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NATIONAL

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SPORTS

Asif Afridi Makes History With Stunning Five-Wicket Haul on Test Debut Against South Africa

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KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 278 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Thursday, October 23, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 28, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Security Forces Obliterate Terror Cell, Kill Six Militants In Dalbandin Operation

The Pakistan Armed Forces have killed six Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists in the Dalbandin area of district Chagai in Balochistan, according to security sources.

Security forces launched a timely and precise operation after tracking the formation hiding in the mountains through aerial reconnaissance, they added.

The operation completely dismantled the formation, reducing threats to forces and civilians, security sources said.

In a separate operation in Bajaur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan forces eliminated hideouts and tunnels of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) alias Fitna al-Khawarij.

A terrorist was killed in an intense fire exchange when security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation at a cave in Shahi Tangi forest, security sources said.

Several others fled the area after suffering injuries during the exchange of fire.

During the operation, Pakistan forces also recovered weapons, explosive materials and communication equipment used by the terrorists.

Pakistan has witnessed an alarming rise in cross-border terror incidents, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021.—RT/Agency

Some Multinationals Exit, New Ones Enter As Pakistan Clears $4bn Backlog: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that while some multinational companies have exited Pakistan, several new investors are entering the market, reflecting renewed investor confidence amid signs of macroeconomic stability.

Speaking on a media programme, the finance minister said the departure of certain foreign firms should not be seen as a sign of distress.

"Such decisions are often part of global corporate strategies… if some companies are leaving, new ones are also arriving, particularly in the energy and digital services sectors," he noted.

Aurangzeb admitted that some challenges for foreign

investors persist, such as delays in repatriating dividends, but Pakistan has made significant progress. "As economic stability has returned, we have cleared $4 billion of backlog in the last two years," he said.

The minister acknowledged that climate change is impacting Pakistan's economy, noting that the frequency of floods and smog events has increased.

"Before the recent floods, GDP growth was projected at 4.2%, but at least 0.4 to 0.5 percentage points will now be shaved off due to flood-related damage, of which 80% occurred in Punjab's agriculture sector, particularly rice and cotton," he said.

Aurangzeb said the government was focused on self-reliance, adding that relief and rescue operations were being conducted from domestic resources.

"We are standing on our feet today. Reconstruction might require global support, but rescue and relief are entirely managed through local means," he said.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had instructed the Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik to prepare a 300-day plan for climate resilience, noting that the next monsoon may arrive two weeks earlier than usual.

Highlighting fiscal progress, Aurangzeb said tax collection from wholesalers and retailers rose by 100% last year, with additional recovery made from the sugar, cement, and tobacco industries.

He added that income tax relief had been extended to the lower and middle-income salaried classes, with plans to expand it to other segments.

He also confirmed that the government is moving towards deregulation of wheat and sugar prices, with a comprehensive wheat deregulation policy expected in 2026, which would end inter-provincial movement restrictions.He added that the World Bank had appreciated Pakistan's tax reform presentation, and Egypt's finance minister had offered to send a team for knowledge-sharing.—RT/Agency

Trump Claims He Warned Modi: 'War With Pakistan Must Never Happen'

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he had told Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that there should be no war with Pakistan, stressing that he had helped avert several conflicts through diplomacy and trade pressure.Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office during Diwali celebrations, Trump extended his "warmest wishes to the people of India" and said he had "just spoken to your Prime Minister today." He described the conversation as "great" and said, "We talked about trade... He's very interested in that."Trump added that they also discussed avoiding conflict, saying, "Although we did talk a little while ago about let's have no wars with Pakistan." He noted the role of commerce in easing tensions: "The fact that trade was involved, I was able to talk about that."The US president emphasised the outcome, saying, "And we have no war with Pakistan and India. That was a very, very good thing." He concluded by praising Modi personally: "He's a great person, and he's become a great friend of mine over the years."The US president claimed he had prevented eight wars so far through what he described as "deals and trade," including one between Pakistan and India.

"During the Pakistan-India conflict, seven planes were shot down," Trump said. "I called both countries and told them that if they went to war, the United States would stop trading with them. Within 24 hours, they called back and said they didn't want to fight."—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah Warns PTI Of 'Iron-Fisted Response' If March On Islamabad Resumes

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has warned that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will face a stricter response than before if it attempts to march toward Islamabad.

Speaking on media talk show, Rana Sanaullah said, "If the PTI arrives in Islamabad, it will get a stricter response. They will not be allowed to cross the Attock Bridge." He added that this time, the government would ensure comprehensive security arrangements to prevent any breach similar to previous incidents.

Commenting on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's recent speech, the PML-N leader said the

CM is "now running pillar to post for a meeting with Imran Khan," questioning why such a meeting should be allowed.

Rana Sanaullah further remarked that there is no expectation of any positive outcome from Sohail Afridi, criticizing his conduct and statements against the federal government.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Navy Smashes $972 Million Narcotics Haul In Massive Arabian Sea Operation

KARACHI: In one of the largest anti-narcotics operations in recent years, the Pakistan Navy successfully seized narcotics worth over $972 million (approximately Rs270 billion) during a major intelligence-based operation in the Arabian Sea. According to a statement issued by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)—a joint maritime coalition of several nations including the United States—the Pakistan Navy intercepted two suspicious boats and recovered a massive cache of illicit drugs.

The seized narcotics included two tons of crystal meth, 350 kilograms of ice, and 50 kilograms of cocaine, making it one of the most successful counter-narcotics operations conducted in regional waters. The operation was executed by PNS Yarmook, which is part of the Saudi-led Combined Task

Force 150, responsible for ensuring maritime security and preventing smuggling in the Indian Ocean region.

Officials from the Pakistan Navy stated that the operation was carried out based on credible intelligence about the movement of drug-laden vessels operating in the high seas. Swift response and coordinated action by naval personnel ensured the complete capture of both boats and the recovery of all illegal substances on board.The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and the Royal Saudi Navy commended the Pakistan Navy for its professionalism and commitment to global maritime security. Saudi Royal Navy Commander Fahad Al-Juwaid described the successful mission as "an outstanding example of international cooperation against transnational crime."A Pakistan Navy spokesperson reaffirmed the force's commitment to maintaining vigilance at sea and supporting global efforts to combat drug trafficking, terrorism, and organized crime.—RT/Agency

KP Political Leaders Rally Behind PM Shehbaz In High-Level Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers and political leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the federal capital on Wednesday to discuss the province's development agenda and the prevailing political situation in the country.

According to sources from the Prime Minister's Office, discussions focused on progress in ongoing development projects across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the government's broader plans for accelerating economic and infrastructure initiatives in the province.

The meeting also reviewed key political matters and the coordination between federal and provincial representatives to ensure effective delivery of development goals.

Among those present were Federal Ministers Engineer Amir Muqam, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Attaullah Tarar and Rana Mubashir Iqbal, along with Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah. Members of Parliament Peer Sabir Shah, Captain (r) Safdar, Murtaza Javed Abbasi and Sardar Mushtaq also attended the meeting.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Blasts Israel For Violating Fragile Gaza Peace Deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's violations of the Gaza peace agreement, expressing deep concern over the renewed Israeli attacks that have killed numerous innocent civilians in the besieged territory.

In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson said that Israel's recent actions are in clear violation of the spirit of the peace accord, signed at Sharm el-Sheikh, which aimed to uphold a ceasefire and promote lasting regional stability.

Violation of Sharm el-Sheikh agreement

The spokesperson said Pakistan was "deeply concerned over Israel's blatant breach" of the Sharm el-Sheikh peace agreement, emphasizing that such acts undermine efforts to achieve peace in the region.

"These actions are against

the spirit and intent of the agreement, which sought to end hostilities and protect civilian lives," the spokesperson added.

Call for international action

Urging the international community to intervene, Pakistan called for "immediate and effective measures" to stop Israeli aggression and ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians.

The spokesperson stressed that the ceasefire must be fully implemented, and all parties should respect the peace framework established to prevent further escalation.

Unwavering solidarity with Palestine

Reaffirming Pakistan's consistent stance on the Palestinian cause, the spokesperson reiterated the country's unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination and justice.—RT/Agency

Polish Deputy PM Sikorski To Arrive In Pakistan Today For Key Talks

Poland Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski will arrive in Pakistan tomorrow (Thursday) on a two-day official visit from October 23 to 24, during which both countries will discuss the full spectrum of bilateral relations.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said that Sikorski will be paying a visit at the invitation of DPM Senator Ishaq Dar, which would be his second visit to Pakistan. His previous visit took place in 2011.

During the visit, DPM Dar will hold a one-on-one meeting as well as delegation-level talks with his Polish counterpart. The two sides are expected to discuss the full spectrum of bilateral relations, and the talks will

be followed by a joint press stakeout.

The Polish high-up's visit "marks a significant milestone in Pakistan–Poland relations […] Pakistan remains committed to enhancing cooperation with Poland for the mutual benefit of both countries," it concluded.

According to the Foreign Office, ties between the two countries have expanded across political, economic, defence, and educational spheres, marked by mutual cordiality and cooperation.

According to the statistics, the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Poland in 2023 was $922 million. Pakistan's exports to Poland amounted to $794 million and imports from Poland were worth $128 million.—RT/Agency

Dar, Saudi Counterpart Hold Urgent Talks On Escalating Regional Tensions

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Wednesday held a telephone conversation with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

According to the Foreign Office, the two leaders discussed the recent regional situation, particularly matters concerning Gaza and Palestine.

They also reiterated their joint commitment to peace

and stability in the region.

The spokesperson stated that both foreign ministers agreed to stay in close contact on issues of mutual interest.—RT/Agency

Pak-Afghan Trade Deadlock Enters 11th Day, Perishable Exports Rotting At Borders

KHYBER: Trade activities between Pakistan and Afghanistan have come to a complete halt.

The suspension of transit trade has already led to spoilage of perishable goods in trucks.

According to sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan exceeds $2 billion, conducted through four major border crossings: Torkham, Chaman, Ghulam Khan, and Kharlachi.

Pakistan imports goods worth over $760 million from Afghanistan annually,

while Afghanistan receives exports worth $1.54 billion from Pakistan.

Sources stated that Afghanistan conducts approximately 50% of its overall trade through transit routes. The current suspension is causing severe losses for traders and transporters on both sides.—RT/Agency

Atta Tarar: Digital Media Has Power — But Needs Regulation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar has said that while digital media offers many advantages, it is equally important to keep it in check through proper regulation.

Speaking at a seminar on media and information warfare, Tarar highlighted that the battle with India was not only on the ground but also a war of narratives.

He said Pakistan has now established several digital platforms to effectively put forward its stance on global and regional issues.

"We were fully prepared

for the information warfare during the conflict," he added, noting that the government acted swiftly to provide accurate information to the public.The minister further stated that digital media also played a vital role during the war in Afghanistan, emphasizing that information flow and online presence have become essential tools in modern-day conflicts.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Health Drive in Matiari Revamped to Supercharge Vaccination Efforts

By By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: A key meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousif Sheikh was held at Latif Hall Matiari to assess ongoing health programs in the district. Officials reviewed the anti-polio campaign, EPI progress, and measles-rubella (MR) and bOPV vaccination efforts. Health Department representatives shared updates on performance, coverage, and logistics. The Deputy Commissioner praised the department's efforts and urged all stakeholders to ensure full vaccination coverage. Emphasizing the urgency of measles prevention, he appealed to parents to vaccinate their children. The meeting included ADC-II Iqra Jannat, DHO Asif Hussain Shah, and other officers.

MQM Leader Demands Urgent Dengue Control in Hyderabad's UC-32

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Engineer Nadir Khan Deswali of MQM Pakistan emphasized the need for daily mosquito spray to combat rising dengue cases in UC 32. Speaking with Haji Muhammad Yasin Arain at Bhai Khan Welfare Office, he criticized ineffective spraying by UC chairmen. Deswali stressed MQM's commitment to public welfare. Arain pledged full support in the spray campaign, vowing to serve humanity without discrimination.

