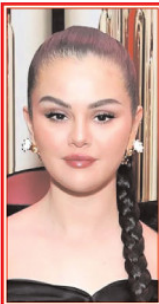


# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



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Hafeez Applauds Sajid And Noman, Attributes Victory To New Selection Committee



**Murad Approves 500 Electric Buses For Karachi, 300 For Other Sindh Divisions**

## Justice Yahya Afridi Becomes Pakistan's 30th Chief Justice

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi was sworn as Pakistan's 30th chief justice on Saturday, succeeding Justice Qazi Faez Isa as the country's top judge.



President Asif Ali Zardari administered oath to the newly-appointed top judge in a prestigious ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The new CJP will serve the post for a fixed three-year term.

Justice Afridi has succeeded former CJP Isa, who retired and relinquished charge as the top judge yesterday (October 25).

The top judge is the first to be appointed following new rules for selecting a chief justice, introduced through the 26th Constitutional Amendment passed by the government last week.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and heads of the tri-services, including Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir.

Moreover, Supreme Court

judges, including Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aisha Malik, former CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, alongside parliamentarians were also in attendance.

The committee, formed under Section 2(1) of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, which is responsible for fixing

cases, has been reconstituted. Justice Afridi is now the head, while its members include Justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Munib Akhtar.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Judicial Council has also been reconstituted following the appointment of the new chief justice.

The top judge has also assumed the role of chairman of the council, with Justices Shah and Akhtar as members of the body, along with the two most senior CJs from the high courts.—RT/Agency

## Iran Vows Retaliation After Israeli Airstrikes Target Military Sites, Leaving Two Soldiers Dead

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Saturday that Iran was determined to defend itself after Israeli warplanes struck military bases and missile sites in several Iranian provinces, killing two soldiers.



"I think we've shown that our determination to defend ourselves knows no limits," Araghchi said in an interview with the official website of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The minister's comments were the first by a senior Iranian official since the pre-dawn strikes.

Israel had vowed to retaliate after October 1, when Iran fired around 200 missiles in its second ever direct attack against its arch-foe.

In April, in its first direct assault against Israeli territory, Iran launched more than 300 drones and mis-

siles.

Tehran said that barrage was retaliation for a strike on Iran's consular annex in Damascus that killed commanders of its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"We will defend our territory and our homeland," Araghchi said. "I think everyone has already seen that."

Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying that Iran is entitled to defend itself against Israeli aggression under its inherent right to legitimate defense, which is also enshrined in UN Charter Article 51.

"The army of the Islamic Republic of Iran lost two of its fighters during the night when they faced projectiles from the criminal Zionist regime in defence of its territory," the statement said.

Iranian air defense command announced on Saturday that Israeli airstrikes on military centers in Tehran, the western province of Ilam, and the southwest province of Khuzestan were intercepted and successfully countered.

According to a report by the news agency, the air defense system intercepted and countered these attacks.

"The Zionist regime's continued occupation, illegal actions, and crimes—particularly the genocide of the Palestinian people and aggression against Lebanon, sustained by the comprehensive support of the United States and other Western countries—are the primary causes of tension and insecurity in the region," the statement added.

The Middle East has been on edge in anticipation

of Israeli retaliation for a ballistic missile barrage carried out by Iran on October 1, in which around 200 ballistic missiles were fired at Israel. Iran's second direct attack on Israel in six months.

"In response to months of continuous attacks from the regime in Iran against the State of Israel — right now the Israel Defense Forces is conducting precise strikes on military targets in Iran," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

Meanwhile, in its statement, Pakistan said that Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict. The press release called on the world to play its role in restoring regional peace and security.—RT/Agency

## Dastardly Suicide Attack In North Waziristan Claims Six Lives, Including Four Police Officers

N WAZIRISTAN: At least six people including four cops were martyred and several others were injured in a "suicide bombing" in North Waziristan, police said on Saturday.



The law enforcers said that the attack targeted a police post in Eidak area of Mir Ali. Four of the slain individuals were police personnel, they added.

The injured were shifted to hospital after a rescue operation was launched. Meanwhile, the area was cordoned off by the security forces.

Pakistan has experienced a spike in terrorism since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Most terror incidents are reported in provinces bordering the neighbouring country — Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Around a dozen militants were eliminated during anti-terrorism operations by the security forces in KP's Dis-

trict North Waziristan this month, as the military strives to deal with the menace of terrorism in the country.

A report published by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) earlier this month stated that the third quarter of 2024 saw a sharp increase in fatalities of terrorist violence and counter-terrorism campaigns with a 90% surge in violence in the country.

The total fatalities from three quarters of this year surpassed the total fatalities recorded for the entire 2023,

## Zain Qureshi Steps Down As PTI's Deputy Leader Amidst Loyalty Probe



ISLAMABAD: PTI MNA Zain Qureshi stepped down on Saturday as the party's deputy parliamentary leader amid an internal inquiry on the loyalty of certain lawmakers.

Earlier this week, the PTI decided to take legal action against its lawmakers who had voted in favour of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in clear violation of the party policy.

Zain, the son of former PTI vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, denied reports at the time that he was present on the premises of parliament at the time of the amendment's passage. He claimed that he was underground as per the instructions of his father.

According to the PTI, the party was unable to contact

him. Zain was issued a show-cause notice on Tuesday.

In a post on X today, he announced: "Based on my belief for a free and transparent inquiry and in recognition of the sentiment of our party supporters, I am resigning from my role as deputy parliamentary leader. I do so until and unless I have the confidence and trust of my party and our founding chairman, Imran Khan."

Zain added that in the "interest of public transparency for all PTI supporters", he had formally replied to his show-cause notice and provided a comprehensive account.

"I was, am and will remain faithful to my party, to my leader Imran Khan and to my father and all that he stands for."—RT/Agency

## PTI Leaders Blocked Meetings With Imran Khan, Faisal Vawda Confirms

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has said that the ban on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders meeting with party's founding chairman Imran Khan was imposed at the request of the PTI leaders themselves.



In a special discussion on a private channel, Senator Vawda said that the meeting was not intended to take place because the PTI leadership advised against seeking permission for it, saying, "When he (Imran Khan) tells us to come out, it becomes difficult for us."

He added that the PTI members had summoned a letter from 62 US senators, which further widened the gap between Imran Khan and the establishment.

He claimed that they had pushed Imran Khan and his politics into oblivion.

When asked about the deal under which Bushra Bibi was released, Senator Vawda remarked that if her release wasn't under a deal, then how could there have been weeks of renovation at Bani Gala? He noted that trees had been planted and cleaning had taken place. However, Vawda did not provide details about the alleged deal.

He mentioned that it is unclear when Imran Khan will be released, as no one knows what cases are pending against him.

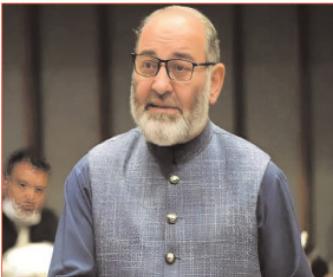
The Senator went on to say that General (R) Faiz Hamid was implicated in multiple issues, including the events of May 9 and the murder of Arshad Sharif, and predicted that there will be a court martial for Faiz Hamid, leading to his conviction. He raised a question about why Murad Saeed, a minister under Imran Khan, has been absent from the Arshad Sharif murder case, asserting that he hasn't been seen in two years.

In response to a question, Faisal Vawda noted that he had mentioned the 27th amendment before the 26th amendment. He stated that

after the 27th, more amendments, including the 28th, would follow. On the social media platform X, Vawda wrote that he had announced the previous day that Bushra Bibi would be released, expressing gratitude that he does not make baseless claims. He claimed there are no new cases against Bushra Bibi and that her vehicle was allowed to enter VIP style. As I mentioned, the founder of PTI will also meet with lawyers today, and regular meetings will commence in jail from October 26. He assured the nation that he would not hide anything. He noted that many of the founder's companions and those close to him have abandoned him, throwing him into the fires of hell.—RT/Agency

## Ex-Senator Mushtaq Faces Terrorism Charges For Leading Gaza March To US Embassy

ISLAMABAD: A terrorism case has been registered against former Senator Mushtaq Ahmed for organising a march towards the US Embassy in support of Gaza.



The case was filed at Islamabad's Aabpara Police Station against Mushtaq Ahmed, a former Senator and leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, media reported.

He had called for a march from Aabpara to the US Embassy as part of the "Save Gaza" campaign to show solidarity with the people of Gaza.

The former Senator faces charges under 13 sections, including terrorism. Yesterday, 30 people, including three women, were arrested.

According to the text of the case, protesters were demonstrating outside Masjid-e-Shuhada when, on Senator Mushtaq Ahmed's instructions, they began marching towards the Red Zone. When police attempted to stop them, the demonstrators allegedly attacked officers, injuring two policemen with sticks.

The case text further states that stones thrown by the protesters broke the windows of six public and two government vehicles. Some protesters also allegedly snatched an anti-riot kit and helmet from Constable Zafarullah.

Last month police detained former Mushtaq Ahmed, along with his wife, son, and over two dozen protesters, during a march expressing solidarity with Gaza.

The ex-senator had called on the public to gather at Express Chowk, an entry point to Islam-

## 26th Amendment Has Closed The Door On Political Power Manipulation: Rana Sanaullah



LAHORE: Prime minister's political adviser Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday the 26th amendment would help prevent coming into power through backdoor.

Speaking to media in Lahore, he said the PML-N had always worked for the betterment of the state.

"Pakistan is out of crisis and political and economic stability would be achieved soon," he added.

He also gave the credit of ending terrorism and energy crisis to his party and said the PML-N had always played a positive role in national development.

As for the constitutional amendment, he said the 26th amendment gave the hope that no one would be able to hold the reins of power in Pakistan through backdoors.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Slams Israeli Airstrikes On Iran As Tensions Escalate

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned Israel's strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the early hours on Saturday.

As per Foreign Office spokesperson, Israeli military strikes against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran were a grave violation of the UN Charter and the international law.



These strikes undermined path to regional peace and stability and also exacerbated dangerous escalation in an already volatile region.

"Israel is fully responsible for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict in the region," stressed Pakistan.

Pakistan demanded the UN to play take immediate

actions to bring an end to Israeli recklessness in the region and its criminal behaviour.

Pakistan called international community must also play its role for restoring regional peace and security.

