confinement". He asserted that keeping him in a small cell was a serious violation of constitutional and legal rights.

The PTI leader said the party founder was not even aware of the arrest of his sisters and he rued over the

event. However, Imran said he and his entire family would render sacrifice for the sake of people's struggle, he said, requesting the entire nation to remain peaceful.

Contrary to his expectations, Gohar said they were given 45 minutes to meet Imran. Nevertheless, he said the former PM was fine.

"We were expecting to be given enough time to talk, but were given only 45 minutes. We will try to meet him again on Monday," he maintained.

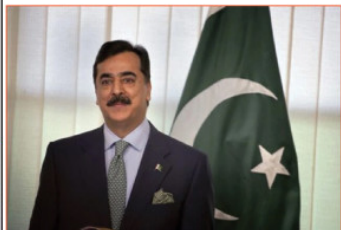
Responding to the allegations, the Adiala jail authorities issued an official statement, saying that Imran was being provided with all amenities he was entitled to under B-Class jail rules.

The jail authorities said: "Imran Khan has been given

all facilities, including uninterrupted electricity, proper meals and the opportunity to exercise regularly."

They said that a professional cook prepared his meals, which included a wide range of dishes to his taste. "Khan's breakfast consists of coffee, chia seeds, beetroot juice, yoghurt, chapati, biscuits and dates. For lunch, he is served traditional curry, local chicken, chapati, salad, green tea, and mutton. Dinner includes porridge, coconut, coconut juice and grapes, all prepared under the supervision of an assistant superintendent. "His food is prepared according to his choices and under strict supervision," the statement read, dismissing claims made during the press conference by the PTI leaders.—RT/Agency

## Gilani Congratulates Nation On Backing Of 26th Constitutional Amendment



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday extended his congratulations to the nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has long been committed to judicial reforms.

In a statement, Gilani praised the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and all coalition parties for their dedication to this crucial constitutional reform.

Gilani said that the amendment will not only strengthen the judicial system but also enhance the functioning of the superior judiciary across all four provinces. He highlighted that access to justice for the people will be significantly improved as a result of these reforms.

Reflecting on the legacy of the late Benazir Bhutto, Gilani said she was deeply committed to improving the judicial system. "Today, with the passing of the 26th Amendment, another dream of Shaheed Bibi has come true," he added.

He credited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the coalition partners for this historic achievement, acknowledging the PPP's sacrifices in promoting democracy in the country.

Gilani reaffirmed that the PPP remains the largest and most dedicated party serving the people of Pakistan. He also expressed his gratitude to all coalition parties for their support in passing this critical constitutional amendment.—RT/Agency

## Tarar Hails Constitutional Package As A Major Win For Parliamentary Supremacy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said that it was a historic day and a milestone for the state and people of Pakistan as the supremacy of Parliament was established.



Talking to media outside Parliament House, along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here, he said the Constitution was clear about the supremacy of Parliament. "It was stipulated in the Charter of Democracy to facilitate the delivery of cheap and speedy justice", the minister added.

He said that consultation with all political parties was the beauty of the democratic process and no political party has been left out in this process. He said that prolonged but constructive consultations were held on the constitutional package and no urgency had been

shown in this regard. The minister said that the constitutional package was an important step towards speedy delivery of justice in the country.

He said that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah and other leaders had played an important role in finalising the constitutional package and the cabinet appreciated their efforts.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked all coalition parties especially PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Zardari, Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman for their positive role. He said the amendments to the package being introduced on Sunday were originally envisaged in the Charter of Democracy signed between Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006.—RT/Agency

## Senator Faisal Subzwari Calls For Strengthening Local Governments Nationwide

ISLAMABAD: The Senator of Muttahida Qaumi Movement — Pakistan (MQM-P), Faisal Subzwari, emphasized the need for empowered local governments or the creation of new provinces during a Senate session on proposed constitutional amendments, media reported on Sunday.



Speaking at the meeting session, Subzwari highlighted the lack of authority granted to local governments, stating that the current legal framework fails to empower them across all provinces.

Subzwari thanked the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for their support and remarked on the Law Minister's statement that a special committee would continue working on the issue of local authority. He further revealed that the matter of empowering local governments would be addressed in the upcoming 27th constitutional amendment.

Subzwari pointed out that MQM-P, like other parties, played its part in contributing to the ongoing constitutional amendments, which aim to improve the judiciary and the justice system of Pakistan. He stressed that the real benefit to the people would come when courts deliver quick justice, which is the fundamental improvement needed. By addressing common citizens' issues, the judiciary can truly bring reforms that positively impact society, he argued. The senator's call for action highlights the ongoing debate in Pakistan about local government empowerment, a long-standing issue that remains unresolved in the country's political landscape.—RT/Agency

## ANP Senator Voices Support For Judicial Reforms In Constitutional Changes

ISLAMABAD: The Senator of Awami National Party (ANP), Aimal Wali Khan, voiced his support for judicial reforms in the constitutional amendments, advocating for Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, media reported on Sunday.