Badin Police Launch Major Crackdown on Illegal Afghan Residents and Criminal Networks

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Following directives from Sindh IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon and DIG Hyderabad Range Tariq Razaq Dharejo, SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani is leading an extensive search and combing operation across the district targeting illegally residing Afghan nationals and criminal elements.

Liaquat University Hospital Chief Reviews Casualty Department to Improve Emergency Care

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Dr. Ali Akbar Dahri, Medical Superintendent of Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad and Jamshoro, visited the Casualty/Accident & Emergency Department. Accompanied by senior medical and administrative staff, he inspected medicine availability, staff attendance, security, and cleanliness.

Life Changing Foundation Empowers Women with Sewing Machine Distribution

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The Life Changing Foundation (LCF) organized a special event at its Free Sewing Skills Training Center, handing over sewing machines to deserving women. This initiative aims to empower women by providing vocational skills for financial independence and dignity. Supported by generous local donors including Israr Memon, Imran, Dr. Abdul Fattah Memon and Babar Inayat Memon, LCF reaffirmed its commitment to women's empowerment and sustainable livelihood development.

Mother of Five Vanishes in Qazi Ahmed, Abduction Suspected

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: A woman, Khalida Juno, mother of five and resident of Sardar Colony, Qazi Ahmed, has been allegedly abducted. According to local journalist Mohib Juno, who filed an FIR at Qazi Ahmed Police Station, the woman was forcibly taken in a car by suspects Ashraf Mastoi, Talib Mastoi, Mir Mastoi, and Akbar Mastoi from near 12 Water, Johi. The case has been registered under Sections 496A, 498, 34, and 109.

Commissioner Sukkur Calls for Stronger Partnerships at SRSO Complex to Uplift Rural Sindh

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner Sukkur Division, Abid Saleem Qureshi, visited the SRSO Complex, where he was welcomed by SRSO CEO Muhammad Dittal Kalhoro. The commissioner toured various units including the Craft Production and Training Wings. He lauded SRSO's work in women empowerment, interest-free micro-loans, and housing for flood victims.

Badin Police Smash Major Gutka Trafficking Network Operating from Balochistan

By Nooral Khamisani

MATLI: Under SSP Qamar Raza Jiskani's "Drug-Free Badin" campaign, SHO Raju Khanani Iqrar Ali Sathio's team seized 33,000 sachets of Safina Gutka from a Corolla (BAL-699) smuggled from Balochistan. Three suspects Abbas Ali Khosa and Liaqat Ali Belidi from Jaffarabad, Balochistan, and Saeen Bakhsh Nizamani from Raju Khanani, Badin were arrested.

Corruption Scandal Rocks Lower Panjari Canal Project, Water Supply in Chaos

By AS Thahim

JATI: Serious corruption has been exposed in the Lower Panjari Canal project, costing 2 billion rupees. Due to nepotism and collusion between contractors and officials, water pumps have been installed without proper leveling, causing major damage to the national treasury and disrupting the water supply system. Hundreds of residents and farmers in the area are deeply concerned and demand immediate action against the corrupt officials and contractors.

Thatta Election Commissioner Urges Voter Participation in Awareness Seminar

By Daim Shah

GHARO: The District Election Commissioner Thatta organized a seminar at Government Girls High School Gharo to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of voting. Regional Election Commissioner Muhammad Sajjad Khattak emphasized that women's votes are crucial for democracy and urged them to encourage others to vote.

Karachi Education Team Holds MBBS Admission Awareness Session in Nawabshah

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: The Educational Advisor Karachi team, led by Dr. Ali Gulab Tunio, held an awareness session on MBBS admissions at the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK-ISM). The session, hosted in Nawabshah, attracted educators, parents, and civil society members from Qazi Ahmed, Sakrand, and surrounding areas. Dr. Tunio highlighted IUK-ISM's PMDC approval, global recognition, and coaching for USMLE, PLAB, and other exams.

NDF President Meets Larkana Commissioner to Strengthen Disability Support Network

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Abid Lashari, President of the National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan, met with Divisional Commissioner Tahir Hussain Sangi to discuss NDF's ongoing rehabilitation efforts for children with intellectual disabilities in Larkana Division. Appreciating NDF's work, the Commissioner emphasized the urgent need for more assistive devices.

Son Arrested in Heinous Murder of Mother in Qasimabad

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad police arrested Hanif Mari for fatally shooting his mother, Rukhsar, following a domestic dispute at their home in Al-Shahbaz Colony, Qasimabad. The incident occurred on October 21, 2025. Police recovered a 30-bore illegal pistol used in the crime. SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio ordered strict action, emphasizing the need for tolerance in families. Investigation is ongoing, and an additional case under the Sindh Arms Act has been registered.

Mayor Larkana Orders Aggressive Anti-Encroachment Operation to Reclaim City Roads

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In response to growing public complaints about encroachments on roads and footpaths in Larkana, Mayor Advocate Anwar Ali Luhr took immediate notice and directed the anti-encroachment team to take swift action. The team, led by officers GM Jhanjhan and Waheed Shaikh, launched operations at Municipal Stadium Road, Zulfiqar Bagh Road, Qaim Shah Bukhari Road, Fish Market Road, and other areas. Several illegal encroachments and street vendor setups were removed, and confiscated goods were seized.

FIA Raid at BISP Center Near Digri Sends Device Holders Fleeing

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Device holders at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) center near Daghri fled in fear as an FIA team raided the center. At the BISP center in Kot Mirjan Muhammad Talpur village, device holders were reportedly deducting Rs 2,000 illegally from each woman's allotted amount daily.

Adi Faryal Talpur Applauded for Empowering Sindh's Marginalized Communities

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Former Secretary Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Suhag, accompanied by his daughter Rehana Suhag, met PPP Ladies Wing Central Leader Adi Faryal Talpur in Karachi to honor her services for Sindh's development. Dr. Suhag praised the PPP's historic role in promoting democracy, job creation, and online income opportunities. Rehana Suhag credited Sindh's progress to Adi Faryal Talpur's visionary leadership. The meeting highlighted the continued impact of the PPP in uplifting the province and empowering its people through effective governance and people-centric policies.

PPP Leader Dr. Nafisa Shah Condoles Tragic Incident at Chaudhry Bashir Arain's Home in Khairpur

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani, central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and Member National Assembly, expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident at Chaudhry Bashir Arain's residence. She described the event as heartbreaking for the affected family and the entire community. In her condolence message, she prayed for the departed souls and strength for the grieving family. Dr. Shah also emphasized the need for transparent investigations and justice to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Outpouring of Grief in Thul Over Passing of Comrade Liaquat Sarki's Mother

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The condolence visits continue in Thul and surrounding areas following the passing of the mother of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) leader Liaquat Ali Sarki. On Sunday, several political, social, and religious leaders, journalists, and citizens expressed their sympathies. Among them were Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Sariki, Dr. Suhrab Khan Sarki, MPA Mir Mohsin Khan Sarki, Chief Sardar Jahangir Khan Banglani, Haji Sher Muhammad Mugheri, and others. Attendees also offered prayers for the departed soul.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DRAINAGE DIVISION, BADIN

E-mail: drainagedivisionbadin@gmail.com Off: No. 022-2622576

No. TC/G-1480/DD/ 217 of 2025 Badin Dated: 21/10/25

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

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

Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Bid Security in the Shape of Bank Guarantee	Contractors Category	Tender Fees	Completion Period
REHABILITATION OF KPOD & DPOD IN DRAINAGE DIVISION BADIN (ADP No: 1274/2025-26)	974.789 Million	5% of Estimated Cost	C-2	5,000/-	24 Months

PROGRAMME FOR ISSUE / RECEIPT AND OPENING OF TENDERS.

S#	Particulars	1st Attempt	2nd Attempt (in case Of un-responded tender)
1	The last date of receipt of the application and issuance of tenders after publication of the NIT in the newspaper is 12:00 Noon.	10/11/2025	25/11/2025
2	Tenders will be received back up to 01:30 PM and will be opened on the same day at 02:00 PM	10/11/2025	25/11/2025

02. **Method of Procurement (Single Stage Two envelops) (National Competitive Bidding)**

03. **Eligibility / Mandatory:**

i. **Valid Registration Certificate:** A valid registration certificate with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the relevant category effective until June 2025 and onwards, in the relevant category with specialized codes CE-01 , CE-02, CE-04 and CE-IO.

ii. **Experience in Similar Projects—**

Experience in similar nature of work(s) executed during the last five years:

1. At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost 80% of the estimated cost of the work; **or**
2. At least two similar nature works each having minimum cost 50% of the estimated cost duly supported by **completion certificates and certified copies.**

iii. **Engineering & Technical Staff**— Complete details, experience, and length of service of engineering and technical staff employed by the firm.

iv. **Audited Financial Reports** — Certified audited financial reports for the last five years (202021, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24& 2024-25) from registered audit firm

v. **Machinery & Equipment** — A list of available machinery and equipment with documentary proof of ownership.

vi. **Income Tax Registration** — Active NTN certificate with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

vii. **Annual income Tax Returns**— Copies Of filed income tax returns for the last five years (2020-2% 2021-229 2022-23, 2023-24& 2024-25)

viii. **Sindh Revenue Board (SRB)) Registration** Valid SRB certificate with active status.

ix. **Technical Proposal Submission** Each Page of the **Technical proposal** must be **numbered**, **signed, and stamped** by the owner of the firm/company

x. **Bid Security** — To be submitted only in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Any other form will lead to disqualification,

xi. **Affidavit of Integrity** — A fresh **original affidavit** stating that the firm/company

- Is not blacklisted.
- Is not involved in litigation with any government department (Federal, Provincial, PEC).
- Has not entered a **Pre-Bargaining (PB) agreement with NAB**

04. Bidding Tender Documents.

1. **Tender Documents**— Contract documents can be purchased from office of the Executive Engineer Drainage Division Badin@Camp office at Left Bank Barrage Colony Hyderabad and other terms can be downloaded from SPPRA's official website ("ppms.pprasindh.gov.pk"). The downloaded documents must be submitted with a non-refundable pay order of Rs. 5000/-.
2. **Tender Fee & Bid Security**— The bid security (in the form of a Bank Guarantee) in favor of the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division Badin should be attached with the Technical Bid.
3. **Tender Opening**— The tenders will be opened in the presence of the Procurement Committee and participating contractors or their authorized representatives.
4. **Bid Submission Format**— Bids shall be submitted in a single package containing two separate envelopes:
   - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (clearly marked).
   - FINANCIAL PROPOSAL (clearly marked).
   - Bid security must be attached with the Technical Proposal.
5. **Technical Proposal Opening**— The Technical Proposal envelope will be opened first. The **Financial Proposal** envelope will remain sealed until the technical evaluation is completed.
6. **Technical Evaluation** — The Procurement Committee will evaluate the Technical Proposals as per the criteria mentioned in the bidding documents. No amendments shall be allowed during the evaluation process.
7. **Financial Proposal Opening**— Financial proposals of technically qualified bidders will be opened on a specified date, time, and venue (communicated in advance).
8. **Rejected Bids**— Financial proposals of technically non-responsive bidders will be returned unopened.
9. **Bid Security Return** — The Bank Guarantees of unsuccessful technically qualified bidders will be returned after the issuance of the work order to the successful bidder.
10. **Most Advantageous Bid** — The bid evaluated as the most advantageous shall be accepted.
11. **Delayed Tender Opening** — If the quorum of the Procurement Committee is not complete, bids will be opened on the next working day as per the original schedule.
12. **Joint Ventures**— Joint ventures will be evaluated proportionally based on their share in the project.
13. **Affidavit of Authenticity** — A fresh original affidavit confirming that all submitted documents, particulars, and machinery details are true and correct. Submission of bogus, tampered, or false information will result in blacklisting.
14. **Ownership Details** —
    - **Companies/Firms**- Must submit complete details Of Directors/Proprietors along with a Power of Attorney.
    - **Sole Proprietors**— Must submit an affidavit on judicial stamp paper confirming ownership details.
15. **Authorized Representatives**—Any representative submitting a bid must provide an authorization letter on judicial Stamp paper, Other forms Of authorization will not be accepted.
16. **Document Submission**— Incomplete submissions will not be considered, and no additional documents will be accepted after the submission deadline.