It is pertinent to note that Israel launched retaliatory attack on Iran, hitting 20 targets including Tehran, Shiraz and Kurd.

The Israeli forces attacked missiles manufacturing and other defence systems sites of Iran.

Iranian authorities asserted that it defended its territory using aerial defence system thwarted Israeli attacks.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Principal of the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Girls Cadet College Larkana Prof. Saleem Raza Chaudhry along with students is offering Fateha at the grave of Shaheed Mughtarna Benazir Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bus.—Photo By Nadeem Soomro.

## SIEHS CEO Brigadier Tarique Quadir Lakhari (R) - SI(M) visits Giddu Hospital



HYDERABAD: Brigadier Tarique Quadir Lakhari (R) - SI(M), Chief Executive Officer of the Sindh Integrated Emergency Health Services (SIEHS), visited the Giddu Hospital, also known as "The Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Institute of Psychiatry," upon the invitation of Senator Dr. Karim Khawaja, Chairman of the Sindh Mental Health Authority. Upon arrival, Brigadier Lakhari (R) - SI(M) and his team were welcomed by Dr. Nisar Sohu, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital. In the conference hall, Dr. Sohu provided a briefing on the hospital's operations and performance, highlighting the challenges faced by the facility. Zeeshan Halipoto, an active member of the civil society, discussed various issues concerning the hospital and commended Dr. Sohu's efforts. Brigadier Lakhari (R) - SI(M) expressed his commitment to ensuring cooperation between SIEHS and the Giddu Hospital, particularly with the Rescue 1122 service. He stated that high-level discussions would be held with Dr. Karim Khawaja to address the hospital's challenges. He praised the initiatives for the rehabilitation of mental health patients and assured continued support from both SIEHS and his personal capacity. The hospital administration also organized a tour of various wards for Brigadier Lakhari (R) - SI(M) and his team, including the emergency ward, narcotics ward, and other sections. The visit concluded with a briefing session. The SIEHS team included zone manager Banshi Malhi, senior HR manager Yasir Raza Memon from the People's Cultural Department, Ali Raza Sukhrani, Tofique Sethar, Saif Chaudhry, Yaseen Soomro, and Zaid Shah Rashid Lakhari among others.

## Bakhtawar Girls Cadet College holds speech competition in Nawabshah

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: A speech competition was held at Pakistan's first Bakhtawar Girls Cadet College in Nawabshah, organized with the support of other esteemed institutions to highlight students' talents. The competition featured speeches in three languages. Educational institutions from Sindh, including Cadet College Larkana, Benazir Bhutto Girls Cadet College Larkana, Cadet College Sanghar, Cadet College Petaro, Cadet College Karam Pur, Public School Mir Shar, Muhammad Talpur, and Degree College Nawabshah, participated. The event was presided over



by the college principal, Dr. Farida Shaikh, who coordinated the judging panel comprising Dr. Tania Laghari, Dr. Phulo Menghwar, and Owais Rabbari. Awards were presented to the students who showcased outstanding abilities during the competition. In her remarks to the students and other regional attendees, Principal Dr. Farida Shaikh stated that traditionally, competitions have been held in English and Urdu, but this year, they included Sindhi as well. She noted that students enthusiastically participated in serious and humorous topics, demonstrating impressive performances.

## 2.2 billion Rupees earmarked for road development projects in Thatta: Ali Hassan Zardari

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The Sindh government has approved 12 road development projects in Thatta, allocating Rs 2.20 billion following the recommendation of Provincial Minister for Works, Services, and Prisons, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari. This initiative, aimed at improving travel convenience, has been welcomed with optimism by local residents. Haji Ali Hassan, a close associate of Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, is known for his commitment to public service. Having represented his constituency for two



terms, he has consistently prioritized road infrastructure improvements to benefit the people of Thatta. The projects include crucial road connections, such as the route from Ghulamullah to Goth

Ghulam Bani, and roads through key areas like Bero, Ghulam Hussain, Ladiya, and Abdul Kareem Yar Muhammad Lashari via Noor Muhammad Bukaro. Tenders for these projects have already been issued, demonstrating swift progress. Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari reiterated his dedication to bringing substantial development to District Thatta. Highlighting the Pakistan People's Party's focus on public welfare, he emphasized the party's legacy of sacrifices for the underprivileged and its commitment to honoring the memory of its martyrs.

## NWM women protest against land grabbing

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: At the Nawab Wali Muhammad Press Club, a widow from the village of Moulia Bux Chaudhio, Darya Bibi Chaudhio, along with her sister Hidayat Bibi Chaudhio, protested against the injustices inflicted by their brothers and brothers-in-law. The affected women spoke to the media, stating that their brother, Ajaz Chaudhio, along with brothers-in-law Dr. Ghulam Shabbir Chaudhio and Altaf Chaudhio, have usurped the 15 acres of land that belonged to their deceased father, Hussain Bux Chaudhio, by tampering with the land records. They expressed that



after demanding their rightful share from their brothers, leading to their arrest. The women have called on the local authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner and SSP of Shaheed Benazirabad, to take notice of their situation and conduct a fair investigation to ensure justice.

## Livestock Dept holds free medical camps in Manjhand

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: On the Directives of Director General Livestock Sindh Hyderabad Dr Hizbulah Bhutto and Director Animal Husbandry Sindh Dr Riaz Ahmed Abbasi, Livestock and Animal Husbandry District Jamsoro arranged free veterinary medical camps for animals in the areas of Manzoorabad and Budhapur of Talika Manjhand. In this free veterinary camp, small and large animals were vaccinated.



Earlier, Deputy Director also visited the veterinary centers of Manzoorabad and Budhapur, he checked the record of the centres & availability of vaccines & medicines. On this occasion, the technical team Dr. Amjad Hussain, Dr. Akram Ali Kachheho, Abdullah Kolachi SSA, Shaukat Ali SSA and other para vet staff were present in the camp.

## Senior Badin journalist Muhammad Aslam Memon succumbs to cancer



BADIN: Senior journalist Muhammad Aslam Memon is fighting with cancer-like infectious disease and met the real creator. In his funeral prayer, MPA Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Badin Ali Akbar Memon Former Chairman Muhammad Hashim Jamal District Council Member Mir Fateh Rebari Urban Union Convener Khalifa Tariq Aziz Memon, Shujaat Hussain Khawaja, senior journalists, Shakoore Memon, Khalid Abbasi, Anees Memon, Shaukat Memon, Murtaza Memon, leaders of various trade organizations participated. He was buried in the Shah Qadri cemetery.

## Farewell party held for retired Station Master Muhammad Younis

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Muhammad Younis, the Station Master of Pithoro Station in the Pakistan Railways Karachi Division, has retired after completing his service. A splendid farewell party was organized in his honor under the leadership of the Union President, Ghulam Muhammad Sehto, along with Asif Ali Mughal, Afaq Ahmed Abbasi, Daniyal Ahmed, Imdad Ali, and Munawar Shar. A large number of current and retired railway employees attended the event. The celebration commenced at Pithoro Station and included a warm welcome for the retiring station master at



Sehto presented a gift representing Sindh's culture. Additionally, retired gatekeeper Muhammad Bachal Shar and the staff adorned Muhammad Younis with a garland of flowers.

## Fishermen protest against Police harassment



SANGHAR: The residents of the Chotiariyo area, belonging to the fishing community, staged a protest at the National Press Club against alleged police harassment by the Chotiariyo police. During the protest, participants including Zahid Shah and Roshan Mallah expressed their grievances, stating that they own a personal 20-acre fish farm where they earn their livelihood by fishing. They accused the SHO of Chotiariyo of demanding a bribe of five hundred thousand rupees, asserting that he refuses to allow them to fish unless the bribe is paid. They claimed that the SHO is also threatening to implicate them in false cases. Despite possessing all necessary documents and licenses for fishing, they feel harassed. The protesters mentioned that they have submitted a complaint regarding the SHO's extortion to the SSP Sanghar, but no one is willing to address their concerns. They stated that the SHO regularly deploys mobile teams to intimidate their community members. They urged the Inspector General of Sindh and the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take notice of their situation and ensure a fair investigation against the SHO, so that they can continue fishing to support their families.

## Advocate Nadir Ali Khoso takes oath as District Ameer of JI Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Advocate Nadir Ali Khoso has been appointed as the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami for Larkana District. The oath-taking ceremony took place in Larkana, where the special guest, Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh Ameer Kashif Saeed Shaikh, addressed the attendees. He criticized the recent parliamentary amendments, describing them as an affront to the independence of the judiciary, and condemned the favoritism shown towards those who exploit Sindh's water resources. He stated that the current rulers prioritize their interests over essential issues such as expensive electricity, fuel, healthcare, and education, while neglect-

## Rewachand Family protests against harassment of Hindu Panchayat's Dr Hotchand

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The President of the Hindu Panchayat, Dr. Hotchand, has been accused of creating difficulties for the local Hindu community. In a press conference at the Sujawal Press Club, members of the Deewan Hindu community expressed their grievances. Leaders including Rewachand's family member, Lajwanti Bai, and others stated that Dr. Hotchand has been using his influence to unjustly harass them. Lajwanti Bai explained that their family has lived in the

Hindu locality of Sujawal for the past 60 years, with their residence being legally there. However, Dr. Hotchand is reportedly trying to force them out by demanding access to a plot adjacent to their home, which was previously allocated for a temple. Lajwanti Bai claimed that they do not wish to open their home for this purpose, leading to continuous harassment from Dr. Hotchand, who has allegedly made false accusations against them. She further mentioned that local officials, including the ADC and Mukhtiar, have conducted raids on their home under the pretext of encroachment, threatening them and even detaining her without justification for several hours. The community members emphasized their desire to live peacefully with their Muslim neighbors, but Dr. Hotchand's actions have made their lives unbearable. They urged the Deputy Commissioner of Sujawal and other authorities to intervene and relieve them from this harassment so they can live peacefully in their community.