The current state of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that its founder is finished, having been jailed. He questioned how long PTI members would continue to wait for their leader and noted that all parliamentary leaders, except PTI, have agreed on the constitutional amendments. Khan called for strict action against anyone attacking military, government, or private installations. He also rejected any attempts to shut down KP House, asserting that while one leader may be closed off, Pakistan will continue to move forward.

The Senate session, chaired by Yousuf Raza Gilani, featured discussions on the 19th constitutional amendment, with Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar admitting that it was introduced hastily and skewed towards one institution. Tarar highlighted the need for a more balanced approach in judicial appointments, a demand also raised by the Pakistan Bar Council. The Law Minister detailed that the regional commission will consist of four senior judges and four members of parliament, ensuring representation from the provinces in the high court. The Judicial Commission, with the authority to form constitutional benches, will include the Chief Justice and four senior Supreme Court judges, along with parliamentarians from both the Senate and National Assembly.—RT/Agency

Speaking during a Senate session where the 26th constitutional amendment draft was presented, Khan stressed the need for judicial appointments to be made by the government, which is responsible for running the country. He expressed pride in preventing the appointment of judges like former Chief Justices Saqib Nisar and Gulzar Ahmed Khosa, whom he criticized for past decisions. Khan also remarked on

## Rana Sanaullah Insists Dialogue Is Not On PTI's Political Agenda



ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah Khan has said that the dialogue is not the style of the PTI's politics, media reported on Sunday.

"It is my considered opinion that the PTI could not be convinced, creating consensus or holding dialogue is not the PTI's type of politics," special assistant to the PM on political affairs, Rana Sanaullah said. "They are doing for the last 10 years," PML-N veteran said. "They are talking something else over there and pretending that they are consulting," he said.

"I pray for the success of Maulana (Fazur Rehman), they are tricking with him," Sanaullah said. Earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, called for more time to review the proposed legislation, media reported on Saturday, citing sources.

Sources close to the development revealed that the JUI-F has expressed concerns about rushing through the amendments without enough consultation and suggested the government not to take any hasty decision. During a meeting, the final draft of the amendment was presented to JUI-F leader Maulana Fazur Rehman, suggested that more time is needed to discuss the implications of the changes. It is to be mentioned here that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Political Committee has announced that it will boycott the voting process for constitutional amendments in both houses. According to the official statement, the committee has also decided to protest against PTI members of the National Assembly and Senate who participate in the voting process.—RT/Agency

## Vawda Hails 26th Amendment As A Historic Breakthrough

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and Senator Faisal Vawda on Sunday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a "historic success" and expressed satisfaction over the high number of votes it received.



Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, he revealed that he had refused to meet PTI founder following the events of May 9 in Lahore. He said that the people of Pakistan would now witness progress, prosperity and development as a result of the amendment. He also criticized the current PTI leadership for

leading the party's founder into its present difficulties, adding, "Had Imran Khan listened to me at that time, he would be in a much better position today, instead

of being in jail." In response to a question about PTI's founder, Vawda expressed skepticism about the possibility of any relief for him.—RT/Agency

## Mushahid Outlines 3-Point Plan, Urges Erdogan To Lead On Palestine Issue

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed during the global Palestine Conference proposed a 3-point Action Plan, and urged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue. On invitation of President Erdogan's AK Party, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed gave a keynote address at the



"Global Palestine Conference" held here at the Turkish capital, where he presented a 3-point Action Plan. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was Chief Guest on the occasion, said a news release. Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is Member of Executive Board of the Istanbul-based 'Al Quds Parliament', as well as Co-Chairman of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), hailed the resistance of Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran to Israeli aggression and Zionist expansionism, terming these as exemplary models of 'Might is not Right, but Right is

Might'. During his speech, Mushahid Hussain appreciated the leadership role of President Erdogan, terming him as the 'Lion of the Muslim World', and congratulated him on his victory in the Turkish Presidential elections. Condemning Israel for committing the first televised genocide in history, Mushahid also condemned Western double standards and absence of morality as they were actively aiding and abetting Israeli crimes. "Most of the Muslim regimes have also failed to rise to the occasion due to either fear or expediency," he added. Presenting his Action

Plan before the gathering of some 1000 guests from over 50 countries, Mushahid said the first step should be for President Erdogan to take the lead and constitute an International Leaders Delegation, comprising leaders from the Global South, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria and Brazil, who should visit Washington immediately after the November 5 US Presidential polls to meet the American President-elect, and urge the new US President to reverse the occasion due to either the one-sided American policy of blatantly supporting Israel.—RT/Agency

## Fazl Credits Passage Of 26th Amendment To Months Of Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), said on Sunday that the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment was the result of a month-long struggle.



Speaking to the media outside Parliament, he said that there was a significant difference between the earlier and final drafts of the Amendment. He was of the view that consensus had been reached through dialogue in the Constitution (Twenty Sixth Amendment).

He explained that the objective of the Amendment was to strengthen the Constitution and the legal framework. In response to a question, the JUI-F chief said "all judges are respectable to us, and we do not aim to make any controversial statement."—RT/Agency