Place of submission, inquiries, and openings will be at the following places:

* Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division Badin, Camp office at Left Bank Barrage Colony Hyderabad

Terms & Conditions

Under the following conditions bid will be rejected:

i. No conditional electronic and telegraphic bids / Tenders shall be accepted.
ii Bids not accompanied with bid security of required amount and manner.
iii Bids received after specified date and time.
iv Bid Validity period 90 days.
v The procurement authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders/bids as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended Up-to-Date).

(ZAMEERUDDIN DERO)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DRAINAGE DIVISION BADIN

INF-KRY No: 3484/25

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Blocking CM's Meeting with Imran Khan Deepening KP's Political Turmoil: Ali Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to arrange KP CM Sohail Afridi's meeting with the party founder in Adiala jail.

Appearing on Dunya News programme Dunya Meher Bokhari Kay Sath, the PTI leader said KP CM Sohail Afridi wanted to meet the party chief for consultation on the appointment of new ministers.

"Consultation with the founder for the cabinet is necessary. If the Prime Minister Shehbaz has any authority, he should arrange a meeting between Sohail Afridi and the PTI founder.—RT/Agency

KP Governor Kundi Warns CM Afridi Against Clash with Centre

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that Chief Minister of KPK, Sohail Afridi, should not confront the federal government.

In a conversation with Dunya News, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi stated that the province is going through difficult times, there are ongoing issues with Afghanistan, and the army and police have sacrificed their lives to maintain peace.

He added that the peace agreement with Afghanistan is a welcome development.

Kundi emphasised that CM Afridi must fulfill his responsibilities, and everyone should work together for the peace and development of the province.—RT/Agency

Journalists Armed with New Skills to Unmask Human Trafficking Networks

MURREE: Murree hosted a 3-day UN-IOM workshop to educate journalists on the critical differences between Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling. Senior journalist Aoun Sahi highlighted trafficking's exploitative nature vs. smuggling's illegal transport. He revealed mafias earn billions and warned of fake job scams in Asia. Journalists urged stronger state action as illegal migration networks thrive despite recent tragedies in Libya and Greece.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Governor Tessori and Senior Priest Robert McCulloch Promote Interfaith Harmony and Social Development

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met Senior Priest Robert McCulloch at the Governor House Karachi, where they discussed the promotion of interfaith harmony, tolerance, education, and healthcare.

Governor Tessori praised the valuable contributions of Robert McCulloch and Catholic institutions in social service, education, and healthcare, saying their dedication to the welfare of the people of Sindh, particularly in the education and health sectors, reflects a deep commitment to humanitarian values.

He emphasized that Sindh is a province known for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among followers of all religions and reaffirmed the government's determination to protect minority rights and support their welfare efforts. Robert McCulloch appreciated the Governor's initiatives for interfaith harmony and social uplift.—RT/Agency

FTO Handled Record 57,000 Taxpayer Grievances in Four Years, Says Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah

KARACHI: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah announced that during his four-year tenure, the FTO Secretariat resolved 57,000 taxpayer complaints, a record-breaking achievement compared to 37,000 cases handled by previous ombudsmen over the last 21 years.

Speaking at a farewell luncheon hosted by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Dr. Jah said the FTO ensured swift and free-of-cost justice for all taxpayers, from small businesses to large corporations. He highlighted that the average case resolution time had been reduced from 60 days to just 30 days, with some cases concluded within hours.—RT/Agency

Communication Expert Yasir Ali Khan Conducts Dynamic Training at Sir Syed University

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: The Department of Information Technology at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology hosted Muhammad Yasir Ali Khan, an internationally acclaimed communication coach, for a training session focused on enhancing public speaking and presentation skills. Yasir Ali Khan, followed by over five million people globally, emphasized clarity, confidence, and impactful communication. Chancellor Muhammad Akbar Ali Khan highlighted the importance of memorable messaging. The session concluded with a souvenir presentation honoring Khan's valuable contribution to students and faculty development.

Prof Dr. Imran Amin Takes Over as New Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: A ceremony was held at Hamdard University to mark the transition of leadership from Prof Dr Syed Shabib-ul-Hassan to Prof Dr Imran Amin. The outgoing VC was praised for leading the university through a revival phase since 2017. Dr Imran emphasized adapting teaching for Generation Z, promoting collaborative classrooms, launching train-the-trainer programs, and encouraging start-ups to align academia with societal needs.

Sindh High Court Settles Longstanding Tax Dispute Between Gadap and Ibrahim Hyderi Towns

By Shaikh Sindhi

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has dismissed all cases regarding tax collection disputes on animals transported to Karachi from interior Sindh between Gadap and Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporations. The court directed the Sindh Chief Minister to resolve the issue within 30 days. Both towns are allowed to continue tax collection within their jurisdictions: Ibrahim Hyderi to collect milking and health care taxes, and Gadap to collect taxes on slaughtered animals. The decision is hailed as a victory for legal clarity and transparency.

Commissioner Karachi Moves to Rein in Soaring Tomato Prices

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

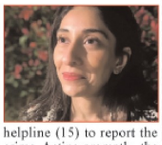
KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi took notice of the rising tomato prices and directed strict monitoring at the city's vegetable markets. Following a report by DC East Abrar Jaffar, Assistant Commissioner Gulzar Hijri Irfan Nazamani was assigned to oversee the vegetable auction. As a result, first-grade tomato auction prices dropped from Rs 282 to Rs 207 per kg, and second-grade from Rs 254 to Rs 141. Increased local production is expected to stabilize prices within two days. Strict enforcement of official prices has been ordered.

Protests Erupt in Malir's Pipri Over Crumbling Roads and Sewage Crisis

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Residents of Pipri in Malir are facing severe hardships due to the collapse of basic facilities. Roads and streets are clogged with sewage and garbage, while the drainage system is dysfunctional. Despite significant funds allocated for Gadap Town and UC Pipri, no visible improvements have been made. Overflowing sewage and pothole-ridden roads worsen during rains, causing health hazards and discomfort. Locals demand urgent action from district authorities and Gadap Town officials to clean drains and repair roads. They warn of escalating protests and sit-ins outside the Town Office if their demands remain unaddressed.

Horror at Islamabad Mall as Woman Reportedly Assaulted, Two Held



ISLAMABAD: A shocking incident of alleged sexual assault took place inside a shopping mall in Islamabad. According to police sources, a case has been registered at the Margalla Police Station on the complaint of the victim. The FIR names Faisal Jalal and Hafeezullah as the primary suspects.

The complainant stated that the accused lured her to the mall on the pretext of offering a job and then allegedly assaulted her. After the incident, the woman called the police helpline (15) to report the crime. Acting promptly, the police reached the scene and arrested both suspects. The victim was shifted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for a medical examination, where the initial report confirmed sexual assault. —RT/Agency

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

SSP Bolan Kachhi Rana Dilawar Khan Hailed for Restoring Order and Reforms

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: Since assuming charge of District Bolan Kachhi, SSP Rana Muhammad Dilawar Khan has introduced effective administrative reforms and a robust system of checks and balances in the police department. His efforts have boosted police morale and strengthened public trust. Maintaining law and order was a top priority, and he built strong relations with the community. His courageous decisions and dedicated service to Bolan Kachhi will be remembered by the people forever.

PML-N Women Wing Leaders Mourn Provincial President's Mother

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Women Wing's Provincial General Secretary and Member National Assembly, Ms. Akhtar Bibi, visited the home of PML-N Women Wing's Provincial President and Provincial Education Minister, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani, to offer condolences on the death of her mother. Prayers and Fatiha were recited for the departed soul's forgiveness and eternal peace.

Small Farmers on Brink as Falling Paddy Prices Triggering Rural Crisis: Mir Musharraf Khosa

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: PML-F Provincial President Mir Musharraf Ali Khan Khosa expressed grave concern over the low market price of paddy, stating it is pushing small farmers and landowners into financial hardship. He highlighted the rising cost of fertilizers and lack of proper support mechanisms. Khosa urged the government to ensure fair crop prices and transparent distribution of jobs in Balochistan, where over 30,000 positions remain vacant. He emphasized the importance of peace, transparency, and supporting farmers to strengthen the economy and reduce regional unrest.

Central Punjab

Kotli Syed Police Station Declares Zero Tolerance for Criminals

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: SHO Kotli Syed Police Station, Inspector Khasif Butt, announced a strong crackdown on criminals, occupiers, thieves, and drug dealers to ensure law and order. Following District Commander Fasil Shahzad's directives, police have begun operations against lawbreakers and racketeers. The SHO urged citizens to report crimes confidently, promising protection and confidentiality. Police Station doors remain open 24/7 to serve the public and make the station a model of safety in Punjab.

Commissioner Gujranwala Pushes City Beautification Drive Forward

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi chaired a meeting to review ongoing beautification schemes in Gujranwala. Alongside Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed and other officials, the meeting focused on renovation of roads, parks, green belts, intersections, and historical sites. The commissioner stressed timely, high-quality completion to provide modern facilities and enhance citizens' quality of life. He highlighted that beautification will also boost investment and tourism. Deputy Commissioner assured transparent and efficient project execution. Progress reports were presented, and future plans discussed to ensure successful completion of all development works.

Road Safety Drive Brings Awareness to Para Force Toba

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Following directives from DIG Motorway Police Dar Ali Khattak, an awareness session under the Road Safety Campaign was held at the Para Force Toba office. Sub-Divisional Enforcement Officer Sadaf Irshad and Para Force personnel participated actively. Muhammad Usman Shabbir briefed attendees on smog effects, overspeeding, seat belt use, and safety measures. Irshad emphasized the importance of traffic rule compliance to reduce accidents and announced legal action against violators. The campaign aims to enhance public safety on roads.

PPP USA's Safdar Humayun Qureshi Throws Support Behind Republican Party in US Midterms

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL/NEW YORK: Safdar Humayun Qureshi, President of the South Asian American Sports Club and Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) USA, announced his support for the Republican Party in the upcoming U.S. midterm elections. The declaration was made during a dinner reception in honor of Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and 14th Legislative District Representative Sheharyar Ali. Qureshi stated that supporting the system and leadership of the country one resides in is a moral responsibility. He praised Nassau County's safety and development. He also affirmed his commitment to fulfilling any election-related responsibilities assigned by PPP USA leadership. Political observers consider this move a sign of the growing influence of the Pakistani-American community in mainstream US politics.

Narowal Kicks Off 2025 Wheat Cultivation Drive with Renewed Zeal

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Deputy Commissioner Narowal, Syed Hassan Raza, officially launched the 2025 wheat cultivation campaign by sowing the first seeds in Tehsil Zafarwal. The campaign will cover approximately 20,000 acres of rain-fed land in its first phase. DC Raza also inspected fertilizer sale centers to ensure government rates are maintained. Speaking at a farmers' meeting in Dham Thal, he urged farmers to follow agricultural experts' advice on land preparation, seed selection, and pest control. He stressed that joint efforts will help increase yields and contribute to Pakistan's food security.