## Condolences pour in over sad demise of Badin journalist Aslam Memon

TALHAR: Leader from the Pakistan People's Party Minority Wing, Sunil Kumar, President of the Talhar Press Club, Muhammad Sadiq Thebo, Musarat Ahsan Naqvi, and others expressed deep sorrow and condolences on the passing of senior journalist and National Press Club Badin president Muhammad Aslam Memon. The leaders stated that the late Aslam Memon consistently supported truth and justice through his journalism. They extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES  
**THE HEARTLAND**

**Protests erupt in Ghotki against transfer of SHO Barkat Ali Bhatti**

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Citizens took to the streets in Khanpur Mahar to protest the transfer of SHO Barkat Ali Bhatti, claiming it was an act of injustice against the community. The demonstrators demanded an immediate halt to his transfer, stating that removing the SHO, who had maintained peace in the area, would disrupt law and order. Details reveal that residents, including Naranjan Lal, Mumtaz Khan Pitafi, and Khalid Qazi, voiced their support for SHO Barkat Bhatti, asserting that he had effectively ensured security



in the city. They criticized the decision by SSP Ghotki to transfer him to Arbelo Sangri, describing it as blatant injustice. Protesters emphasized that the security situation in Khanpur Mahar had improved under Bhatti's leadership and that his removal would lead to a resurgence of crime. They urged the Inspector General of Sindh, the DIG Sukkur, and the SSP Ghotki to immediately reverse the decision, warning that failure to do so would result in further protests.

**Bazm-e-Ghalib Malkani holds reception for poet Laung Mallah**

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: An event was organized by Bazm-e-Ghalib Malkani in honor of the poet of love and revolution, Laung Mallah, under the chairmanship of esteemed educator Abdul Jalil Qureshi. Scholars including Altaf Malkani, Qazi Badar, Mehboob Sindh, and Satar

Bhutto were among the guests. In his presidential address, Abdul Jalil Qureshi highlighted that Laung Mallah's poetry embodies a call for awakening. Scholar Altaf Malkani emphasized that Laung Mallah skillfully intertwines themes of love and revolution, while writer Mehboob Sindh noted that Laung Mallah's thoughts re-

fect a deep sense of Sindhia. The event also featured speeches from Qadir Zaid, Roshan Deper, Akhtiar Ghoori, Wafa Baloch, writer Asghar Gadahi, Satar Bhutto, and others. The program concluded with singers performing Laung Mallah's verses, receiving much applause from the audience.

**DEO Secondary Jacobabad Visits Local Schools**

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: According to reports from Thul, the District Education Officer (Secondary) Jacobabad, Muhammad Ismail Burro, conducted visits to various schools, including Government Girls Higher Secondary School Thul, Government Girls High School Qadirabad Noonari, Government Boys High School Odi, Middle School Abdul Karim Noonari, Middle School Gulsher Kandari, and others. During his visit, DEO Muhammad Ismail Burro



emphasized the importance of teachers attending their duties daily and providing quality education to students. He also urged schools

to increase student enrollment in government institutions and encouraged children to attend school regularly.

**Larkana University holds seminar on guava fruit fly control and biological prevention**

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: In collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, a research seminar was organized at the Faculty of Agriculture, Larkana University, focusing on the attack of the guava fruit fly and biological prevention strategies. The seminar saw significant participation from agricultural scientists, local farmers, and students. During the event, Faculty Dean Sultan Ahmed Metlo, Project Investigator Dr. Shahjehan Rajput, and other experts, including Dr. Shah-

nawaz Khuhro, Dr. Abdul Hamid Memon, Dr. Abdul Hanan Burro, and Dr. Muhammad Haroon Hullo, emphasized the detrimental effects of chemical usage on crops and plants. They pointed out that Pakistan, being an agricultural country, suffers because its rice, wheat, and fruits are laden with chemicals, rendering them of little value internationally. The speakers urged farmers to abandon chemical spraying in favor of adopting biological control methods. They noted that biological control could help mitigate the spread of

deadly diseases among humans, while the overuse of chemicals threatens environmentally friendly pests, which is a significant loss for humanity. Dr. Shahjehan Rajput further explained that the project, aimed at protecting olives from the olive fruit fly in collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, has been successful due to the efforts of agricultural experts. As a result, this year, olive farmers have seen a 20% increase in benefits, and they expect to achieve 100% profit in the coming years.

**Three killed, two injured in different TMK road accidents**

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A tragic incident occurred near the Ganjra stop on Lakhat Road in Tando Muhammad Khan when a speeding tractor-trolley ran over a motorcycle. As a result, 57-year-old Hoto Kolhi, who was riding the motorcycle, died at the scene. Local police transported the deceased to the

government hospital. Meanwhile, the tractor driver managed to flee the scene, and police are currently searching for him. After necessary procedures, the body was taken by the family to their village. The deceased was reported to be from the Moya area of Tando Ghulam Hyder. In another accident on Shaikh Bharkio Main Road near the Drighi M stop, two motorcycles col-

lided head-on, resulting in the death of 55-year-old Haji Manganhar. Additionally, Abdul Hakim Manganhar and Bashir Hakim sustained serious injuries. The bodies and the injured were taken to the government hospital in Tando Muhammad Khan, from where, after necessary procedures, the body was transported to the family's ancestral town of Bulri Shah Karim.

**Corpse of missing youth found**

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, the body of a missing youth, Munir son of Younis Pahore, has been discovered in a fish pond near the boundary of the B-Section police station. The

young man had gone missing three days ago while heading to the city, and his family had expressed concerns about a possible abduction. The body was spotted by villagers floating in the fish pond, prompting them to no-

tify the family. The body was found unclothed and has been transferred to the local hospital for a post-mortem examination. The police have stated that further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

**Criminals successfully prosecuted in Tando Allahyar**

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the directives of SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, significant progress has been made in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving criminals, leading to successful convictions. In the case registered at

Sultanabad police station, crime number 46/2021, the accused has been sentenced to 7 years in prison and fined 50,000 PKR. Three years ago, the SHO of Sultanabad initiated action, arresting the accused, Arif alias Aarb son of Arsalan Khan Jaffari, and seizing an illegal pistol along with four cartridges, leading to the registration of a case and subsequent investigation. Based on a thorough investigation, the Additional and Sessions Judge of Tando Allahyar found the accused guilty, resulting in the 7-year sentence and the fine. This outcome has significantly increased public trust in the police and judiciary.

REGIONAL TIMES  
**NATIONAL**

**State Minister Fahd Haroon And Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong Discuss Cooperation Initiatives**



ISLAMABAD: Following the successful visit of Chinese Premier H.E. Li Qiang to Pakistan, a productive meeting took place between H.E. Jiang Zaidong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, and Mr. Fahd Haroon, Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, along with their teams. The discussion centered on leveraging media and digital outreach to support key initiatives under the China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The talks explored opportunities to boost trade, investment, and regional peace and security, while also identifying areas of mutual interest to strengthen bilateral relations.

Mr. Haroon expressed gratitude for the ambassador's invitation to China and reaffirmed the commitment to the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China.—RT

**Ayaz Sadiq: October 27 Will Be Remembered As A Black Day In History**

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Saturday that October 27th serves as a day to highlight India's forcible occupation of Kashmir and the atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people.

On this day in 1947, Indian forces entered Srinagar in an attempt to illegally occupy Kashmir—a day history will forever remember as "Black Day."

In his message regarding Black Day, Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed that the right to self-determination is a fundamental right of the Kashmiri people, who have made immense sacrifices in pursuit of this cause. He added that India has employed every possible means of oppression and brutality to suppress this right, but has failed and will continue to fail.

Ayaz Sadiq condemned India's actions on August 5, 2019, describing them as blatant violations of international law. He urged India to reverse its illegal actions and end human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir.

Referring to India's constitutional amendments and the sham elections held in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Speaker emphasized that the Kashmiri people have

categorically rejected these moves. He reiterated that Pakistan fully supports the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and stands in solidarity with them. Paying tribute to the heroes of Kashmir's freedom movement, he said that their sacrifices will always be remembered with honor.

Ayaz Sadiq declared that the Kashmir issue remains an unfinished agenda of the partition of India and Pakistan.

He stressed that sustainable peace in the region requires resolving this issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He also affirmed that Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people at all levels and will raise its voice on international and regional platforms.

The Speaker further urged the international community to play its role in resolving both the Kashmir and Palestine issues.—RT/Agency

**DEO Abdul Sami Bhanbhro, TEO Shamsuddin Laghari visit schools**



By Azhar Ali Kubar

SETHARJA: In a surprise inspection at Government Boys High School Mehar Weesar, District Education Officer (Secondary) Khairpur, Abdul Sami Bhanbhro, along with Taluka Education Officer (Secondary) Mirwah, Shamsuddin Laghari, found nine teachers absent during assembly. Show-cause notices were issued to the absent teachers. During the

**World Polio Prevention Day celebrated in Badin**

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: World Polio Prevention Day was observed in Badin, mirroring celebrations across the country. Under the leadership of District Health Officer Dr. Anjum Soomro, an awareness walk was held from the health office to the Civil Hospital. Shabryar Habib and others noted that this year's theme is "Global Mis-

**Saif Issues Warning To Government Over Unlawful Treatment Of PTI Workers**

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif on Saturday blamed the federal government for arresting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers for something "they didn't even commit."



Responding to Federal Information Minister Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar's allegations of accusing the PTI workers of attacking police vans, Saif blamed the government for fuelling lies.

He pointed out contradictions between the statements of the federal minister and police, adding that no incident of firing or baton-charging occurred. "Atta Tarar should tell why Attock bound van was turned towards Islamabad. Why were arrested PTI workers being roamed around on the roads," he de- plored. He said the government would have to face criticism once the truth was revealed after transparent investigations.—RT/Agency

**Pakistan Sends 13th Aid Shipment To Gaza And Lebanon**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday sent the 13th aid shipment to the war-torn regions of Gaza and Lebanon. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) spokesperson, the ceremony of sending the aid was held in Islamabad.



The ceremony was attended by Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Rabaie, Barrister Aqeel Malik and representatives of NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Pakistan Army.

The aid shipment comprises 100 tons of family blankets and tents. The NDMA had sent 1,381 tons of aid so far. Ten shipments have made for Gaza and two for Lebanon.—RT/Agency

The Palestinian ambassador thanked the Pakistan government and public for helping the Palestinians and

**Corporate Agriculture Farming In Pakistan**

By Bagh Ali Abro

The agriculture sector plays a crucial role in Pakistan's economy, contributing 21% to GDP and employing 44% of the labor force. However, the sector's productivity lags behind global and regional standards. Experts believe that Pakistan can enhance agricultural output both vertically (increasing yields) and horizontally (expanding cultivated land), with the potential to double the current cultivable area of 9.4 million acres of wasteland.

