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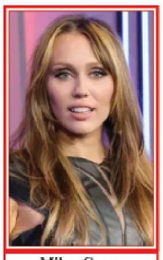

Miley Cyrus Confirms Exciting Role in Upcoming Blockbuster 'Avatar: Fire and Ash'

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CM Murad: Begum Nusrat Bhutto's Democratic Struggle Will Never Be Forgotten

KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 279 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Friday, October 24, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 29, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Pakistan, Egypt Committed To Regional Peace, Says Field Marshal Munir

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has said that enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt would not only strengthen bilateral ties but also contribute towards achieving peace and stability in the region.

The field marshal made these during his official visit to Egypt, aimed at enhancing military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two countries, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

During his visit, the COAS held meetings with Egyptian Minister of Defence General Abdul Maged Saqar and Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces Lieutenant General Ahmed Khalifa Fatehi.

"Discussions focused on regional security, mutual interests, and avenues for deeper defence collaboration," the military's media wing added.

COAS Munir was warmly received at the Ministry of Defence, where he was presented with a Guard of Honour and laid a floral wreath at the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier and the grave of former Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar Al Sadat.

Later, Field Marshal Munir met Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb at Mashaikhat Al Azhar Al Sharif.

The Grand Imam shared his views on challenges confronting the Muslim Ummah, while the COAS emphasised the need to eradicate extremist ideologies and distorted interpretations of Islam.—RT/Agency

PM Unveils 3-Year Plan For Rs22.98/Unit Electricity To Industry, Agriculture

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced the 'Roshan Maeeshat Bijli Package' (Roshan Economy Power Package) to uplift Pakistan's industrial and agricultural sectors.

The package was announced during a meeting with the delegation of the business community and experts from the industrial and agricultural sectors in Islamabad today.

Under which industries and farmers will receive additional electricity at subsidized rates for the next three years, until October 2028.

Under the Roshan Maeeshat Bijli Package, industries and the agricultural sector will receive additional electricity at Rs.22.98 per unit for the next three years.

PM Shehbaz Sharif stated that the cost of electricity units currently priced at Rs.34 for industries will be substantially reduced, and additional units will be provided. Similarly, the rate of Rs.38 per unit for the agricultural sector will also be significantly lowered, with the provision of extra units.

He commended Minister for Energy Owais Leghari and his team for their commendable efforts in formulating this package.

Highlighting the importance of industrial and agricultural growth for economic development and job creation, the prime minister said the government is taking every possible step to enhance competitiveness of these sectors in the region and improve ease of doing business.Referring to the previous year's package, he said the industrial and agricultural sectors consumed an additional 410 gigawatts of electricity, which helped drive industrial activity, boost exports, and create employment opportunities.—RT/Agency

Pakistan, 14 Nations Condemn Israel's West Bank Sovereignty Moves

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, in a joint statement with 14 other nations, condemned Tel Aviv's attempt to impose "Israeli sovereignty" over the occupied West Bank, after the Israeli parliament passed bills on annexing the West Bank, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Israeli lawmakers voted to advance two bills on annexing the occupied West Bank, barely a week after US President Donald Trump pushed through a deal aimed at ending Israel's two-year military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Trump has warned that Israel would lose its crucial backing from the United States if it annexes the occupied West Bank.

In a statement issued today, the FO condemned "in strongest terms the approval of the Israeli Knesset of two draft laws aiming to impose a so-called 'Israeli sovereignty' over the occupied West Bank", calling it a "blatant" violation of international law.The joint statement was signed by 14 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkiye.

The FO noted that the move violated the "United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2334, which condemns all Israeli measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character, and status of the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967, including East Jerusalem".—RT/Agency

Federal Cabinet Approves Punjab's Plea To Ban TLP After Violent Protests

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Thursday approved the imposition of a ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

According to sources, the decision was made during a meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, where the interior ministry was directed to complete the necessary legal procedures.

Sources said the Punjab government had recommended the ban, leading to a federal cabinet session to deliberate on the proposal.