Punjab Food Authority Launches Aggressive Crackdown on Violators in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Following Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's orders, Punjab Food Authority conducted inspections at 129 food outlets in Toba Tek Singh. Four units were sealed, and eleven fined Rs 110,000 for poor hygiene. A fake warehouse in Kamalia was also sealed. Large amounts of spoiled eggs, meat, oil, and cake gel were destroyed. Over 4,000 liters of milk were checked. The PFA enforces zero tolerance against health violations. Citizens can report issues via helpline 1223.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, October 23 , 2025

From Outlaws to Citizens: Sindh's Bold Surrender Policy Brings Hope to the Heartland

A new dawn appears to be breaking over Sindh's troubled riverine belt as seventy-two dacoits—long feared as ruthless outlaws—have peacefully laid down their arms under the provincial government's new Sindh Surrender Policy. This marks a historic and hopeful turning point in a region that for decades has been plagued by kidnappings, extortion, and violent lawlessness.

The images of hardened bandits surrendering their weapons—ranging from G3 rifles and submachine guns to even an anti-aircraft gun—speak volumes of the magnitude of this development. The Sindh government, particularly Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar and law enforcement agencies, deserve recognition for steering this policy with both firmness and foresight.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

But for this peace to be lasting, surrender alone cannot be the endgame—it must be the beginning of transformation. The government's commitment to rehabilitating these men, protecting their families, and providing them with livelihoods must not remain a mere promise. Rehabilitation centers, vocational training, and counseling programs should be swiftly implemented so these individuals can reintegrate into society as productive, law-abiding citizens.

Moreover, this policy should be paired with deep, structural investment in the province's most neglected areas. Poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment have long been breeding grounds for crime. The only sustainable way to ensure that future generations do not take up arms is to create pathways of opportunity—through education, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

Sindh has taken a courageous first step toward peace. If compassion walks hand in hand with justice, this surrender could well become the foundation of a safer, stronger, and more hopeful Sindh—one where the gun is replaced by the pen, and fear by opportunity.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Bakhtawar Cadet College Hosts National Declamation and Science Showcase

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls, Shaheed Benazirabad, successfully hosted the Fourth All Pakistan Inter-College Declamation Competition and Smart Exhibition. Students from cadet colleges across Pakistan participated enthusiastically. Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Shahmeer Khan Bhutto, attended as the chief guest and praised the cadets' passion, intellect, and potential, calling them the future of Pakistan. Speeches were delivered in Sindhi, Urdu, and English, while the Smart Exhibition displayed impressive scientific models and creative projects. Principal Dr. Fareeda Shaikh highlighted the role of such events in boosting confidence and promoting unity among youth. Shields, certificates, and prizes were distributed among top performers, with notable attendance from educationists and public representatives.

Commissioner Hyderabad Orders Swift Reforms at Jamshoro Mental Health Institute

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Divisional Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi conducted a thorough inspection of the Sir Cowasji Jahangir Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, emphasizing the need to accelerate development works while maintaining high standards. He urged officials to treat the facility as a "center of human healing," ensuring compassionate and dignified patient care. Reviewing Asian Development Bank projects and ongoing maintenance, Abbasi instructed rapid completion of Ward No-5 and boundary walls without compromising quality. Touring treatment units, he stressed compassionate care as both a moral and administrative duty. Abbasi pledged to revisit in fifteen days to oversee progress.

Sindh Ombudsman's Advisor Holds Open Katchery in Sukkur, Demands Immediate Redressal

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: On the directives of Sindh Ombudsman Sohail Rajput, Advisor Syed Ali Mumtaz Zaidi held an open katcheri at Sukkur Circuit House to address public grievances. A large number of citizens from Sukkur and surrounding areas presented verbal and written complaints regarding delayed pensions, pending salaries, job issues under disabled quotas, sanitation, and clean water. The advisor listened attentively and issued on-the-spot directives to officials. He emphasized swift, transparent redressal of all complaints and warned of legal action against negligent officers.

Zakat Chairman Extends Financial Help to Ailing Veteran Journalist in Sanghar

By Imtiaz Ali Laskani

NAUABAD: Senior journalist Hidayatullah Khoso from Nauabad, suffering from a lung disease and high medical expenses, received aid from Zulfiqar Chandio, Chairman of Zakat Committee Sanghar. After media coverage and MN Shazia Atta Mari's intervention, Chandio visited Khoso's village, offering free medicines, financial help, and ration. Journalists praised the support but criticized the silence of journalist organizations and government bodies.

SPWAH Announces New Leadership Body for Sanghar and Nawabshah

By Zeeshan Somro

SAKRAND: Under the leadership of Central President Khadim Nabi Khoso, a key meeting of Sindh Para-Workers Association (SPWAH) was held in Nawabshah. Discussions focused on elections for new bodies in Sanghar and Nawabshah districts. Nawabshah's Shahbaz panel was declared unopposed winners, including President Amiruddin Magsi and others. Sanghar's team with Azizullah Lander as president was also appointed. Newly elected officials pledged to serve employees and improve the institution. Awards and congratulations were presented.

PPP Ladies Wing Marks Youth Leader Syed Sallal Shah Bukhari's Birthday with Zeal

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The PPP Ladies Wing of Tando Muhammad Khan organized a birthday celebration for PPP Youth District President Syed Salal Shah Bukhari at Bukhari House. The event was led by District President Nusrat Memon and General Secretary Nasreen Manghar, with many party workers attending. Syed Salal Shah was honored with traditional Sindhi Ajrak and lungis and thanked everyone for their warm wishes.

Syed Ghulam Hyder Shah Qalandari Illuminates True Essence of Sufism in Kotri

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Speaking at Mehfil-e-Hadiya in Kotri, Sain Syed Ghulam Hyder Shah Qalandari emphasized that true Faqr connects one to God, beyond material deprivation. He lamented modern Sufism's decline into rituals, urging a return to spiritual sincerity. He outlined the five stages of divine love and quoted Rumi on life's true purpose. Prayers and Darood Pak were offered for peace and unity.

SAFWCO Rolls Out Fourth GRASP Phase to Power Small and Medium Enterprises

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: SAFWCO, in partnership with the European Union, International Trade Centre, FAO, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, has launched the fourth phase of financial assistance under the "Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress" (GRASP) project. In this phase, three new businesses related to fruits, vegetables, and livestock received a total of Rs 22.06 million. The beneficiaries include Fresh & Roshan (Rs 4.23 million), HM Food (Rs 9.33 million), and Bio Energy Solution (Rs 8.5 million). SAFWCO's founder Dr. Suleman G. Abro expressed hope that this aid will promote business growth, create jobs, and boost the rural economy. Deputy Executive Director Zeeshan Memon highlighted support to improve financial status and market access for small and medium enterprises.

Chhor Town Committee to Build Modern Slaughterhouse for Hygienic Meat Supply

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A key meeting was held in Chhor city under the chairmanship of Town Committee Chhor Chairman Nazir Muhammad Arisar and Town Officer Shahid Halipoto to ensure the supply of clean and halal meat. Shahid Halipoto briefed participants on legal policies and enforcement related to meat sales. It was decided to establish a slaughterhouse soon under town supervision, with a Livestock Department representative to verify animals. Traders shared concerns, which were addressed by the chairman and officer. The slaughterhouse will start temporarily next week. Veterinary doctor Suhail Singh Sodho and city dignitaries also attended.

NWM Police Seal 8 Illegal Clinics in Crackdown on Quacks

By Yousif Rind

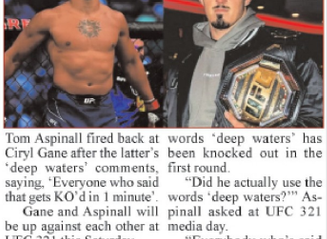
NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Police in Nawab Wali Muhammad city conducted a crackdown against illegally operating quack doctors, sealing more than 8 clinics. Ashfaq Ahmed Arain, the Senior Munshi of Nawab Wali Muhammad Police Station, stated that following orders from higher authorities, illegal quack clinics in the city and surrounding villages were shut down. These clinics were treating patients without licenses and contributing to the spread of dangerous diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and smallpox. Licensed clinics and medical stores remain operational.

Lifesaving Milestone: SICVD Launches 30th Chest Pain Unit in Sanghar

SANGHAR: SICVD has opened its 30th Chest Pain Unit in Sanghar, offering free 24/7 emergency heart care near Civil Hospital. Executive Director Prof. Jawaid Akbar Sial hailed the expansion as a major step toward accessible, life-saving cardiac treatment for all Sindh residents. Each unit offers rapid diagnosis, stabilization, and referral — completely free of cost.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES
SPORTS

Tom Aspinall Hits Back at Ciryl Gane, Promises to Drag Him Into Deep Waters



Tom Aspinall fired back at Ciryl Gane after the latter's 'deep waters' comments, saying, 'Everyone who said that gets KO'd in 1 minute'.

Gane and Aspinall will be up against each other at UFC 321 this Saturday.

Gane has shared his plan against Aspinall, saying he will use his distance and footwork to drag the heavyweight champion into deep waters.

Strategically, it makes sense because Aspinall has not fought past the second round once in his entire MMA career; he has a record of 15-3 and all his wins have ended in the first round.

However, Aspinall has responded, saying everybody who has said the words 'deep waters' has been knocked out in the first round.

"Did he actually use the words 'deep waters?'" Aspinall asked at UFC 321 media day.

"Everybody who's said the words 'deep waters' has gotten knocked out in the first minute. Go back and check it. Go back and check the media that you've done. So, pretty happy with that. That's good."

Aspinall then also praised Gane, saying the perception among the fans and media of being the French heavyweight not a very good fighter is wrong; he is one of the best of the division, which is why he has been at the top for several years.—Agency

Dustin Poirier Teases Fans With Hints of a Fiery Octagon Comeback

Former UFC lightweight contender Dustin Poirier has admitted he is struggling to adjust to life after retirement, and has hinted at the possibility of a comeback.

The 36-year-old confirmed earlier this year that he was stepping away from professional fighting following his defeat to Max Holloway at UFC 318 in July.

In a recent interview, Poirier revealed that it has been extremely difficult to transition from an active fighting career to retirement after dedicating nearly two decades to the sport.

"Every day, the moment my eyes open, I've done it for two decades, dedicated my life to it. A part of me has died," Poirier said.

The Louisiana native explained that family played a major role in his decision to retire, adding that his wife and family wanted him to stop fighting.—Agency

Injury Blow: Novak Djokovic Pulls Out of Paris Masters After Setback

Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from next week's Rolex Paris Masters after showing signs of physical discomfort during a recent exhibition match, the ATP confirmed.

The 38-year-old Serbian announced his decisions on social media, expressing disappointment at missing one of his most successful tournaments.

"Dear Paris, unfortunately, I will not compete at this year's Rolex Paris Masters," Djokovic posted on X.

"I have amazing memories and great success over the years, especially being able to conquer the title seven times. Hope to see you next year. Merci."

Djokovic appeared to be in trouble with a left leg injury during his Six Kings match against Taylor Fritz in Saudi Arabia, retiring after losing a 75-minute first set.

Djokovic's withdrawal follows a series of fitness concerns in recent weeks, including visible fatigue during the Shanghai Masters, where he was beaten by Valentin Vacherot.

The world no.1 has featured in only eight ATP Tour events outside the four Grand Slams this season, reaching the semi-finals at all majors, the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open.

Tournament organisers confirmed that Djokovic will be replaced in the Paris draw by a reserve player. His latest setbacks also cast uncertainty over his participation in the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, which begin next month.

Djokovic has already qualified for the ATP Finals for a record-equalling 18th time, with the year-end tournament taking place in Turin, Italy, from November 9.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Khawar Ejaz
About me: I'm a passionate gamer who's bringing virtual worlds to life
Location: Karachi

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

Asif Afridi Makes History With Stunning Five-Wicket Haul on Test Debut Against South Africa

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's left-arm spinner Asif Afridi got his name registered into cricket history on Wednesday, becoming the oldest player ever to take a five-wicket haul on Test debut, achieving the feat at 38 years and 299 days during the second Test against South Africa in Rawalpindi.

Afridi broke a 92-year-old record held by England's Charles Marriott, who took five wickets on debut at 37 years and 332 days against the West Indies at The Oval in 1933.