Despite possessing fertile soil and an established irrigation system, Pakistan struggles to utilize its agricultural potential effectively. Challenges include market inefficiencies, inadequate public

policy, limited research and development, restricted credit access, and inefficient resource management.

Sindh province, with its favorable climate, can grow various crops, including wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, and fruits like mango and citrus. Developing cultivable wastelands presents opportunities for increased production. Currently, Pakistan spends approximately \$1.9 billion annually on importing food items, indicating a significant domestic market opportunity and potential for exports.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Pakistan introduced Corporate Agriculture Farming (CAF) in 2001-2002. The policy aims to enhance effi-

ciency, expand cultivation, and attract investment and technology, ultimately boosting revenue and exports. Corporate agriculture involves large-scale food production integrated with processing and marketing. This model contrasts with family farming, as it encompasses a broader range of agricultural service. The transition to corporate agriculture could transform Pakistan's agricultural landscape, addressing food security and sovereignty challenges while boosting economic growth. By fostering partnerships with foreign corporations and investing in local labor and technology, Pakistan can unlock its agricultural potential and enhance its global market position.

**CENTRAL PUNJAB**

**114th GWMC Board Of Directors Meeting Convened**

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: 114th meeting of GWMC Board of Directors chaired by Chairman Gujranwala Waste Management Company Chaudhry Kashif Ismail Gujjar, 10-point agenda was presented, 05 agenda was approved. According to the details,



114th the meeting was held at GWMC headquarters. Chairman Gujranwala Waste Management Company Kashif Ismail Gujjar, Chief Executive Officer, Shahid Abbas Jota, Board Member Imran Tarar, Company Secretary Khuram Shahzad, Chief Finance Officer Azhar Abbas Cheema, Senior Manager Operations Zameer Mushtaq, Manager Procurement

Ahmed Khurshid, Manager MIS Abdul Waheed and others of the company. (Approval of the minutes of the 111th, 112th and 113th meeting of the Board of Directors, review of the financial reports for the financial year 2023-24 and approval of recommendations, re-appointment of auditors of GWMC, supervision of outsourcing of Department of Local Gov-

**DC Muhammad Naeem Sindh Leads Meeting Of District Prisoners Health Council**

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A meeting of the District Prisoners Health Council was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindh. In this meeting, a detailed review of the health facilities available to prisoners in the district jail was conducted. CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mehmood Kamboh, MS DHQ Dr. Kashif Bajwa, Superintendent Jail, and other officers were present. The Deputy Commis-



sioner directed that medical facilities should be provided to prisoners in accordance with the SOPs issued by the Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Home Department. He emphasized that the District Health Authority should continue its support in providing medical facilities to prisoners in the district jail, and regular medical camps should be organized at the district jail.

# EDITORIAL

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

Sunday, October 27, 2024



## Let's make Pakistan and Pakistan Cricket great again!

Pakistan's stunning series victory against England on home soil marks a significant milestone for the nation's cricket team. After a gap of three years, the series win not only reinstates Pakistan's dominance on its home turf but also highlights the immense talent and resilience present in our cricketer ranks. To win a Test match is a formidable challenge, but to claim a series against a powerhouse like England is truly a testament to the skills and spirit of the team.

The win was spearheaded by the brilliant performances of spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan. Together, they ripped through

England's batting order, dismissing them for a mere 112 runs in the final Test. Noman's remarkable 6-42 and Sajid's 4-69



were instrumental in sealing the nine-wicket victory in Rawalpindi. This pair, who were brought in after a disheartening first Test loss, turned the series around, claiming a combined 39 wickets in the last two matches.

Special praise is due to Shan Masood, who led the side with confidence and ag-

gression. His quick-fire 23 not out, including a spectacular six to finish the match, underlined the attacking mindset that defined Pakistan's approach throughout the series.

This victory sends a clear message: Pakistan is not lacking in cricketering talent. Despite previous setbacks, the team's ability to regroup and overcome a tough opponent like England shows promise for the future of Pakistani cricket. With consistent performances, Pakistan is well on its way to reclaiming its rightful place among the cricketering elites. Congratulations to the team and the fans who stood by them — this is a moment to cherish.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Sacrifices of Palestinians and Lebanese people will bear fruit: Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi

By Dilraro Samo

TANDO ADAM: Quaid-e-Millat Jaffaria Pakistan, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, stated that sacrifices will bear fruit, and the brave Palestinians and Lebanese will not only emerge victorious but also see the liberation of Jerusalem. Expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of the prominent Lebanese religious and political figure, Syed Hashim Safi al-Din, he conveyed condolences to the martyr's family and the Lebanese people, emphasizing that during these challenging times, the people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. In his message of condolence, he further stated that the sacrifices of martyrs such as Ismail Haniyeh, Hassan Nasrallah, Yahya al-Sinwar, and



now Syed Hashim Safi al-Din, along with thousands of others, will ultimately lead to the freedom of Jerusalem and the land of the prophets. He asserted that the freedom struggle will soon reach its destination, with clouds of fear hanging over imperialism and Zionism. He added that under the patronage of imperialism, the illegal Zionist state has jeopardized global peace, committing severe violations of

## Badah's civil society protests against open sale of drugs



By Ibrahim Farooqui

BADAH: The youth in Badah are facing dire consequences as drug abuse escalates. Due to the incompetence of the administration and collusion with drug dealers, narcotics are now openly sold like vegetables in Badah and surrounding areas. This has led to thousands of young people, including children and teenagers, becoming addicted to this deadly disease, causing entire villages and cities to fall into despair. The people of Badah and neighboring villages are engulfed in

hopelessness. Despite multiple protests organized by political, social, and religious figures, the administration remains unresponsive. Community leaders, including Muhammad Ali Khushk and Mir Murtaza Gopang, expressed to the media that the youth are on the brink of destruction due to drug addiction. This rampant substance abuse has led many young people to commit thefts in their neighborhoods. The local people demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter, other Badah and neighboring villages are engulfed in

## IBA Sukkur launches tree plantation campaign, holds training session at GHS Wikia Sangi

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A ceremony titled "Green Sindh, Green Pakistan" was organized at Government High School Wikia Sangi, supervised by the IBA University. The event was attended by key officials, including Director of School Education (Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary) Region Larkana Syed Safdar Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Qureshi, Divisional Forest Officer Arshad Hubdar Kamario, District Compliance Manager Aijaz Ali Chandio, Headmaster Shazam Hussain Sangi,

Incharge Noor Ahmed Sangi, UC Vice Chairman Abdullah Sangi, and School Manager Farooq Ahmed, among many others, who participated in planting environmentally friendly trees. Guests emphasized the importance of trees for human life, noting that they help combat rising temperatures due to climate change and prevent environmental degradation. The school administration played a commendable role in this tree-planting initiative. Additionally, a training session for teachers from Government Boys Primary School Dhamra, Government Girls Primary School Dhamra, and

Government Boys Primary School Wikia Sangi was also held. The session focused on children's mental health, where trainer Rafiq Ahmed Bhangar discussed various issues faced by children who are anxious about attending school. He stressed the need for teachers to pay special attention to these children to foster their interest in learning. At the end of the training session, Director of School Education Syed Safdar Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Raja Qureshi, and other participating officials distributed certificates to the attending teachers.

## RHC Daulatpur takes out a polio awareness walk



By Aijaz Johkio

DAULATPUR: An event was held at the Rural Health Center Khanzada. On this occasion, the area in-charge of the polio campaign, Zulfikar Arain, Nauman Ali Khanzada, and lady health workers were only through cooperation can we protect innocent children.

from October 28 to November 3. The event was inaugurated by the special guest, Dr. Rabel Khanzada. On this occasion, the area in-charge of the polio campaign, Zulfikar Arain, Nauman Ali Khanzada, and lady health workers were only through cooperation can we protect innocent children.

ing to journalists, urged the people of Daulatpur to cooperate and ensure that their children under five receive polio vaccinations. Participants were informed about the dangers of the polio virus, during which the announcement for the anti-polio campaign was made. Dr. Rabel Khanzada, while speaking to journalists, urged the people of Daulatpur to cooperate and ensure that their children under five receive polio vaccinations. Participants were informed about the dangers of the polio virus, during which the announcement for the anti-polio campaign was made. Dr. Rabel Khanzada, while speaking to

## Shahdadpur Bar Association demands action against drug dealers

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADAPUR: In Shahdadpur, civil society members took to the streets to protest against social evils, particularly the drug trade. They demanded action from SSP Sanghar, warning that if police do not rectify the situation within 15 days, they will initiate a shut-down strike.



At a press conference, Shahdadpur Bar Association President Advocate Ghulam Mustafa Soomro, along with other activists, including Advocate Tariq Mehmood Arain, Advocate Fayaz Khaskheli, and local leaders, condemned the inaction of the police and SSP Sanghar for their silence regarding rising drug issues. The speakers highlighted that dangerous drugs like ice are being openly sold, leading to the deterioration of the hashish, gambling, and other illegal activities.

They noted an increase in crimes across the district, including opium, the deterioration of the hashish, gambling, and other illegal activities. They noted an increase in crimes across the district, including opium, the deterioration of the hashish, gambling, and other illegal activities.

## Funeral prayers of martyred policeman held with full honors in Shahdadkot



SHAHADKOT: Late last night, during an encounter with armed assailants, policeman Syed Gada Hussain Shah was martyred. His body was handed over to his family with full police honors. The funeral prayer was held at the Eidgah, where a salute was given to the martyred officer. The funeral and salute were attended by SSP Qam-

bar Shahdadkot Muhammad Kaleem Malik, DC Qambar Shahdadkot Sajad Haider Qadri, DSP Shahdadkot Sanauallah Siyal, SHO Akhtar Abro and Abdul Majid Narejo, along with hundreds of citizens. The atmosphere in Shahdadkot remains somber following the incident. SSP Qambar Shahdadkot Muhammad Kaleem Malik stated that the sacrifices of the martyred officer will not go in vain, and those involved in the crime will be brought to justice. Additionally, following the incident, police have conducted raids at various locations and made several arrests, the names of which are being kept confidential. —RT

## Badin Police continue crackdown against drug dealers

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the directives of SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir, a series of actions against drug dealers are being conducted across the district. According to details, Inspector Manzoor Ahmed Nuhri, the SHO of Pangrijo Police Station, along with his team, apprehended gutka sellers Dado Chandio and Dilraro Tangri, recovering 440 sachets from them. Additionally, Jamila Kand was arrested with six packets of gutka, various identity cards and 300 rupees in cash. At Kario Ghanwar Police Station, SHO Sub-Inspector Bilawal Khaskheli arrested gutka seller Aftab Shah, while his accomplice Razzak

Shah escaped. In a patrol operation at Khoski, Inspector Molchand Meghwar apprehended gutka seller Nadeem Sheikh along with 300 packets of gutka and registered a case. Finally, Inspector Ghulam Mustafa Aqilani, the SHO of Shaheed Fazil Rahu Police Station, arrested gutka seller Muhammad Ibrahim alias Dodo Jatvi during a patrol, and Ali Bhatti, along with his team, detained Waseem Dasti, recovering 880 Safina sachets from his possession.