The ban has been suggested under Section 11-B(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The charge sheet states that TLP leaders delivered hate speeches and the group was involved in sectarian extremism and violence against minorities.—RT/Agency

Trump Warns Of Withdrawing US Support If Israel Annexes West Bank

US: President Donald Trump said Israel would lose its crucial backing from the United States if it annexes the occupied West Bank, in a Time magazine interview published on Thursday.

Trump's comments, which Time said were made by telephone on October 15, were published as both Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned against any annexation."It won't happen. It won't happen because I gave my word to the Arab countries. And you can't do that now. We've had great Arab support," Trump said when asked what the consequences would be for Israel if it did so."Israel would lose all of its support from the United States if that happened."Trump also told Time that he believed Saudi Arabia would join the Abraham Accords, which normalise relations between Israel and Arab states, by the end of the year.

"Yes, I do. I do," he said when asked if he thought Riyadh would join in that timeframe."See they had a problem. They had a Gaza problem and they had an Iran problem.

Now they don't have those two problems," he said, referring to Israel's military onslaught in Gaza and Iran's nuclear programme, which US airstrikes targeted earlier this year.—RT/Agency

Israel's Annexation Threatens Peace Deal, Rubio Warns

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday warned Israel against annexing the West Bank, saying steps taken by parliament and settler violence threatened a Gaza peace deal.

Israeli lawmakers voted Wednesday to advance two bills on annexing the occupied West Bank, barely a week after President Donald Trump pushed through a deal aimed at ending a two-year Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip that was retaliation for a Hamas attack.

"I think the president's made clear that's not something we can be supportive of right now," Rubio said of annexation as he boarded his plane for a visit to Israel.

Annexation moves are "threatening for the peace deal," he told reporters.

"They're a democracy, they're going to have their votes, and people are going to take these positions," he said.

"But at this time, it's something that we…think might be counterproductive," he said.

Asked about increased violence by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank, Rubio said: "We're concerned about anything that threatens to destabilize what we've worked on."But Rubio — the latest high-ranking US visitor to Israel following Vice President JD Vance — voiced optimism overall for preserving the peace deal."Every day there'll be threats to it, but I actually think we're ahead of schedule in terms of bringing it together, and the fact that we made it through this weekend is a good sign," Rubio said.—RT/Agency

Govt Addresses IMF Concerns On Wheat Price Policy

ISLAMABAD: The government has resolved the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) reservations regarding the wheat support price, sources said.

According to sources, the IMF had raised objections to the fixation of a minimum support price in the wheat policy. After the policy's approval, the IMF informed the Ministry of National Food Security through an official letter.

The international lender also sought details of the wheat policy's framework from the ministry, the sources added. In its response, the ministry clarified that no support price had been fixed and that the matter had been misunderstood.

Sources in the Ministry of National Food Security said the IMF believed that a minimum support price had been set, but the government explained that instead of fixing a support price, an indicative price had been determined.

The indicative price was calculated by referring to the international price of the United States' hard red wheat, which stands at 238 dollars per tonne.

Sources said the indicative price was worked out after including landing costs in Karachi and transportation expenses from Karachi to Multan. After these calculations, the estimated price was determined at Rs3,500 per maund.—RT/Agency

Govt May Shift Imran Khan To Bani Gala If PTI Applies, Says Minister Dr Tariq Fazal

ISLAMABAD: In a goodwill gesture, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday offered to shift Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) incarcerated leader Imran Khan from Adiala Jail to his residence in Bani Gala, provided an application is filed.

Speaking on a private TV channel, the minister stated that the PTI founder currently meets with his entire family and lawyers in jail without any restrictions. "If there is any obstacle in meeting him, we will review it. We are ready to shift the PTI founder to Bani Gala; his party should apply," he remarked.

"We will definitely shift him, and he may meet people, play ludo, or whatever he wants to do. We want the PTI founder to meet political people," he maintained.

Chaudhry added that first-class exercise machines had been provided to the jailed former prime minister.

However, former senator and vice-chairman of the Tehreek Tahafuz Aiyeen-e-Pakistan, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, on a TV show reacted to the minister's offer by stating that neither the federal nor the Punjab government has the authority to do so.