Advertisement

Only four players aged over 35 have claimed a five-wicket haul on debut in Test history. Apart from Afridi and Marriott, the two others on the list are Hines Johnson of the West Indies, who did so against England in 1948, and D.W. Carr of England, who achieved the milestone against Australia in 1909.

Afridi is the only player to achieve the feat after turning 38, while the other three did it after crossing 37. Among Pakistani bowlers, Noman Ali had previously taken five wickets on debut at the age of 34 against South Africa in 2021. Bilal Asif achieved the feat at the age of 33.

Pakistan ended day three of the second Test at 94/4 in 35 overs, holding a lead of 23 runs.

The hosts will resume their batting on day four with Babar Azam on 49 off 83 balls and Mohammad Rizwan on 16 off 49.

Earlier, South Africa's lower order fought back strongly, with Senuran Muthusamy, Keshav Maharaj, and Kagiso Rabada leading a spirited recovery. At one stage, the visitors were 235-8, but the trio helped South Africa reach 404, taking the first-innings lead of 71 runs.—Agency

Sindh Sports Minister Reveals Final Lineup and Venues for National Games 2025

KARACHI: Sports Minister Sindh Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar on Wednesday announced the complete schedule, venues and participating teams for the highly-anticipated National Games 2025, set to be held here from December 6 to 13.

Mahar, while addressing the media here at the National Bank Stadium, shared key information about the upcoming edition of the National Games, set to be staged after an 18-year hiatus.

The Sports Minister highlighted the extensive planning and preparation that have gone into making the event a success, which will feature around 11000 personnel, including athletes and support staff.

"After 18 years, Karachi is honoured to host the National Games again. We are fully committed to ensuring that everything runs smoothly, from the opening to the closing ceremony," said the Minister.

The opening ceremony will be held on December 6, with the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, invited to inaugurate the event. The closing ceremony will take place on December 13, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahbaz Sharif, is expected to attend.

Mahar also outlined the process behind the meticulous selection of venues for the 32 sports that will be contested during the games.

"We have identified 24 venues across Karachi, ensuring that each sport is hosted at a well-equipped location," he said.

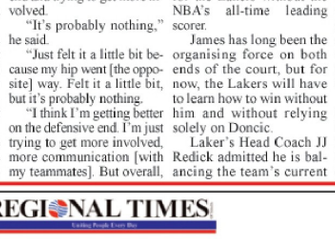
The 35th National Games will feature 14 teams, comprising departments and provinces, including hosts Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, alongside Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, WAPDA, Pakistan Police and Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Meanwhile, the torch relay for the National Games will begin on November 16 at the Quaid-e-Azam mausoleum here, with Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, set to hand over the torch, which will then travel across the country before returning to the host city.

The Minister further emphasised that the logistical and security arrangements for the event are well underway.

"Accommodation for over 11,000 players, coaches, and technical staff is being arranged, and transportation plans are already in place," he assured. Additionally, a steering committee, headed by the Chief Minister, has been formed to ensure that security measures are tightly coordinated throughout the event.—Agency

Luka Doncic Shrugs Off Injury Fears After Dropping 43 Points in Season Opener



Slovenian basketball star Luka Doncic has downplayed injury concerns after his 43-point performance in the Los Angeles Lakers' season opener against the Golden State Warriors.

The Lakers did not confirm whether Doncic's extended recovery was due to soreness from carrying offence in their 119-109 loss to the Golden State Warriors.

During the game, Doncic was explosive and dynamic, delivering his third-highest-scoring performance in a Lakers uniform.

He added 12 rebounds and nine assists, but it wasn't enough to lift the Lakers to victory without LeBron James, who remains sidelined with sciatica for at least the next few weeks.

Doncic downplayed the injury concerns after the game, saying it is probably nothing.

He added that he is getting better on the defensive end and trying to get more involved.

"It's probably nothing," he said.

"Just felt it a little bit because my hip went [the opposite] way. Felt it a little bit, but it's probably nothing.

"I think I'm getting better on the defensive end. I'm just trying to get more involved, more communication [with my teammates]. But overall, 41 minutes — so I like that."

The defeat highlighted both the pitfalls and potential for the Lakers without the NBA's all-time leading scorer.

James has long been the organising force on both ends of the court, but for now, the Lakers will have to learn how to win without him and without relying solely on Doncic.

Laker's Head Coach JJ Redick admitted he is balancing the team's current struggles with their long-term outlook once James returns.

"It's hard to forget about LeBron, the reality is that when you're focused on the group that you have, you've got to make that group work. (But) sometimes you can just be like," Redick said.

"'Oh my God, we're going to get LeBron back at some point!' To be honest with you, I did have one moment in that first half when we had a few possessions where we couldn't score against the zone, I thought it would be great to have LeBron just to throw it to at the high post."

Until James' sciatica heals enough for him to begin his unprecedented 23rd NBA season, the Lakers will lean on Doncic.—Agency

LPL 2025 Postponed as Sri Lanka Prioritizes T20 World Cup Preparation

COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday announced the postponement of the sixth edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) to prepare for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, set to be played in the February-March window.

The upcoming edition of the LPL, which was originally scheduled to be played in November-December, has been slotted to a later window to allow the Island nation to focus solely on next year's mega event, which they co-host alongside India.

"Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) wishes to announce that the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2025 will not be held this year as originally planned. The decision was taken after careful consideration of the broader requirement of preparing well in advance for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka and India during February – March 2026," the board said in a statement.

For the unversed, the International Cricket Council (ICC) guidelines mandate all the venues, shortlisted to host global cricket tournaments, to be in 'perfect condition' and thus, the SLC has decided to allocate its resources to ensuring the readiness of its stadia instead of organising its domestic franchise T20 league.

"SLC believes this decision will provide adequate time to work on enhancing and upgrading the ground infrastructure to conduct a successful tournament in the country," the statement added.—Agency

Dodgers Bank on Snell and Yamamoto to Kick Off World Series Showdown With Blue Jays

LOS ANGELES: Blake Snell will start Game 1 of the World Series on Friday, and Yoshinobu Yamamoto will follow in Game 2 for the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Toronto Blue Jays, as they both have produced a dominant performance in the National League Championship Series, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts confirmed on Wednesday.

Both pitchers, who combined for 21 innings pitched in the postseason with just two runs allowed, received honour from Roberts.

In Game 1 of the NLCS against Milwaukee, Snell, who inked a big five-year, $182 million contract this off-season, wowed with a 0.86 ERA and an eight-inning shutout with 10 strikeouts and no walks.

In Game 2, Yamamoto came back with a complete-game performance, giving up just one run on three hits.

Dodgers manager Roberts expressed satisfaction with the pair, saying he will go with the same rotation.—Agency

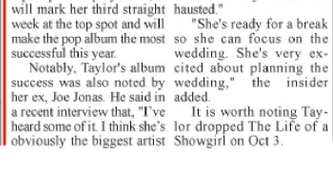
GLOBAL

Global Sindhi Innovators Connect as SENA Hosts First Smart Infrastructure Webinar

NORTH AMERICA: The Sindhi Engineers of North America (SENA), under SANA, will hold its first online tech seminar on October 25. With global participation expected, the event will focus on "Smart Infrastructure – Its Impact and Practical Applications." Keynote by Dr. Gul Agha, chaired by Dr. Sagheer Shaikh, aims to connect Sindhi engineers, students, and tech experts worldwide for knowledge sharing and professional collaboration.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
ENTERTAINMENT

Taylor Swift on Verge of Yet Another Career-Defining Milestone



Whenever Taylor Swift drops her album, it expectedly dominates charts, which is what happened with The Life of a Showgirl.

As it is still on top of Billboard 200, Hits Daily Double reports the album is on its way to earning 196,000 units this week, in addition to 45,000 pure sales.

Reports also say if the pop icon's album remains on top as per the projection, it will mark her third straight week at the top spot and will make the pop album the most successful this year.

Notably, Taylor's album success was also noted by her ex, Joe Jonas. He said in a recent interview that, "I've heard some of it. I think she's obviously the biggest artist out there, and I think it's good."

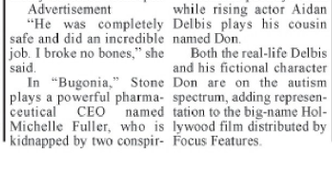
"Everybody's got an opinion about it, but from what I've heard, there are some catchy melodies," he added.

As far as the Grammy winner's wedding plan is concerned, a source earlier told People, "She's been super focused on work commitments. She's not kidding when she says she's exhausted."

"She's ready for a break so she can focus on the wedding. She's very excited about planning the wedding," the insider added.

It is worth noting Taylor dropped The Life of a Showgirl on Oct 3.

Emma Stone Opens Up About What Makes Her Proud in 'Bugonia' Role



Emma Stone was proud to say she did not break any bones while filming the absurdist comedy sci-fi film "Bugonia."

"I've broken a lot of bones," she told Reuters, recalling how she felt nervous when it was time for co-star Jesse Plemons to tackle her for his role as Teddy Gatz, a conspiracy-theory-obsessed beekeeper.

Advertisement

"He was completely safe and did an incredible job. I broke no bones," she said.

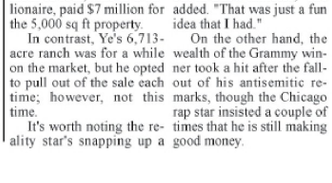
In "Bugonia," Stone plays a powerful pharmaceutical CEO named Michelle Fuller, who is kidnapped by two conspiracy theorist cousins who are convinced she is an alien.

The film is based on the 2003 South Korean film called "Save the Green Planet!" written and directed by Jang Joon-hwan, and arrives in select theaters on Friday and then across the U.S. on October 31.

Plemons portrays Gatz while rising actor Aidan Delbis plays his cousin named Don.

Both the real-life Delbis and his fictional character Don are on the autism spectrum, adding representation to the big-name Hollywood film distributed by Focus Features.

Kim Kardashian Expands Empire as Kanye West Reportedly Loses Home



Last month, Kanye West sold back the ranch at Bighorn Mountain in Wyoming to the Flitner family, the original owners, for $14 million after he left the property in disarray for a while.

Now, his ex-wife Kim Kardashian bought a home next door to her well-known compound in Hidden Hills, California. The mom-of-four, who is a billionaire, paid $7 million for the 5,000 sq ft property.

In contrast, Ye's 6,713-acre ranch was for a while on the market, but he opted to pull out of the sale each time; however, not this time.

It's worth noting the reality star's snapping up a home comes after the booming sales of her Skims latest undies, which she herself expressed surprise about.

During her recent chat with Variety, she reacted to the quick sale of the Faux Hair Micro String Thong, which was sold for $32 a piece. "I had no idea that it would have quite the reaction and that it would sell out in a few minutes," she added. "That was just a fun idea that I had."

On the other hand, the wealth of the Grammy winner took a hit after the fallout of his antisemitic remarks, though the Chicago rap star insisted a couple of times that he is still making good money.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Badin Accounts Office Hosts Open Katchery to Resolve Employee Grievances

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Regional Director of Provincial Ombudsman Badin, Abdul Wahab Memon, organized an open court at the District Accounts Office to hear grievances of government employees. Employees raised concerns regarding pensions, GP funds, and salaries. Abdul Wahab directed officials to resolve issues promptly and ensure transparency. District Accounts Officer Arif Hussain Mirani reported progress on pending cases. Attendees appreciated the initiative, expressing hope for quick resolutions and access to higher authorities if needed.

PPP MPA Sajid Ali Banbhan Opens Drainage Project in Thari Mirwah

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: PPP MPA Sajid Ali Banbhan inaugurated the drainage system and pure block project at the Town Committee Thari Mirwah, warmly welcomed by local residents. Later, he attended a party at Sarai Liaqat Ali Khaskheli's invitation and offered condolences with various community leaders. Chairman Town Committee Dr. Rehan Ahmed Jogi and other dignitaries were present. Sajad Ali pledged continued efforts to provide roads, drainage, and basic facilities to the people of Thari.