## Naukot man protests against his disobedient sons

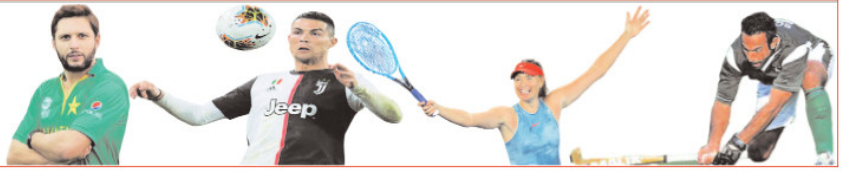


By Mushahid Nuhrio

NAUKOT: In Naukot, a peasant has staged a protest against his disobedient sons, who allegedly wish to take over the family land and have expelled him from his home, issuing life threats. Ghulam Mustafa Bhatti, a resident of village Fazal Bhanbhro, expressed his grievances before journalists, stating that his sons, Taj Muhammad, Ameen Muhammad, and Raza Muhammad, have become disobedient due to bad company. Under the influence of powerful individuals, they want to sell the land and take over the house.

When he refused, they threatened to demolish his home and issued death threats. He mentioned that his sons, in collusion with others, have already sold parts of the house and now want to sell the remaining land. After he refused, they repeatedly threatened him. He reported that when he sought justice at the local police station, the cops demanded a bribe, which he refused to pay, leading to further disregard for his complaint. Ghulam Mustafa has appealed to the SSP Mirpurkhas to take action against his sons and provide him with protection over the house.

# SPORTS



## PCB Chief Hails Unity And Teamwork As Keys To Pakistan's Triumph Over England



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has described the "much awaited" home series victory against England after a gap of three years result of unity and teamwork, pledging that top performers would be encouraged as players central contract to be given a final shape soon.

"Better late than never," said Naqvi after meeting the players celebrating their first Test series victory on home soil since 2021.

"I have stressed the teamwork from the very first day and today, we are witnessing the result. Our team has done hard work, fought well, and emerged victorious," he said and congratulated all players and management.

"It was a much needed victory for our team and nation," said the PCB chief and

also gave credit of the achievement to the board's bold decisions by giving opportunity to new players.

Naqvi also emphasised consistency of the team's performance in future.

He promised that the PCB would encourage top performers and players' central contracts would be finalised soon as "we need both young and experienced players".

During the meeting, Pakistan's red ball skipper Shan Masood gifted a shirt signed by winning players to Naqvi.

On the occasion, Naveed Akram Cheema, Pakistan men's cricket team manager, said that the PCB chairman has encouraged all players.

He also praised Naqvi for adopting fruitful decisions for the players and the team.—Agency

## Pakistan Shocks England, Secures Historic Home Test Series Win After Over Three Years

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's rawlings outclassed England's batting lineup on Saturday, sealing a 2-1 victory in the three-match Test series and marking a long-awaited home triumph.

The Green Shirts had been on the ascendancy since claiming a handy first-innings lead of 77 on a track where spinners from both sides dominated.



Noman Ali (6-42) and Sajid Khan (4-69) bundled out England for a paltry 112 in their second innings to leave Pakistan needing only 36 to win the series.

Pakistan lost the wicket of Saim Ayub before wrapping up victory on day three of the contest.

Resuming their second innings at 24-3, England col-

lapsed against Pakistan's lethal spin attack led by Noman and Sajid, who took all 10 wickets between them.

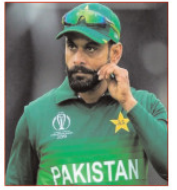
Joe Root was the top scorer with 33 in an otherwise dismal English performance on a spinning track. Pakistan swiftly chased down the target in just 31 overs, with skipper Shan Masood (23\*) sealing the win to clinch the three-match series.

During the match, Noman and Sajid claimed 19 of the 20 English wickets while Pakistan did not use their lone seamer Amir Jamal at all in the match in a stark indication of how spin-friendly the surface was. "Like London buses, they come to-

gether," said Masood while referring to their back-to-back wins in the series. "The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by a series win. It's special," he remarked. "To be here and standing as the winning team, it's the most special thing for us [...] So many characters in this series and everyone has chipped in," added the captain. Sajid, who finished with a 10-wicket match haul, was adjudged player of the series. He and Noman claimed 39 of the 40 English wickets in the last two Tests since their selection after the series opener. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Saud Shakeel was adjudged player of the match for hitting the lone hundred in the spin-dominated contest.—Agency

## Hafeez Applauds Sajid And Noman, Attributes Victory To New Selection Committee

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and team director Mohammad Hafeez has extended heartfelt congratulations to the national team for their impressive 2-1 series victory over England. Hafeez praised Pakistan's resilience and skill, which culminated in a dominant 9-wicket win in the series decider.



This series win marks a pivotal moment for Pakistan, who last won a home Test series over three and a half years ago. After a shaky start with a loss in the first Test, the national team rebounded impressively, a turnaround Hafeez attributed to the bold decisions by Pakistan's new selection panel. On social media, he shared his admiration for the team's comeback, emphasizing the positive impact of new selectors and applauding their commitment to make "strong decisions" and take responsibility.

"Congratulations team Pakistan on winning a home Test series after more than three years. Well done," Hafeez posted, adding that "Credit to new selectors to turn the table around. Making strong decisions & taking responsibility. Well done."

In a special acknowledgment,

the former all-rounder praised the standout domestic performers such as Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Kamran Ghulam, and Shan Masood, who have consistently proven themselves on the domestic circuit. He noted that these players not only shone during the series but also reaffirmed the importance of strong domestic foundations in Pakistan cricket.

"Two faces Sajid Khan & Noman Ali with star impactful performances brought home series win for Pakistan after more than 3 years. More importantly their performances exposed many faces..." suggesting the role of domestic excellence in maintaining competitive standards on the international stage.—Agency

## Nasser Hussain Lauds Pakistan's Tactics, Declares 'Bazball Kryptonite' Discovered



Former England captain Nasser Hussain has commended Pakistan for their impressive performance during their recent series triumph over England, declaring that the team has "found the kryptonite to Bazball." Hussain's remarks come in the wake of England's disappointing nine-wicket defeat, which occurred before lunch on the third day of the decisive Test match, where they were bowled out for a mere 112 runs.

"Pakistan clinched victory in a swift 19 balls, with captain Shan Masood hitting a spectacular six to seal the win. This decisive outcome followed England's remarkable first Test performance, where they posted a colossal score of 823 for seven declared on a flat Multan pitch. However, the team struggled on the spinning tracks in the latter two Tests, leading to their series loss.

In his analysis on Sky Sports, the former England skipper praised Pakistan for making necessary changes following their six-match losing streak, a period that included Masood's challenging tenure as captain.

"Congratulations to Pakistan for making that change. You felt they needed to - they lost six Tests in a row, Shan Masood himself had lost all six as captain, they were going nowhere, the fans and supporters were not happy," Hussain said.

"So they made a real, drastic change, new selectors, different pitches completely as in they used the Multan pitch again, complete turner, came here, made it turn and they found the kryptonite to Bazball," he added.

Hussain elaborated on the effectiveness of Pakistan's spinners, highlighting their skill in exploiting turning pitches.

"They have spinners of the highest quality. And they have players that play spin really well. So why wouldn't you play on turning pitches? And what's it done is it's exposed England when the ball does spin. When it spins and when it's gripping, England don't play spin as well or bowl spin as well as Pakistan," he stated. The former England skipper also raised concerns about England's performance throughout the series.—Agency

## Skipper Shan Masood Relishes Gritty, Hard-Fought Victory Against England

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan captain Shan Masood on Saturday heaped praise on his colleagues saying the national side showed tremendous character to register back-to-back victories against England and win their first Test series on home soil since 2021.



Coming from an innings defeat in the series opener, Pakistan levelled the series in Multan before arriving in Rawalpindi where they rolled out a raging turner.

For Pakistan, spin twins Noman Ali and Sajid Khan claimed 19 of the 20 English wickets to secure a nine-

wicket win that also secured their 2-1 series victory.

Expanding on the win, Masood said, "Like London buses, they come together. The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by a series win. It's special."

After losing the opener, Pakistan took a bold selection call by dropping three frontline players - batter Babar Azam and the pace

duo of Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi.

Sajid and Noman were brought in and the duo claimed 39 of the 40 English wickets in the last two Tests, apart from producing useful cameos with the bat, to vindicate the move.

Sajid cut his chin while batting on Friday and had to change his bloodied shirt but returned on Saturday to spin a web around the English batters. "For everyone to stand up and give their best means a lot," said Shan, who sealed Pakistan's victory with a six off England spinner Shoaib Bashir.—Agency

## India Stunned At Home, Loses Test Series To New Zealand For First Time In 12 Years

PUNE: India collapsed to a humiliating series defeat at home, their first for 12 years, when they were bowled out for 245 by New Zealand in their chase of 359 on the third day of the second test on Saturday as Mitchell Santner took six wickets.



Santner ended with 6-104 for a match haul of 13 to set up the historic win and it was his senior spin partner Ajaz Patel who picked up the last two Indian wickets, including Ravindra Jadeja for a defiant 42, to settle the contest.

It was a stunning defeat for India, who were dismantled by eight wickets in seamer-friendly conditions in the opening match at Bengaluru, as they suffered their first series loss on home soil since falling to England in 2012.

Their proud run of 18 successive home series wins since that 2-1 humbling was ended by the inspired Black Caps, who were by far the better side in both matches and will target a clean sweep in the finale at Mumbai from Friday.

India's highest successful run chase at home is the 387-4 they scored to beat England in Chennai in 2008 but any hopes of a similar effort

faded on the black-soil turner at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium where spinners wreaked havoc.