He claimed that even if Ahmad Awais (a PTI lawyer also on the show) were to write an application on the party's behalf, the minister would simply fax it to Rawalpindi. To this, the minister quipped, "Where else should the application go, as Adiala Jail is in Rawalpindi?"—RT/Agency

Afghan Transit Trade Set To Resume In Phases, Confirms Customs Authority

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to resume the Afghan transit trade following the recent ceasefire agreement between Islamabad and Kabul, with the Directorate of Transit Trade issuing a phased restoration procedure.

In a statement, the directorate said that the cargo clearance process would be completed in three stages. In the first phase, nine vehicles that were sent back after the closure of Bab-e-Dosti will be cleared.

The second phase will involve the processing of 74 vehicles that had returned from the NLC terminal, while in the third phase, 217 vehicles parked at the halting yard will be cleared for onward movement to Afghanistan.

Customs authorities confirmed that formal directives have been issued for the gradual restoration of transit operations, beginning with the Chaman border route.

Separately, trade officials in Chaman said that hundreds of cargo vehicles remain stranded due to the prolonged suspension.—RT/Agency

PML-N, PPP In Talks Over KP Seat Adjustment For Two NA Vacancies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the People's Party considering over seat adjustment in by elections in two National Assembly constituencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, sources said on Thursday.

The political parties, two major partners in the existing political setup, have been in contact over the by elections in KP, sources said. "The matters with regard to by elections are expected to be decided soon".

The sides have expressed their options for by elections as the PPP has expressed interest in Chitral's NA constituency while the PML-N has been interested in the election on the vacant NA seat of Haripur.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in August de-notified Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan, elected from NA-18 Haripur, among nine lawmakers following conviction in May 9, 2023, cases.—RT/Agency

26th Amendment Case: Justice Mazhar Rules Constitutional Bench And SC Are Not Separate

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has observed that the Constitutional Bench and the apex court are not separate entities.

"We are also judges of the SC," Justice Mazhar remarked on Thursday during a hearing of pleas against the 26th Constitutional Amendment.Justice Mazhar is part of the eight-member bench led by Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan and also includes Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.Dozens of 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 the hearing today, petitioner Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar's lawyer Shahid Jamil appeared before the court and said that his plea concerned the apex court's practice and procedure committee.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Adi Faryal Talpur Meets Pir Makhdoom Nadeem Hashmi, Pledges to Revive Peace and Sufi Spirit Across Sindh

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Pir Makhdoom Nadeem Ahmed Hashmi, custodian of Dargah-e-Aliya Shuhada-e-Karam Khuhra Sharif, met PPP Women's Wing President and Sindh Assembly Member Adi Faryal Talpur. They discussed religious, social, and educational initiatives linked to the shrine.

Pir Hashmi presented Adi Faryal Talpur with spiritual books, an honorary shield, and a bouquet. Accepting an invitation to visit the shrine, Talpur praised Sufi centers for spreading peace and harmony. Both leaders agreed to strengthen Sindh's Sufi traditions and promote unity and tolerance in society.

Massive 12-Day Anti-Measles and Polio Drive Kicks Off in Jamshoro

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A major twelve-day measles and polio vaccination campaign will run from November 17 to 29 across Jamshoro district. The plan was finalized in a Steering Committee meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Dr. Adnan Munir Tunio, under Deputy Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Qadri's directives. Children aged six months to five years will receive measles vaccines, while polio drops will be given to newborns up to five years. Dr. Tunio urged officials to avoid negligence and called on parents to vaccinate their children to protect them from these dangerous diseases.

Festivities Ignite at Mehran University as Two-Day MUET Gala Opens in Jamshoro

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) inaugurated its grand two-day MUET Gala festival at the university's Entry Test Ground. The event, the largest student-organized festival in Jamshoro, was officially opened by Vice Chancellors Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali (MUET) and Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri (Sindh University). The festival features cultural stalls, public service exhibits, and innovative research displays, drawing enthusiastic participation from students. The event promotes student engagement, creativity, and community spirit after a three-year break.