GDA's Faqir Sikandar Ali Shar Defects to PPP in Major Political Shift

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: GDA leader and custodian of Dargah Ghulam Hyder Godriya, Faqir Sikandar Ali Shar, along with UC Turko Vice Chairman Muhammad Ali Shar, Senator Ashraf Jatoi, and PPP MPA Sheeraz Rajpar, met with PPP MPA Adi Faryal Talpur. After the meeting, Faqir Sikandar Ali Shar officially announced his decision to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

SSP Hyderabad Inspects Rescue 1122 Station to Enhance Emergency Response

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio conducted a detailed visit to the Rescue 1122 Hyderabad Station. Welcomed by Emergency Officer Roshan Ali Mahesar and staff, he inspected the control room, emergency vehicles, and rescue equipment. The briefing highlighted the team's excellent performance in floods and accidents. SSP Chandio praised their dedication and professionalism, concluding with a group photo to honor the committed rescue personnel.

Sakrand City Union Organizes Driving License Camp for Local Residents

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A driving license learning and renewal camp was held at Sakrand City Union office, inaugurated by key officials including Commandant Kashif Bhutta and DSP Ghulam Mustafa Baloch. Hundreds benefited as the camp ran all day. The initiative, the first in Sakrand, was highly appreciated. DSP Baloch announced a separate upcoming camp for women's licenses. Several local leaders also attended the event.

SPSC Denounces Malicious Social Media Campaign Targeting Its Officers

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) has strongly condemned a coordinated and misleading social media campaign aimed at tarnishing its reputation. The campaign, linked to suspended Assistant Director Muhammad Ayub Panhwar, targets officers and their families, violating ethical and official norms. SPSC assured transparent inquiry by a retired Grade-22 officer and warned of legal action against those spreading false propaganda. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to merit, transparency, and accountability.

Old Feud Turns Deadly as Man Shot in Khuhra

By M Dino Lakho

KHUHRA: In Khuhra, 50-year-old Qurban Ali Chhano was shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists near Sehta Mohalla while returning from a court hearing in Gambat. Police shifted the body to GIMS Hospital for postmortem. The family accused members of the Ali Hassan Channa group of the targeted killing due to an ongoing feud. SHO Khuhra confirmed the dispute and said suspects fled during a raid in Sagyun's katcha area. FIR had not been registered till the latest updates.

Man Fatally Stabs Himself in Tragic Incident in Qazi Ahmed

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: A 22-year-old man, Saleem Mahar stabbed himself as he failed to agree his angry wife in Qazi Ahmed. The altercation began when Saleem and his father went to bring Aizman back to their home after she had gone to her parents' house following a quarrel. Upon her refusal to return, Saleem stabbed himself in the stomach and chest.

Wife of Notable Ameer Bux Panhwar Passes Away in Phulji Station

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: Wife of Ameer Bux Panhwar and sister-in-law of Senior Vice President of Aiwan Sahafat Press Club, Ghulam Haider Punhwar, passed away recently. Her funeral prayer was held in her native village, Ismail Achra, after which she was laid to rest. Community members, political leaders, journalists, and citizens, including senior journalist Ghulam Haider Panhwar and family, attended the funeral to offer condolences.

Double Murder Shocks Kunri as Two Brothers Gunned Down Near Hotel

KUNRI: In a tragic incident near Kunri Hotel, two young brothers, Sabir and Jan Muhammad Chandio, were shot dead. Both were residents of Danbharli and had come to Nabisar in Thar for work. According to police, the accused chased them and opened repeated fire, resulting in their deaths. The police stated that the incident occurred due to an old enmity. Investigation is underway.--RT

One Dead, Two Hurt in Fierce Collision Near Pyaro Station

By Tahir Javed Panhwar

PIARO STATION: A high-speed collision between a Datsun and a motorcycle near Piaro Goth Mor resulted in the death of motorcyclist Haji Yasin Abro. Two others, including Datsun driver Amir Ali and motorcyclist Dildar Qambrani, were injured and admitted to Civil Hospital Dadu. Police have seized the vehicles but no FIR has been registered yet. The deceased's body was handed to his family amid grief.

APCA Sindh Peace Group Urges Pay Raise for Hyderabad Sports Board's Kitchen Staff

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: APCA Sindh Peace Group leaders met with Karachi Sports Board officials to discuss salary issues of Hyderabad Sports Board kitchen staff. They demanded a raise to Rs 42,000 as per the 2025/26 Sindh government budget and regularization of staff following the 2017 Hyderabad High Court ruling. Currently, staff receive only Rs 25,000, making living difficult amid rising inflation.

Toxic Gutka Claims Another Life Amid Growing Official Inaction

By AS Thahim

JATI: Due to the lack of control over the sale of toxic gutka, another young man, Abdul Aziz Mallah, younger brother of late journalist Abdul Sattar Mallah, died of mouth cancer. His funeral prayer was held at Ward No. 1 Eidgah, attended by District Chairman Danish Malkanani, UC Muhammad Khan Malkanani, citizens, politicians, social workers, and journalists. In the area, harmful substances like toxic gutka, menpuri, ice, illicit liquor, and heroin are openly sold, while authorities remain indifferent. Locals urge immediate action against drug dealers to save youth from addiction and death.

Larkana Police Raid Gambling Den, Arrest Six Suspects

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Following the directives of SSP Larkana Ahmed Chaudhry (QPM, PSP), Larkana Police continue operations against social evils in the city. SHO Ali Goharabad, Sub-Inspector Imtiaz Ali Mangi, along with his team, conducted a raid on a gambling den in the Ghaar Wah area. Six gamblers were arrested on the spot. Cash, mobile phones, and playing cards were recovered. The arrested individuals include Bakhshal, Asghar, Kamran, Shah Muhammad, Ishaq, and Razaq. Criminal records are being verified and legal action is underway.

Fake Teacher Recruitment Scam Exposed in Tando Allahyar Education Department

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A major fraud has been uncovered in the local education department where six fake teachers were illegally appointed during the merger of 43 NCHD staff. The biometric data of the fake recruits is missing, and officials allegedly involved bypassed verification procedures. The Accountant General's office exposed the scam. Civil society has demanded immediate removal of fake appointees and strict action against the responsible officials.

Devotees Flock to Historic Durga Shiv Mandir for Diwali Celebrations

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: On the second day of Diwali, Pakistan's historic Durga Shiv Mandir near Circuit House Hyderabad was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Commissioner Hyderabad, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, and Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon visited the temple, cut the Diwali cake, and extended greetings to Maharaj Bhagat Karam Chand and the temple management. The Hindu community warmly thanked them, and traditional Sindhi Ajrak shawls were presented as tokens of appreciation.

Peace Breakthrough as 72 Dacoits Surrender in Sindh Under 2025 Policy

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: In a major breakthrough, Sindh's Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar formally launched the "Surrender Policy 2025," marking a significant step toward restoring peace in the region. A total of 72 notorious dacoits surrendered, handing over more than 200 weapons, including G3 rifles, SMGs, RPG-7s, and heavy arms like anti-tank RR-75 and anti-aircraft guns. These criminals had bounties exceeding Rs. 60 million. The Garhi Tegho operation led to the recovery of 107 abductees during a five-month campaign. Notably, dacoit Sheru Mehr was killed in Operation Bachal Bheo. Senior police and Rangers officials, along with lawmakers and PPP leaders, attended the ceremony. Minister Lanjar praised the bravery of police and paid tribute to fallen officers. This mission marks a critical milestone in curbing banditry in Sindh.

Dadu Education Department Issues Joining Orders to Newly Appointed JETs

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Under the final phase of the STR policy, remaining Junior Elementary School Teachers in Dadu district received their joining orders. Candidates from Mehar, KN Shah, Johi, and Dadu were welcomed at the DEO office by Farah Naz Channa and other education officials. The DEO said these appointments will reduce the teacher shortage and improve learning outcomes. Newly appointed teachers expressed happiness, saying their efforts were finally rewarded and they are ready to contribute to quality education.

Twin Fire Blazes in Kot Ghulam Muhammad Cause Major Property Losses

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A sudden fire broke out at Umar Chohan's scrap shop on Factory Road, destroying all the scrap materials, two rickshaws, and a motorcycle. Meanwhile, in Deh 294 Haji Shafi area, a fire unexpectedly engulfed the homes of Meghwar and Piro Meghwar, burning clothes and other household items.

DHQ Hospital Dadu Hosts Breast Cancer Awareness Drive

By Javed Laghari

DADU: In collaboration with Noreen Cancer Hospital, a one-day breast cancer awareness session was organized at DHQ Hospital Dadu. The session was chaired by MS Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi. Special guest, Director of Noreen Hospital Nawabshah, Dr. Siddique Nohri, attended the event. Dr. Jamal Khatoon gave a briefing on breast cancer awareness. A large number of doctors, nurses, and support staff participated.

Thatta Launches Grassroots Dairy Grid to Empower Small Farmers

By KB Brohi

THATTA: A new dairy development grid under the Grassroots Incentivized Dairy Development Program Sindh was inaugurated in village Nabi Bux Palari, near Jhimpir. The event was led by Dr. Nobat Khoso, Director of Animal Husbandry Sindh (Hyderabad), alongside Dr. Abdul Aziz Rustamani, Deputy Director Livestock (Kohistan), and other senior officials.

Villagers Stage Protest Over Shoddy Work on Darro Branch Canal

By Samiullah Memon

DARRO: Villagers of Anb Sodhro and Gul Muhammad Sodhro protested against the contractor for faulty work on the Darro branch canal and its bunds. Locals including Allah Bachayo Sodho, Nawaz, Aido, Alam, and Jan Muhammad Sodho stated that the government has spent millions to strengthen the canal and bunds, but the contractor's poor workmanship has worsened their situation. They fear that due to high water pressure, the bunds may break anytime, causing floods like in 2010 that destroyed homes, livestock, and crops.

Johi Public Forum Demands Solar Justice and Climate Action

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: A public forum organized by Village Shadabad Organization with support from GGN and Indus Consortium was held in Johi, focusing on solar equity, fossil fuel exit, and sustainable recovery. Social activists, journalists, and political workers discussed energy access, rising electricity costs, and climate impacts.

PROUD TO SERVE
SINDH POLICE

OFFICE OF THE
PROJECT DIRECTOR
(PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT)
PRISONS DEPARTMENT SINDH
CAMP OFFICE AT CENTRAL PRISON, KARACHI

ADDENDUM

This office's NIT No. **TC/PD/PMU/TENDERS/2024-25/5393,** Karachi, dated 17.10.2025, which was published in various newspapers under Advertisement No. **INF/KRY-3356/2025** and SPPRA ID No. **TO1953-24-0077**, is hereby amended as below:

It is informed that the following work is added as Sr. No. 04 in the NIT:

Sr. No. 04 - M&R: to Central Prison & C.F. Khairpur (Repair of Superintending Office & Other Staff Offices)

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged and as stipulated in the original bidding documents.

INF-KRY 3477/25

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PROJECT DIRECTOR
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
PRISONS DEPARTMENT SINDH
KARACHI

METRO KARACHI

CM Murad Celebrates Wheat Procurement Nod as a Landmark Victory

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has termed the federal government's decision to allow provincial governments to procure wheat as a significant achievement. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, he said Sindh has been granted permission to purchase between 800,000 to 1.2 million tons of wheat. The chief minister emphasized that the support price for wheat should not be less than Rs 4,000 per maund.Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government aims to encourage farmers to increase wheat production so that the country has sufficient stock and does not need to import wheat. He revealed that the Sindh Food Department currently holds a stock of 1.265 million tons of wheat, while the government and other stakeholders collectively possess around 2 million tons. He added that the Agriculture Department will monitor incentives for poor farmers, and small growers will receive a Rs 55 billion relief package. The CM also announced that the current agricultural income tax rate will remain unchanged this year.