They made a blazing start as Yashvi Jaiswal snacked some spectacular boundaries, but his dismissal for 77 by Santner and Rishabh Pant's shocking run out for a duck after lunch left India in deep trouble at 127-4.

Santner, who had earlier removed Rohit Sharma for eight and Shubman Gill for 23, continued to torment India as the left-arm spinner trapped trump card Virat Kohli lbw for 17 and set the alarms blazing ringing in the home changing room.

Sarfraz Khan was unable to recreate his batting heroics from the opening match, perishing for nine after missing a low delivery from Santner to hand the bowler back-to-back five-wicket hauls.

The shoulders really dropped when Washington Sundar fell for 21 to Glenn Phillips late in the afternoon session and Santner had Ravichandran Ashwin caught for a solid 18 as India were staring down the barrel at 206-8.—Agency

## ATP Stunner: Ben Shelton Overthrows Andrey Rublev To Advance To Basel Semis

Sixth-seeded Ben Shelton won all eight break points in the match and emerged with a 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-4 upset of top-seeded Russian Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals of the Swiss Indoors Basel.



Shelton saved all six break points he faced and converted each of his two break chances -- one to end the first set, the other for a 5-4 lead in the third set. He closed out the match with a service-game win at love.

Next up for Shelton is a semifinal match against seventh-seeded Arthur Fils of France, who beat third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-6 (5), 6-3. Fils never faced a break point in the match.

The other semifinal will feature fourth-seeded Holger Rune of Denmark and Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France. Rune downed Belgium's David Goffin 6-2, 6-4, and France's Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard edged Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-7 (7), 6-3, 7-6 (3).

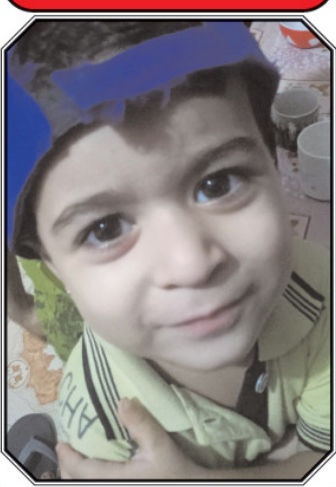
Sixth-seeded Lorenzo Musetti of Italy rallied for a 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over top-seeded Alexander Zverev of Germany in the quarterfinals at Vienna 6-1, 6-4.—Agency

Down 3-0 in the second-set tiebreaker and on the verge of being eliminated, Musetti won the next three points and eventually leveled the match. He then took the first three games of the final set to pull away.

Seventh-seeded Jack Draper of Great Britain will oppose Musetti in the semifinals after defeating the Czech Republic's Tomas Machac 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Second-seeded Alex de Minaur of Australia registered a comeback against the Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4. In the semifinals, de Minaur will face Russia's Karen Khachanov, who routed Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-1, 6-4.—Agency

## Kids' Corner



Name: Zeeshan Zoya Junejo  
Location: Matli  
Cell# 0300-3001894

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

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Selena Gomez Shares Vital Advice For Those Feeling Isolated



Selena Gomez shared a rare insight on companionship and having a person you can put trust on.

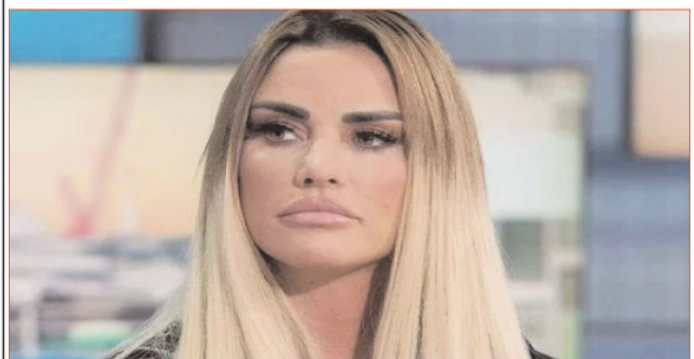
On Thursday, October 24, at the Rare Impact Fund Benefit at Studios West in Los Angeles, the Calm Down singer opened up about her regime of protecting her mental health.

"Try not to isolate," Gomez told People Magazine exclusively.

"She went on to say, 'I think it's important to have moments alone. But when you isolate, sometimes those feelings can just stay bottled up.'"

The Only Murders in

## Katie Price Opens Up About Her 'Biggest' Career Regret In A Candid Throwback Interview



Katie Price revealed her major career move that she regrets in a throwback interview.

"I don't watch it any more. It's all a big con. We'll never win it again, will we?"

Her remarks hint at the model's participation in the live TV show Eurovision: Making Your Mind Up.

She went on to say, "I sounded awful on the night. I know I'd have qualified if it hadn't come out that I was pregnant."

In the interview with Metro back in 2012, the mother-of-five was asked what the biggest regrets in her career was.

"Eurovision," the 46-year-old former model responded.

She went on to say, "I voted for which performer they wanted to represent the UK for the 2005 contest in Kyiv, Ukraine."

Katie, who donned a hot-pink rubber catsuit while heavily pregnant, sang Not Just Anybody, written by professionals behind hits including Darius's Colourblind.

The model, who has had a staggering 17 breast augmentations, came second in the contest, losing to Javine Hylton, and received 101 points in the contest.

Moreover, Katie is dating 31-year-old Married at First Sight star JJ Slater.

She was previously married to Kieran Hayler, who was nine years younger than her. Price's second husband Alex Reid was just three years older than her.



# METRO KARACHI



## Public Set To Gain From 26th Amendment: Agha Siraj

KARACHI: Former Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani announced that the public will be the primary beneficiary of the 26th amendment. Speaking to the media outside the accountability court on Saturday, he congratulated the people on its approval, praising Bilawal Bhutto for continuing the legacy of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. Durrani likened the PPP chairman's efforts for the amendment to the political struggles of Benazir and Zulfikar Ali



Bhutto, stating that the amendment will expedite the hearing of long-pending cases.—RT

## Murad Approves 500 Electric Buses For Karachi, 300 For Other Sindh Divisions

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved a project to introduce 500 electric buses in Karachi and 300 diesel-hybrid buses across five divisions of Sindh, with 60 buses allocated to each division.

During a meeting at CM House with provincial ministers and officials, Shah emphasized the need for modernizing Karachi's public transport system, which is struggling to cope with the city's growing population and outdated vehicles. Transport Minister Sharjeel Memon high-



lighted the initiative to enhance urban mobility, improve the commuter experience, and reduce air pollution. In addition to the electric buses, the meeting discussed procuring 300 elec-

tric and diesel-hybrid buses for intercity transportation to connect divisional headquarters. Shah stressed the importance of providing cost-effective and safe transport options to the public.

The Chief Minister also addressed the Yellow Line BRT project, which aims to establish a 21-kilometer corridor from Dawood Chowrangi to Numaish, and directed that feasibility studies for this and other initiatives be completed by the end of November. Further, Shah reviewed the West Karachi Recycled Water Project, which will treat wastewater for industrial use, and the TP-4 wastewater treatment project, both of which are in various stages of planning and funding. Additionally, he discussed the potential of coal gasification technology to address energy needs and directed the Energy Department to develop a project proposal. The meeting concluded with plans to explore advanced agricultural technologies to improve farming in arid regions of Sindh.—RT

## KE intensifies drive against illegal power connections



**By Asif Qureshi**  
KARACHI: K-Electric Bin Qasim has intensified its campaign to cut illegal connections in various areas, warning the public that anyone who installs such connections will face strict legal action, including the filing of FIRs. GM K-Electric Khalid Mustafa Tunio stated that signifi-

cant actions have been taken in Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension, where illegal connections at hotels, wedding halls, and homes have been cut, and wires confiscated. He noted that K-Electric has freed Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension from load shedding, but some elements are obstructing the provision of services to the public. Khalid Mustafa Tunio further explained that the campaign began in Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension, and wherever reports of illegal connections are received, action will be taken. He urged the public to install their meters as soon as possible to rid themselves of illegal connections and live peacefully in their homes.

## Hisaar Foundation Closes Year With Notable Achievements



KARACHI: Hisaar Foundation concluded its year on a high note during its recent Annual General Meeting, attended by board members, council members, and staff.

The governors' report showcased the Foundation's significant accomplishments, including surpassing project and fundraising targets. Key highlights included the deployment of innovative hand-operated ultrafiltration systems in remote areas, the successful 6th Karachi International Water Conference, and the upcoming launch of the National Water Panel on a global scale in November 2024. The Adopt a School program gained momentum, and the Community Ponds initiative was adopted by the Ministry of Climate Change through the Living Indus initiative.

A standout achievement was the completion of the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute's grey structure, despite inflationary pressures, with Masters courses already underway. For two decades, Hisaar Foundation has established itself as a global leader in the water sector, earning respect for its contributions to combating climate change. Looking ahead, Hisaar Foundation is committed to sustainable water management and ensuring access to clean water for all, continuing its essential work to address Pakistan's pressing water challenges through innovative and community-driven solutions.—RT

**REGIONAL TIMES**

# NATIONAL

## Visitation Ban Lifted At Adiala Jail For Prisoners

RAWALPINDI: The ban on prisoner visits at Adiala jail has been lifted, allowing all meetings to resume on a regular schedule, sources within the facility confirmed to media on Saturday.

The restriction, initially imposed on October 4, was implemented due to heightened security concerns following a potential terrorist threat and subsequent drills at the facility.

Adiala jail authorities where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan is currently detained, had extended the restriction on all visits until October 25.

This is the same facility



where Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, was held until her release on bail two days ago, per Islamabad High Court (IHC) orders.

With the ban now lifted, sources state that all prisoners, including high-profile individuals, may again receive visitors.

The visitation ban had stirred discontent within the IHC.—RT/Agency

## SPLA stresses need for STR implementation, promotions in college education

**By Asif Qureshi**  
KARACHI: In Karachi, members of the Sindh Professors and Lecturers Association (SPLA) have raised serious concerns regarding the lack of attention to the issues faced by college educators. They highlighted that the Student-Teacher Ratio (STR) needs to be improved to enhance educational quality and to implement the Sindh government's policy of education for all. According to

the association's senior leaders, including Professor Kareem Ahmed Narejo and Professor Aziz Memon, there has been no progress on the promotions for Assistant Professors for over two years, leading many educators to retire after only one promotion. Despite the working papers for promotions being prepared six months ago, delays caused by certain officials in the College Education Department have prevented these cases from being sent to the Provincial Selection Board. The SPLA leaders expressed their disappointment over the prolonged stagnation in the careers of lecturers, particularly female lecturers and Physical Education Directors, who have been waiting for promotions since their appointments in 2012. They stressed the need for immediate action to prevent further frustration among educators, which negatively impacts their teaching performance.