Umerkot District Council Greenlights Bold New Development Agenda for 2025–26

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Umerkot District Council held an important meeting chaired by Chairman Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli, attended by Vice Chairman Mian Khalid Walhari, council members, and officials. The meeting focused on development projects, budget approval, and ongoing schemes for 2025-26. Emphasis was placed on transparency and public interest.

New development schemes were approved, with priority given to completing incomplete projects. Funds were allocated for road repairs and infrastructure. Members also discussed improving educational facilities, municipal services, and called for at least 10% free education in private schools under government policy. Officials were directed to resolve health and agriculture issues promptly.

Tando Muhammad Khan Villagers Stand Up Against Armed Attack and Police Inaction

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Residents of Janhan Soomro village in Bulri Shah Karim, Tando Muhammad Khan, protested against an alleged armed raid by the influential government-aligned wadera Ibrahim Soomro, Bachal Soomro, and their armed men along with police officials led by SHO Bulri Shah Karim. According to locals, the group forcefully entered homes, brutally assaulted two women and four men with sticks and weapons, and forcibly took purchased crops from the houses.

The victims, including Muhammad Ishaq Soomro, Hafiz Suleman, and others, claimed police refused to register their FIR or provide medical assistance. The villagers have demanded legal action against the wadera, his men, and the police, threatening further protests at the SSP office if justice is not served.

Free Medical Camp Brings Lifesaving Treatment and Tests to Nooriabad's Remote Villages

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: Under the special instructions of Sindh Chief Minister's Advisor Gyan Chand Esrani, the Rehabilitation Department conducted a free medical camp with two mobile health units in the village Wadero Badal Palari, UC Munder Khan. A total of 96 patients were treated, including 20 men, 46 women, and 30 children. Free tests such as ultrasound, ECG, malaria, and diabetes were also conducted. Villagers expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister's advisor for bringing such valuable medical services to their doorstep, especially during these times of rising treatment costs.

Milan Engro Seed Empowers Umerkot Farmers with Sky Star Four Chili Revolution

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Under the leadership of Zonal Manager Imran Baloch, Milan Engro Seed Pakistan held a meeting at a private hotel in Umerkot to educate farmers about Sky Star Four chili seeds and other varieties.

Self Promotion Officer Manzoor Baber and Area Manager Attaullah Chandio also attended.

Farmers were informed that Sky Star Four seeds are affordable, yield double production, and do not harm the soil. The farmers pledged to use Sky Star Four seeds to earn good profits and protect their lands.

JUI-F Leaders Slam State Interference in Mosques, Urge Sweeping Systemic Change

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: JUI-F leaders in Thul emphasized their commitment to non-violence but warned against interference in madaris and mosques during a meeting chaired by Dr. Khalil Ahmed Khoso.

They called for a change in the system, not just leadership, blaming corruption and flawed policies for the country's woes. Maulana Abdullah Pahor urged implementation of the Islamic system for national peace. Concerns were raised over land deals under Green Pakistan.

PPP Leaders Honor Begum Nusrat Bhutto's Legacy on 14th Death Anniversary

SHAHDADKOT: In Shahdadkot, PPP leaders including Rais Wajid Ali Chandio and Mir Darya Khan Mastoi honored Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her 14th death anniversary. They praised her courageous role in restoring democracy and resisting General Zia-ul-Haq's dictatorship. Remembering her sacrifices during the MRD movement, they hailed her as a brave woman who faced brutal oppression and paid tribute to her enduring legacy in Pakistan's democratic struggle.

DEO Khairpur Acts Tough, Issues Show-Cause Notices After Surprise Hingorja School Visit

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Abdul Sami Bhambhro, DEO Secondary Education Khairpur, conducted a surprise inspection of schools in Hingorja, finding five teachers absent without permission. Show-cause notices were issued to the absent staff at Bachal Bhambhro High School and Hingorja Boys Elementary School.

The DEO interacted with students, encouraging them to study hard for better results. He praised the Sindh government's efforts, saying education is the key to progress and reforms are underway to improve standards.