Nasir Shah Promises Bold Urban Reforms Under Visionary Karachi 2047 Master Plan

KARACHI: Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah chaired the 2nd Project Steering Committee meeting of the Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047. The session focused on transforming Karachi's urban, transport, and environmental landscape. Officials emphasized urgent traffic solutions, inter-agency coordination, and long-term planning to make Karachi a modern, livable mega city.—RT

Hyderabad Colleges Poised for Transformation With New Libraries, Curriculum Revamp, and IT Expansion

KARACHI: Secretary College Education Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon led a high-level meeting to modernize 72 Hyderabad region colleges. Key reforms include daily library classes, curriculum updates, infrastructure upgrades, and new IT programs. Attendance monitoring, teacher placement, and leadership appointments were prioritized. An Inter-College Sports Week is set for December, and strict action was ordered against encroachments on college property.—RT

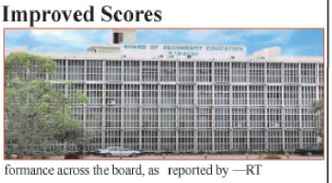
Power, Policy, and Progress: Karachi Meeting Charts Path for Major Social and Economic Reforms

KARACHI: Sir Syed University hosted global communication coach Yasir Ali Khan for an inspiring session on impactful public speaking, attended by faculty and leadership. Meanwhile, Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani announced plans to link social protection data with NADRA and BISP, aiming to provide financial aid, education, and healthcare to the needy. Both events highlighted powerful communication and people-focused governance as keys to progress in Sindh.—RT

Saeed Ghani Champions Sindh's Digital Revolution to Streamline Social Aid

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani announced a major initiative to link social protection data with NADRA and BISP, aiming to provide financial aid, education, healthcare, and maternity support across the province. Backed by Benazir Bhutto's vision and Bilawal Bhutto's manifesto, the plan includes a unified database to streamline assistance. The goal: reach every deserving citizen in Sindh with timely, integrated support services.—RT

Karachi 9th Grade Results Announced — 76.3% Students Pass With Improved Scores



KARACHI: The Karachi Matric Board has announced SSC Part I (9th Class) results for Science and General Groups, showing a strong 76.3% pass rate. Out of 196,714 enrolled students, 167,279 appeared, and 127,586 passed. The results reflect solid academic performance across the board, as reported by —RT

Pakistan's ETF Market Surges as High Returns Ignite Investor Optimism

KARACHI: ETFs listed on PSX are delivering impressive returns across sectors, themes, Islamic, and debt categories — signaling rising investor trust and market maturity. These funds offer diversified, Shariah-compliant, and transparent investment options with stock market liquidity. ETFs are fast becoming the smart choice for both institutional and retail investors in Pakistan.—RT

PTI Gearing Up for Power-Packed Rally in Karachi Next Month: Barrister Salman Akram Raja

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Barrister Salman Akram Raja announced that PTI will hold a massive public rally in Karachi next month, followed by similar gatherings in Hyderabad and other major cities as part of a nationwide campaign to mobilize public support.

During his Karachi visit, Barrister Raja met PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, Parliamentary Leader Shabbir Qureshi, and senior leader Jamal Siddiqui to offer condolences on the passing of their family members. —RT/Agency

Karachi Builder Jawed Iqbal Reportedly Abducted

KARACHI: An influential builder and developer, Jawed Iqbal, was allegedly taken from his office in Zamzama Commercial Area of Defence Housing Authority (DHA) by unidentified armed men dressed in police uniforms.—RT/Agency

KMC to Roll Out Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Across Karachi

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has decided to set up electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the city to promote eco-friendly transportation. The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

The mayor announced that in the first phase, charging stations will be installed on Shahrah-e-Faisal, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, and Stadium Road. He said that KMC will allocate its own land for the project and utilize its available resources to ensure swift implementation.—RT/Agency

Murad Approves Pakistan's First Inclusive City for Differently-Abled Citizens

KARACHI: CM Murad Ali Shah approved the Master Plan for Pakistan's first-ever 75-acre Inclusive City, a groundbreaking project offering housing, education, healthcare, and vocational training for differently-abled persons. With RO plants, stormwater systems, and load-shedding-free power, the city promises full accessibility and empowerment. Phase I includes hospitals, rehab, and schools. Shah called it "a statement of equality, compassion, and dignity for every citizen of Sindh."—RT

Sharjeel Assures KATI: We Serve the Public, Not Titles — Industrial Revival on Track

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, during a visit to KATI, pledged full government support to industrialists, citing infrastructure upgrades, health breakthroughs like free CyberKnife and NICVD services, and transport projects including Pink Buses and Yellow Line BRT. He highlighted PPP's pro-business stance, investment incentives, and flood-relief housing, declaring Sindh is rising after decades of neglect and conspiracy-driven instability.—RT

Bilawal and Qaim Ali Shah Discuss Khairpur Crisis in High-Level Meeting

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a key meeting with former CM Syed Qaim Ali Shah and MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah at Bilawal House. They discussed the evolving political situation in Sindh and urgent public issues in Khairpur, vowing swift action and solutions to address citizens' concerns ahead of upcoming political developments.

PJBF's 17th AGM Ushers in New Chapter of Pakistan-Japan Business Cooperation

KARACHI: The Pakistan-Japan Business Forum (PJBF) celebrated its 17th AGM at Chairman Murtaza Mandviwalla's residence, with Japan's Consul General H.E. Hattori Masaru in attendance. A key highlight was the signing of an MoU with AOTS to boost technical cooperation. PJBF reaffirmed its pivotal role in enhancing bilateral trade, holding seminars and high-level meetings to deepen economic collaboration across vital industries.—RT

SHC Directs SBCA to Resolve Amenity Plot Misuse Dispute Within 45 Days

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed the Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) to decide within 45 days on the alleged misuse of an amenity plot in Kathiawar Housing Society, reportedly being used for commercial purposes as a private school.

A division bench comprising Justice Yousuf Ali Saeed and Justice Abdul Mobeen Lakho issued the directive while hearing a petition filed by Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor through his lawyer Advocate Khurram Lakhani. The court ordered the SBCA DG to issue a detailed ("speaking") decision after hearing all concerned parties.—RT/Agency

Karachi Offers Pakistan's Best Healthcare Infrastructure: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that Karachi now provides some of the best healthcare facilities in Pakistan, reflecting the Sindh government's strong commitment to improving public health services. Speaking to the media, he highlighted various health initiatives launched under the provincial government's vision to ensure accessible and quality medical care for all citizens.

Memon stated that several hospitals in Karachi have been upgraded with modern equipment and specialized departments to cater to both local and out-of-city patients. He said the government is focused on expanding healthcare services, particularly in emergency response, maternal health, and free medicine distribution programs. The minister reiterated that improving the healthcare system remains one of Sindh's top priorities, aiming to make Karachi a medical hub that meets international standards.—RT

Khawaja Izhar Slams Karachi's Governance, Credits Islamabad's Safety to Local Efficiency

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Khawaja Izhar-ul-Hasan has praised Islamabad's local administration for maintaining law and order, while criticizing Karachi's worsening street crime situation and governance issues. Sharing his views on social media, the MQM leader posted a photo of himself at Islamabad's Super Market, noting that the free and safe use of mobile phones there reflects effective local policing and administrative presence.

In his post, Khawaja Izhar stated that the improvement in Islamabad's security is due to the efforts of local police and local officers, whose close coordination has created a sense of safety among citizens. He contrasted this with Karachi, where he said rising street crimes and poor governance are the result of non-local officials managing key administrative roles.

Izhar emphasized the need for empowering Karachi's local administration, arguing that genuine local representation is essential for restoring peace and public trust in the city.—RT/Agency

Kidnapping of Poet Mumtaz Abbasi Sends Shockwaves Through Karachi's Literary Circles

KARACHI: Renowned poet Mumtaz Abbasi, brother of senior journalist Liaquat Abbasi, was abducted at gunpoint in Gulistan-e-Johar and later dumped in Sohrab Goth as armed men fled with his car. The horrifying incident highlights Karachi's worsening law and order. Journalists and literary circles condemned the act, demanding IG Sindh act swiftly to arrest the culprits and restore citizens' shaken sense of security.—RT

Dir/CMW/F&A/KMC/374/2025
KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
(CONTRACT MANAGEMENT WING-CMW)
FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
Room No.19, 2nd Floor, KMC Head Office M.A. Jinnah Road Karachi

Phone No.021-99215795 Dated: 20/10/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - (RFP)

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation intends to invite Request for Proposal (RFP) through Sindh E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) under Single Stage One Envelope Procedure for following RFP assignments, through a well reputed firm, who has obvious recreational amusement ventures experienced. In this regard, the required eligibility & capabilities criteria, scope of work and security deposit are also described in the RFP for bidder's firm / proposer to be participated in the RFP assignment.

1. Development / Beautification of Safari Park Entry Gate and Improvement of Parking facilities for the visitors of Safari Park KMC.
2. Beautification with Renovation of Karachi Zoo Entry Gate and Improvement of Parking facilities for the Visitors of Karachi Zoo.
3. Development / Beautification of Landhi Korangi Zoo Entry Gate for the visitors of Landhi Korangi Zoo KMC

The interested bidders may download the RFP documents from EPADS portalsindh.eprocure.gov.pk. from 28-10-2025, The RFP Proposal / bids, duly completed in all respect and signed by authorized person, must be submitted through EPADS till 3:00 P.M. on 13-11-2025, which will be opened on the same day i.e. 13-11-2025 at 3.30 P.M. The bidders may also submit of Rs.5,000/- in the mode of **original pay order (Non-refundable)** in favour of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation for RFP documents to this office on opening date or before deadline of submission, the copy of which must be submitted online through bids on the E-Procurement System, and the same should have validity of at least 06 months from the day of submission to KMC.

In case, due to any reason, no proposals is received or unresponsive on the above dates then, the next date of opening will be on 01-12--2025 at 3:30 PM respectively at same venue.

In case, the last date of issuance of day/submission/opening is declared as a public holiday by the Government or Non-working day due to force Majeure, bad law and order situation and closures of roads surrounding KMC Head Office Building, the next official working day shall be deemed to be the date for issuance, submission and opening of RFP documents at the same time and venue of schedule.

Substantially Responsive Bid:- Only those bids, which comply with the each eligibility & minimum qualification criteria mentioned in the RFP documents will be declared substantially responsive bids and will be eligible for further evaluation. However, in case of disqualification of the bid, the same of their Security Deposit / Bid Security offered will be returned to the concerned bidder/proposer with the approval of competent authority, KMC.

The detail of Bid Security / Security Deposit has been mentioned in the RFP and the copy of the bid security must be submitted online through bids on the E-Procurement System and an original of the same must reach to the office of Director (Contract Management Wing), F&A, KMC on opening date or before deadline for submission of bids. If, the bidders failed to submit the bid security and RFP fee Pay order by the deadline shall be rejected at the time of opening.

The bidders must provide a hard copy of their Technical & Financial Proposal, which has been uploaded EPADS SPPRA Website, to the office of Director (Contract Management Wing) F&A, KMC, situated at the 2nd Floor Room No.19, Main KMC Building, M.A. Jinnah Road, Karachi on the opening date to check the authenticity of the said proposal documents as to whether the same are in original or forged.

Canvassing in connection with the RFP proceedings is strictly prohibited and RFP a document submitted by the bidders/prospers, who report canvassing, will be liable for rejection. However, at any stage concealment/distortion of fact(s) is detected, it would be sufficient cause to reject the application as per SPP Rules 2010 (Amended upto date).

KMC may reject all or any proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of RFP proposals, subject to the relevant provisions of SPP Rules 2010 (Amended upto date).