## Sindh CM: No Deal Behind Release Of Bushra Bibi And Imran Khan's Sisters



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah stated on Saturday that he does not view the release of former first lady Bushra Bibi and Imran Khan's sisters, Aleema and Uzma Khan, as part of any deal. In a media briefing, he emphasized that politicians should not interfere in judicial matters and acknowledge the right to peaceful protest, provided it follows proper procedure. Regarding the recent clash between Sindh police and Rawadadi March organizers, he confirmed receipt of an inquiry report and insisted that anyone who broke the law must be held accountable, noting that police are in a difficult position that necessitates action.—RT

## Maryam Aurangzeb: Eliminating Smog In Lahore Will Take 8 to 10 Years

LAHORE: Punjab's Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb has addressed the issue of air pollution in Lahore, urging citizens to take action against smog. She emphasized that despite significant measures, it would take eight to ten years to eliminate smog from the city. In a press conference regarding the Anti-Smog Action Plan, Aurangzeb highlighted that certain hotspots in Lahore are plagued by methane clouds and heat islands.

She mentioned that out of 45,000 motorcycles in the city, 1,800 are emitting smoke, along with one hundred thousand vehicles, 1,200 kilns, and 60,800 industrial units all while the city supports a population of 15 million. Aurangzeb pointed out that Lahore has 275 days of unhealthy Air Quality Index (AQI) levels throughout the year, with temperatures rising by 3.2 degrees Celsius. She called on Lahore's residents to declare war against smog, acknowledging that individual and collective efforts would still require 8 to 10 years to see results.

She clarified that only 30% of the smog in Lahore originates from India, while the remaining 70% is produced locally.

The senior minister also noted that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has been implementing a multi-sector mitigation action plan for the past six months, with regulations and awareness campaigns underway.

She revealed that 700 kilns have been demolished in the province, with 212 in Lahore alone, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy towards emissions. The Environmental Protection Department has conducted 15,000 visits to industrial units, sealing 64 mills and demolishing 152 factories.

To combat pollution, the government is promoting efficient waste disposal practices among farmers and has filed over 400 FIRs against those burning crop residue. Targeted anti-smog squads are operating in affected areas, monitoring vehicle emissions, and ensuring



that no smoky vehicles enter Lahore without proper fitness certificates. The cabinet recently decided to clamp all smoke-emitting vehicles in Lahore, with efforts being made to enhance the capacity of the Environmental Protection Agency.—RT/Agency

## TEXPO 2024: Seminar Highlights Sustainability In SMEs



KARACHI: On the third day of TEXPO 2024, a notable seminar titled "Smart Moves: Transforming SMEs into Green Powerhouses" emphasized sustainability in the textile sector. The event featured presentations from international and local experts on transforming small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into environmentally responsible entities, addressing rising global compliance demands.

Altan, President of the International Apparel Federation, shared insights on "Greening the Apparel Industry," focusing on global trends and strategies to minimize the environmental impact of textile manufacturing.

A panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Omar Hameed, Pakistan's Economic Minister in Brussels, included industry leaders like Mr. Amir Chottani, CEO of Chottani Industries, and Dr. Tayyab Naveed, Head of Innovation at UMT. They explored the integration of green practices in the textile sector, stressing the need for collaboration between industry and academia.

The seminar drew over 150 participants from trade bodies, the textile community, and academia, highlighting the importance of sustainable transformation. The event concluded with Ms. Rafia Syed, Director General of Punjab TDAP, presenting shields to distinguished contributors. TEXPO 2024 remains a key platform for promoting sustainability in Pakistan's textile industry, fostering discussions that encourage greener and more resilient SMEs.—RT

## Czech Ambassador Engages With State Minister Fahd Haroon On Digital Media Collaboration



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ladislav Steinhübel, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission Michaela Chrtová, met with Fahd Haroon, Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, to explore mutual interests in digital media and public communication. The discussions focused on potential collaborations in digital innovation, cybersecurity, and technology-driven communication. Mr. Haroon highlighted Pakistan's initiatives in digital media, and both parties expressed a commitment to strengthening bilateral digital ties. They reaffirmed their dedication to fostering collaboration for sustainable growth in the digital sector.—RT

## SHC Orders MDCAT Re-Test Within Four Weeks Amid Irregularities Scandal

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court, led by Justice Salahuddin Panhwar, has ordered a re-conduct of the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) within four weeks due to concerns over exam irregularities. During the hearing, the court criticized the effectiveness of an investigative committee and highlighted flaws in the examination system, which reportedly in-



involved around 40 individuals. Justice Panhwar stressed the need to protect students from uncertainty, stating, "No games should be played with their fu-

## DIRECTORATE OF FOOD SINDH, KARACHI

Mr. Sabih Ur Rehman Mahesor, Food Supervisor (BPS-09), District Kamber-Shahdadkot  
Mr. Asadullah Budh, Food Supervisor (BPS-09), District Kamber-Shahdadkot

**SUBJECT: FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE**

**WHEREAS**, Show Cause Notices of even number dated 02.09.2024 under (E & D) Rules, 1973 was issued to M/s Sabih Ur Rehman & Asadullah Budh, Food Supervisors (BS-09), District Kamber-Shahdadkot on the allegations that they are involved in misappropriation/shortages of 200,000 M. Tons of wheat at WPC Kot Lal Bux Mahesor and involved in misappropriation/shortages of 87,886 M. Tons of wheat at WPC Gaji Khuhawar Crop-2021-22, District Kamber-Shahdadkot, they were failed to submit reply to the Show Cause Notices. Subsequently they were served with a Final Show Cause Notices dated 21.06.2023 under Sindh Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 1973, they are submit reply to the Show Cause Notice/Final Show Cause Notice and they were called for personal hearing on 18.10.2024, but they are failed to appear before the Authority.

**AND WHEREAS**, I am satisfied that the charges of misconduct, during his posting as Incharge WPCs Kot Lal Bux Mahesor, WPC Gaji Khuhawar Crop-2021-22, District Kamber-Shahdadkot, have been proved against him.

**HOWEVER**, with a view to meeting the ends of Justice and giving fair chance of defense, they are hereby finally asked to show cause, within (07) days as to why any of the penalties under Sindh Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 1973 should not be imposed upon them. They may also intimate in writing whether they would like to be heard in person or not.

(MUHAMMAD IN BALGCH)  
DIRECTOR FOOD, SINDH  
AUTHORITY  
INF / KRY NO: 3358/24

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

All would live long, but none would be old.

—Benjamin Franklin

## CJP Afridi Reshapes Judges Committee On His First Day To Restore Justice Akhtar

ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Saturday reconstituted the SC Practice and Procedure Committee, bringing back Justice Munib Akhtar to the three-member key panel established for the purpose of fixing cases and forming benches.

The development comes hours after Justice Afridi was sworn in as Pakistan's 30th chief justice earlier today, succeeding Justice Qazi Faez Isa as the top judge.

According to a notification, the chief justice will head the special bench formed by the judges committee under the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. He also included senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Akhtar to the judges' committee.

On September 20, President Asif Ali Zardari approved the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024, allowing the CJP to pick any



Justice of the apex court to be the third member of the body.

Following Justice Akhtar's removal, Justice Afridi wrote a letter to the secretary of the Supreme Court, expressing concerns over the ordinance.

Justice Mansoor, in his letter, noted that no reasons were given as to why the seated senior most judge, Justice Akhtar, was removed from the composition of the committee. "Furthermore, no reasons were given why the next senior most judge was ignored and instead, the fourth senior most judge was nominated as a member of

the Committee." "Such unfortunate cherry picking and undemocratic display of one-man show are precisely what the Act tried to discourage and replace a stance that was upheld by the Full Court Bench of this Court in Raja Amer," he wrote.

Justice Shah had also refused to become a member of special bench, stating he was unable to participate in the bench over his concerns regarding amendments to the practice law via ordinance.

In his October 23 letter, the senior judge also made his participation in the special bench conditional, saying that "until the full court bench determined the constitutional validity of the promulgation of the ordinance as well as of the amendments made thereby or the judges of the SC resolve to act upon these amendments in a full court meeting pending adjudication upon the constitutionality thereof, or the earlier committee comprising

the HCJP and two senior most judges is restored, I will not participate in special benches formed by the new committee and will only attend sittings of the regular benches to hear the cases of ordinary litigants in the larger public interest."

Responding to Justice Shah's letter, then-CJP Isa had said legally he could not be asked about why he nominated a judge as the committee's third member. Still, the then chief justice had provided the reasons for his action, saying he did it because he "always advocated accountability and transparency".

Moreover, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was also reconstituted with CJP Afridi becoming the chairman. Earlier, the newly-appointed top judge was not part of the SJC.

The council also includes Justice Mansoor, Justice Akhtar and chief justices of the high courts.—RT/Agency

## 20 British MPs Urge Action For Imran's Release, Pressing UK Government

LONDON: As many as 20 British parliamentarians from cross-party have urged UK's Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP to call for Imran Khan's release from Adiala Jail and engage with the Pakistani government.

The letter has been written by Kim Johnson, MP for Liverpool Riverside, on Imran Khan's adviser on International Affairs Zulfi Bukhari's request and signed by members of both the Commons and the Lords, on all parties.

The signatories are Kim Johnson MP, Paula Barker MP, Ansana Begum MP, Liam Byrne MP, Rosie Duffield MP, Gill Furniss MP, Paulette Hamilton MP, Peter Lamb MP, Andy McDonald MP, Abtism Mohamed MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Zarah Sultana MP, Steve Witherden MP, Nadia Whittome MP, Baroness Jane Bawell, Baroness Christine Blower, Lord Peter Hain, Lord John Henty and Lord Todeanfel.

It says: "We are writing with grave concern about the continued detention of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. As you will know, Mr Khan was imprisoned in 2023 in a move which the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to discourage him from running for political office. Thus, from the outset, that prosecution was not grounded in law and was reportedly instrumentalised for a political purpose."