Director (Contract Management Wing)
Finance & Accounts, KMC.

KMC/MMD/85/2025

Dream big, work hard, succeed.
—Unknown

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 23 2025

Justice Mandokhail: No Law Can Stop SC, High Courts From Hearing Cases

ISLAMABAD: Amid the ongoing debate in the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench over the 26th Amendment, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on Wednesday said that the apex court and high courts cannot be barred from hearing cases even if their powers are curtailed.

"If the powers of the entire Supreme Court are taken away by an amendment, who will hear the case? [....] the same court would hear the case, right? Justice Mandokhail remarked.

The judge's remarks came during a hearing on pleas against the 26th Amendment being heard by an eight-member bench led by Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan.

The bench also includes Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Around three dozen petitioners, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore Bar Association, Karachi Bar Association as well as the former seven presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and various individuals in personal capacity, had challenged the validity of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

During today's hearing, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja's lawyer Khawaja Ahmed presented his arguments and contended that the 26th Amendment does not prohibit the formation of a full court.

In his remarks, Justice Amin-Ud-Din noted that most senior lawyers, during the hearing, said to put the 26th Amendment aside altogether in their arguments.

Noting that, like judges, lawyers also disagree with each other, counsel Khawaja Ahmed said that he did not agree that a full court needs to comprise all 24 judges.

"[I] have two questions: whether there should be a full court and if yes, then which one?" questioned Justice Malik.

Stressing that the Constitutional Bench is not barred from issuing directives to form a full court, the lawyer highlighted that Justice Mazhar had described a full court as separately in the Raja Amir case.

To this, Justice Mandokhail observed that the CB will have to see whether they have the authority to order the formation of a full court or not.

Expanding on his arguments, the lawyer questioned whether the court will hear the case or not if a 27th Amendment were introduced, due to which an officer of the executive decides all the matters of the SC.—RT/Agency

After KP CM's Outburst, Naqvi Diverts Bulletproof Vehicles To Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: After complaints by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi regarding bulletproof vehicles provided by the federal government, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Wednesday that the vehicles in question would be sent to Balochistan instead.

On Monday, Afridi had blamed the "flawed policy" of the federal government for the resurgence of terrorism being witnessed in the province. He further claimed that the federal government was neither giving KP funds allocated under the country's ongoing war against terrorism, nor "other constitutional rights". He had also alleged that the bulletproof cars provided by Naqvi were "defective and old", adding that they should be recalled.

Late on Tuesday, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti had commented on the claims and said that like KP, his province was also affected by terrorism.

"It is an appeal to the interior minister that if the KP government is refusing to take the bulletproof vehicles, they should be transferred to the Balochistan government so that terrorism can be countered effectively," he said in a post on social media platform X.

Today, Naqvi responded to Bugti's post and said: "CM sahib, done. These bulletproof vehicles will be sent to Balochistan immediately to enhance counter-terrorism efforts. Thank you for raising this."

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry had criticised the new KP chief minister, expressing disappointment that the "fight against terrorism and sacrifices made by soldiers were being overshadowed by politics".—RT/Agency

Aurangzeb Confident Pakistan Will Hit 3.5% GDP Growth This Fiscal Year

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said he is "quite hopeful" that Pakistan could manage to achieve GDP growth of close to 3.5 per cent during the ongoing fiscal year despite the impact of recent floods.

The finance czar shared this projection during an interview on CGTN America programme 'One on One', which was published on Tuesday. During the interview, the finance minister was asked how big a challenge the recent floods posed to economic recovery.

To that, Aurangzeb began his reply by underlining that climate change was an "existential issue for Pakistan".

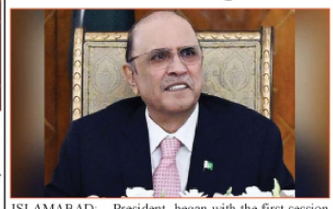
"We are living it day in and day out," he said.

He then went on to recall previous floods and their impact, and stated: "We grew at 3pc GDP last year. We had estimated that we would grow a little over 4pc this year, but now, given the flood situation, this will shave off a certain percentage around that. But, I am still quite hopeful that we can manage anything close to 3.5pc during this fiscal year."

At the outset of the interview, the finance minister was asked about the efforts to restore Pakistan's economy and the main challenges being faced on that front.

To that, Aurangzeb said Pakistan had "consolidated gains on the macroeconomic stability front. […] Inflation continues to be a good story, which is now in single digits. [The] policy rate has been halved. And as a result of that, what we have seen during the course of this year is [that] all global rating agencies have upgraded us during the course of this year. [It] started with Fitch, then S&P, and then two months back Moody's upgraded us. So it is after a hiatus of two and a half or three years, we have alignment between the rating agencies."—RT/Agency

President Zardari Set To Attend Global Social Development Summit In Qatar



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari will visit Qatar in early November.He will participate in the second Global Social Development Conference, scheduled to be held in Doha from November 4 to 6.This meeting is part of the series of global social development conferences that began with the first session held in Copenhagen in 1995.

During his visit, Asif Ali Zardari is also expected to meet with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, other world leaders, and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.—RT/Agency

North Korea Launches Multiple Missiles In First Major Test In Months

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea fired multiple ballistic missiles on Wednesday, its first such launch in months just a week before world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, descend on South Korea for a summit.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had "detected several projectiles, believed to be short-range ballistic missiles".

The missiles were fired around 8:10 am Wednesday (2310 GMT Tuesday) from an area south of the capital Pyongyang, Seoul's military said.

They flew for around 350 kilometres (217 miles), Seoul added.

The launch was the first of its kind since South Korean President Lee Jae-myung took office in June.

Trump has said he hopes to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, possibly this year, following several meetings during the Republican president's first term.

The North's state media has indicated that Kim is open to future talks, with caveats that the United States give up its "delusional" demand that Pyongyang relinquish its nuclear arsenal.

North Korea this month showed off what it called its "most powerful" intercontinental ballistic missile at a military parade attended by top officials from Russia and China.—RT/Agency

ATC Reissues Non-Bailable Arrest Warrant For Aleema Khan In PTI Protest Case

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Wednesday once again issued non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema Khan in connection with cases related to the PTI's protest on November 26 last year.ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah, while presiding over the hearing, issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema for the fourth time after she failed to appear before the court despite repeated summons.On November 26 last year, PTI supporters entered Islamabad in defiance of a ban on public gatherings and clashed with law enforcement agencies near D-Chowk. Police used teargas to disperse the crowd.The former ruling party's three-day protests were abruptly ended after fierce clashes erupted between the law enforcers and the protesters.The November 26, 2024, protest was aimed at building pressure on the government to release the PTI founder.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases ranging from corruption to terrorism since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022.—RT/Agency

Netanyahu Fires Israel's National Security Adviser Amid Deepening Power Rifts

Israel's national security adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sacked him, ending his tenure immediately.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu informed me today of his intention to appoint a new head of the National Security Council," Hanegbi said in a statement.

He also called for an investigation into security failures during Hamas's unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war in Gaza.

Two years after the attack, Netanyahu's government has yet to set up a commission to investigate the matter, with Israel's opposition accusing him of stalling the process.

Netanyahu's office published on Tuesday a statement thanking Hanebgi "for his service as head of the National Security Council over the past three years, and wishes him great success in his future path".—RT/Agency

Japan To Tell Trump It Will Boost Military And Overhaul Security Strategy

TOKYO: Japan's new foreign minister said Wednesday his country plans to show its determination to further build up its defense to rapidly adapt to changing warfare realities and growing tension in the region when U.S. President Donald Trump visits Tokyo next week.

Trump is expected to hold talks next Tuesday with Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who took office Tuesday after being elected Japan's first female leader.

Takaichi, who had spent much of past few weeks embroiled in internal political wrangling, has to face major diplomatic tests within days of taking office — Trump's visit and two regional summits."We are firmly preparing for President Trump's visit," Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said.

Motegi said he hoped Trump's first meeting with Takaichi during his Oct. 27-29 visit would serve as an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance while fostering their personal relationship of trust.

He said Japan also hopes to further cooperate with South Korea, along with other regional partners including Australia and the Philippines, while seeking stable and constructive relations with China.

Japan is currently undergoing a five-year military buildup through 2027 as part of its national security strategy, including doubling its annual defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Passport Revamp: New Look, New Security, Mother's Name Added

ISLAMABAD: The government has approved a complete redesign of Pakistani passports. The updated version will feature mother's name, historical landmarks, and enhanced security features. The Directorate General of Immigration and Passports secured clearance from the Interior Ministry to proceed.—RT/Agency

Online Scam Hits MQM-P MNA's Family: Rs 1.5 Million Lost

ISLAMABAD: Digital fraud struck close to home as MQM-P MNA Dr. Nikhat Shakeel revealed her family was scammed out of Rs 1.5 million. Speaking on Media's "Bakhabar Savera," she exposed how even top officials fall prey to sophisticated cybercrime.—RT/Agency

Mob Fury In Gawalmandi: Whistleblower Brutally Beaten On Camera

RAWALPINDI: In Rawalpindi's Gawalmandi, Haris was stripped, tied, and savagely beaten by 8–10 men after opposing an illegal scrap warehouse. Viral footage of the assault sparked nationwide outrage, showing attackers using pipes and sticks. Authorities responded swiftly following public uproar and social media pressure.—RT/Agency

Global Child Exploitation Ring Busted In Cybercrime Crackdown

ISLAMABAD: The NCCIA, with help from Australian Police and Interpol, uncovered an international child exploitation network on WhatsApp and Telegram. Operations "Roads" and "Iceberg" led to exposing groups "Rainbow" and "Mallowdale ken" spreading immoral content. A major blow to global cyber predators.—RT/Agency

IMF Upgrades Pakistan's Growth Outlook To 3.6% Despite Flood Threats

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised Pakistan's economic growth forecast upward to 3.6% for the ongoing fiscal year, while cautioning that recent severe flooding in Q3 2025 may negatively impact growth, inflation, and the current account beyond present expectations, The News reported on Wednesday.In its Regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia, the IMF noted that while inflation in Pakistan has decelerated significantly this year due to lower food and energy prices, it is expected to rise again in 2026.This anticipated increase is attributed to the normalisation of prices and the phasing out of short-term electricity subsidies.Pakistan's growth is projected to increase to 3.6% in 2026, supported by steady reform implementation, improving financial conditions and growing confidence.This revised figure is an improvement on the Fund's earlier projection of 3.25% to 3.5% for FY26, which was announced last week after a staff-level agreement was reached with Pakistan under the existing Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience Sustainability Facility (RSF). Pakistan's GDP grew by 3.04% in the last financial year, 2024-25.—RT/Agency

Netanyahu Declares: 'Israel Is Not A U.S. Protectorate' Ahead Of Vance Meeting

TEL AVIV, Israel: Israel's prime minister toughened his stance Wednesday by declaring that his country is in charge of its own security and isn't an American protectorate as he prepared to discuss progress on Gaza's fragile ceasefire agreement with U.S. Vice President JD Vance.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks ahead of his meeting with Vance appeared aimed easing public concerns that the presence of an envisioned international security force in Gaza could limit Israel's ability to strike in the devastated territory to thwart future threats.

"We are not a protectorate of the United States. Israel is the one that will decide on its security," Netanyahu said in a statement issued by his office as he headed into the meeting.Speaking to reporters before the meeting's start, Vance acknowledged that the road to peace is strewn with huge hurdles but at the same time tried to maintain the buoyant tone he sounded Tuesday on his arrival to Israel."We have a very, very tough task ahead of us, which is to disarm Hamas but rebuild Gaza to make life better for the people in Gaza, but also to ensure that Hamas is no longer a threat to our friends in Israel. That's not easy," Vance said. "There's a lot of work to do, but I feel very optimistic about where we are."

Vance is also meeting Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Wednesday. He is accompanied by U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law.—RT/Agency

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