The letter to Lammy said: "As a result, Mr Khan's ongoing detention represents a grave threat to democracy in the country. Indeed, there has been speculation that his fate will likely be decided by a military court, which would represent a worrying and completely illegal escalation. Following a recent review of Mr Khan's case, Amnesty International has found that there has been a 'pattern of weaponisation of the legal system to keep Imran Khan under detention and away from all political activity'."

They have also observed that in at least three trials Khan has not been allowed adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence. It has become apparent that the number of cases against the jailed PTI founder are now "consistent with a pattern of misuse of the justice system in Pakistan to intimidate, harass and target political opposition leaders — while inflicting upon the enshrined independence of the judiciary."

It further said the recently passed 26th Constitutional Amendment would take powers, such as banning po-

litical parties or handling cases involving federal and provincial governments, away from the Supreme Court. "This would constitute an assault on the principle of a separation of powers codified in the country's Constitution."

It adds: "Meanwhile, in recent weeks, there has been further anti-democratic clampdowns on Mr Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Party, which has seen the arrest of parliamentarians and high-profile activists. Despite gaining prior permission to hold a rally in Islamabad, it appears that Pakistani authorities unfairly invoked a new Public Order Act to detain PTI supporters."

"Parliamentarians across this House will agree that the political precedent this is setting is dangerous. As such, Mr Khan must be immediately released from pre-trial detention. As a country, we have a duty to stand up for human rights, democracy and international law everywhere. We therefore urge you to make representations to the Pakistani government to secure Mr Khan's safe release."—RT/Agency

## IMF Predicts Pakistan's Inflation To Plummet To 10.6% by 2025

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that Pakistan's inflation rate, which dropped from 29% to 12.6% this year, will further decline to 10.6% by 2025, according to IMF's Director for the Middle East and Central Asia, Jihad Azour.

In a recent statement on Pakistan's economic outlook, Azour remarked that Pakistan's economy is expected to grow at a rate of 3.2% in the 2024-25 fiscal year, an improvement that signals economic recovery.

Azour emphasised that Pakistan's reform package aims to achieve several key objectives, including fiscal stability, increased revenue, and reduced deficits. He highlighted that improvements in tax collection and addressing systemic issues could boost Pakistan's revenue.

He also noted that reforms within state-owned enterprises remain a priority, which could open more opportunities for the private sector, attract foreign investment, and strengthen Pakistan's export potential.

The IMF official further explained that creating a favourable environment for additional investment in Pakistan is essential. Current fiscal policies, he said, are helping reduce inflationary



pressures and facilitate capital flows, easing the burden on Pakistan's current account. Azour expressed optimism that these measures would stabilise the economy, mitigate financial risks, and enhance the energy sector.

Moreover, Pakistan is targeting around \$1 billion in a formal request for funding from the IMF facility that helps low and middle-income countries mitigate climate risk, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurang told Reuters.

"We have formally requested to be considered for this facility," the minister said in an interview on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank autumn meetings in Washington.

The International Monetary Fund had already agreed to a \$7 billion bailout for

Pakistan but has further funding available via its Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST). The RST, created in 2022, provides long-term concessional cash for climate-related spending, such as adaptation and transitioning to cleaner energy.

"We think we are a very good candidate to be considered for a facility like this," Aurangzeb said, adding that they aim to conclude the request, in all areas of mutual benefit.

Both the deputy prime ministers/foreign ministers met on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

They underscored the great potential in further deepening ties between

## Dollar Dar And New Zealand Agree To Strengthen Economic Ties



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his New Zealand counterpart Winston Peters on Saturday agreed to jointly explore avenues of deepening ties between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Foreign Minister Peters also emphasized the need of enhancing bilateral trade relations and to broaden cooperation in trade and investment, education and people-to-people contacts. Thanking New Zealand for its endorsement of Pakistan's various bids and initiatives at the UN, deputy PM/ FM Dar shared that both the countries were tied together by shared legacy and common ethos and have common stakes in reinforcing effective multilateralism, democracy and respect for human dignity.—RT/Agency

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Foreign Minister Peters also emphasized the need of enhancing bilateral trade relations and to broaden cooperation in trade and investment, education and people-to-people contacts. Thanking New Zealand for its endorsement of Pakistan's various bids and initiatives at the UN, deputy PM/ FM Dar shared that both the countries were tied together by shared legacy and common ethos and have common stakes in reinforcing effective multilateralism, democracy and respect for human dignity.—RT/Agency

## Islamabad Seeks Expanded Currency Swap Agreement With China

WASHINGTON DC: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb requested the Chinese government to raise the limits under the Currency Swap Agreement to CNY 40 billion, media reported.

In a meeting with China's Vice Minister of Finance Liao Min in Washington DC, Muhammad Aurangzeb also reaffirmed to boost all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, a press statement issued here said.

The finance minister also thanked the Government of China for its unwavering support to Pakistan's socio-economic development and assistance in securing the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Muhammad Aurangzeb said that Pakistan is eager to learn from China's experience in economic reforms. He also welcomed Chinese automobile company BYD's decision to introduce electric vehicles in Pakistan.

The finance minister apprised the Chinese side that Pakistan aims to launch an inaugural Panda bond in the Chinese market to diversify its financing base.

He committed to providing foolproof security to Chinese workers. Shared that the majority of Chinese companies are interested in ex-



panding their investments and increasing employment opportunities in Pakistan.

Both sides emphasised the need for online payment settlements and integration of the two countries' payment systems," the statement read.

Separately, the finance minister met with Regional President for VISA Andrew Torre appreciated its commitment to modernising Pakistan's payments ecosystem, including support for domestic payment players like iLink.

He commended Visa's efforts in promoting financial inclusion and supporting entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

The finance minister expressed satisfaction over Visa's launch of the Financial Inclusion Card in partnership with Meezan Bank.

Both parties agreed on the importance of offering more routing choices for clients and ensuring a level

transaction processing.

Meanwhile, Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Business of Natix Mohammad Kallala called on Muhammad Aurangzeb.

During the meeting, he briefed the finance minister on Natix's operations and strong presence in infrastructure, renewables, transportation, aviation, telecom and tech sectors.

The two discussed opportunities for partnership with Gulf investors, particularly from Saudi Arabia, to provide financing and advisory support for investments into Pakistan.

Mohammad Kallala shared that the Bank aims to collaborate with a select group of leading Pakistani companies to facilitate these investments.

Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining continued engagement in the future.—RT/Agency

## Hafiz Naeem: Israel, Backed By US, Aims To Ignite Regional War

KARACHI: Ameer Jama'at-e-Islami (JI), Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, stated that Israel, with US support, is aiming to impose war on the entire region.

Responding to the Israeli airstrikes on Iran, Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman condemned the attacks, labelling them as highly reprehensible.

He asserted that Israel, under American patronage, seeks to drag the entire region into conflict.

In a statement shared on social media, the JI leader remarked that the airstrike on Iran reflects the expansionist mindset of an illegitimate state.

He added that since the establishment of the Zionist state, the Middle East has been plagued by instability and turmoil. To address this threat, Muslim countries must unite.

Israel conducted airstrikes on Iranian military sites early Saturday, escalating tensions between the rival nations after a recent Iranian missile strike.

Residents in Tehran reported multiple explosions during the night, with state-run media initially attributing the blasts to air defence systems. At least seven load



explosions shook the area, a Tehran resident said.

Following the strikes, Iran's civil aviation authority closed the country's airspace until further notice, with flight tracking data showing several civilian planes rerouting around Tehran.

Israel's military statement confirmed the airstrikes, calling them "precise" operations targeting Iranian military assets.

Saudi Arabia has condemned Israel's recent airstrikes on Iran, calling them a "violation of Iranian sovereignty" and a breach of international law.

In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry de-

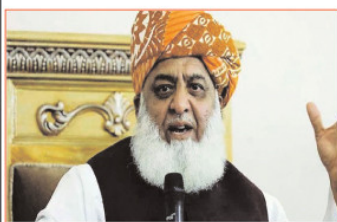
nounced the early-morning attacks as a "serious violation" of Iran's territorial integrity and a disregard for international norms.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar called for de-escalation, both emphasising diplomacy as the preferred path forward.

The UAE's Foreign Ministry also highlighted the importance of reducing tensions to maintain regional stability.

Syria's Foreign Ministry additionally expressed solidarity with Iran, affirming Iran's right to protect its territory and citizens amidst the escalation.—RT/Agency

## Fazl Reveals Key Clauses Cut From New Constitutional Draft



ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said several clauses of the constitutional amendment draft were objectionable for us, media reported on Saturday.

"We ensured removal of these clauses one by one in talks," JUI chief said.

He said the government had presented 56 clauses in its draft of the constitutional amendment, which later reduced to 22 clauses. "We added five clauses from our side and the Senate, and the National Assembly passed the draft of 27 clauses amendment"

Fazlur Rehman added.—RT/Agency

opposition and will play the role of opposition in future," JUI leader said.

He said everyone has seen that we kept our differences in limits.

"May Allah grants the new Chief Justice success in performing his responsibilities," he said.

He said the issue of interest has been the principled policy. "The appeal if remains undecided within a year, it will be decided in the Sharia Court," he said.

"The interest-based business will come to an end in every sector by January 2028," Fazlur Rehman added.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Appeals To Qatar To Postpone Five LNG Cargoes To 2026

ISLAMABAD: After the reduction in the RLNG consumption, Pakistan has formally asked Qatar for the reschedule of five LNG cargoes that are to be imported in the calendar year 2025, and now the country would get those in 2026 under the flexible clause, a senior official of Ministry of Energy told media. "However, authorities are also trying to firm up the plan to shelve import of 13 more LNG cargoes that are to arrive in Pakistan in 2025, or Qatar may halt the export of 13 cargoes to Pakistan," the official said. The official added: "The RLNG consumption has now started tumbling by 150 million cubic feet (MMCF) in a month, which means that the



have started brainstorming on how to tackle the issue of 13 cargoes, keeping in view the agreements. Pakistan imports 108 LNG cargoes from Qatar under two GIG agreements. The country, under the terms, imports nine LNG vessels a month (five cargoes a month under 13.37% of the Brent and 4 cargoes under 10.2% of the Brent). One cargo is imported through a term agreement with the ENI. This is how the country imports 10 LNG cargoes a month in toto. However, under the agreements, the official said, there is no clause under which 13 more cargoes could be halted by Qatar as a supplier or importer allows Pakistan to sell 13 cargoes in the open market.—RT/Agency