LARKANA: PPP leaders and workers are offering Fateha at the grave of Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her 14th Death Anniversary at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.--RT

PPP Remains Symbol of Service and Stability, Says Ishrat Hasan

By Zia Qureshi

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Ladies Wing Hyderabad leader Ishrat Hasan has said that despite the prevailing political challenges in Sindh, the PPP continues to stand as a symbol of democracy, stability, and public service.

She stated that certain opposition elements are attempting to mislead the public through false accusations and propaganda, but the people of Sindh remain steadfast in their trust and support for the PPP.

Highlighting the achievements of the provincial government, Ishrat Hasan said the Sindh government has made remarkable progress in education, healthcare, employment, and women's empowerment, all of which demonstrate its commitment to the welfare of the people.

She further emphasized that under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the PPP is determined to build a brighter and more prosperous future for Pakistan, expressing confidence that the people will once again bring the PPP to victory through the power of their votes in the upcoming elections.

Badin Unites for Interfaith Harmony to Strengthen Peace and Tolerance

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Badin district, known for its tradition of peace and brotherhood, held an important Interfaith Harmony Committee meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashif Raza Mangi. The meeting emphasized fostering a safe and respectful environment for all religious communities. Mangi stressed the role of education, awareness, and cooperation among social organizations and religious leaders to strengthen tolerance. He also directed the removal of encroachments near religious sites and urged officials to regularly visit places of worship. Attendees, including local officials and religious leaders, pledged to reject hatred and maintain Badin's peaceful identity.

Angry Farmers Lay Siege to Badin DC Office Over Paddy Price Crisis

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: The Hari Abadgar Movement, along with leaders and activists from National Awami Tehreek (NAT), Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khawaja Jamaat Badin, Awami Tehreek, and Tail Abadgar Association, held a massive protest at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Badin against the government's low pricing of paddy. Farmers, peasants, and political and social leaders condemned the unfair rates, calling it economic oppression. Leaders including Ghafoor Chandio, Dilbar Sindhi, Aziz Dero, Lala Nawaz Shaikh, and others demanded an immediate increase in paddy prices. They warned of a province-wide movement involving road blockades if their demands are not met within two days. The protestors emphasized that farmers are the backbone of the country and deserve fair support. The movement vowed to continue until justice is served.

Retired Sindh Employees Demand Unconditional Release of Group Insurance Funds

By Ayaz Latif Rand

MAQSOODO RIND: The President of All Sindh Retired Government Servants Association, Jan Muhammad Dahri, stated that the 2002, 2007, and 2009 conditions on group insurance are unacceptable. Since 1972, deducted group insurance funds must be promptly given to widows, orphans, and elderly pensioners. He accused the Sindh government and State Life Insurance of embezzling billions and vowed to oppose any deal or condition. Dahri urged the government to relax conditions so all retired employees can receive their due funds and warned of court actions and protests if demands are ignored.

Sun Crop Experts Claim Hybrid Seeds Boost Yields at Talhar Agricultural Seminar

TALHAR: A one-day seminar was organized by private agricultural company Sun Crop in village Muhammad Bakhsh Halipoto, highlighting the benefits of hybrid seed cultivation for better crop production. Sun Crop's RSM Ilyas Qureshi, ASM Pervez Rajput, and Ghulam Shabbir Khawaja addressed the event, stating that hybrid seeds significantly boost agricultural output. They emphasized the need for the Sindh government to develop effective policies to support agriculture and improve crop prices in the market. They also urged the government to provide relief to farmers facing difficulties due to high fertilizer costs. Guests were presented with traditional Sindhi Ajrak gifts by villagers.--RT

Female Teachers Fight for Justice in Fake Promotion Scandal as Officials Skip Court

LARKANA: Female teachers from Qambar-Shahdadkot have filed a petition in Sindh High Court Larkana against alleged irregular promotions of junior teachers, while senior teachers were overlooked. During the October 22 hearing, key education officials failed to appear, drawing the court's strong reprimand.

The case was adjourned to November 13, with a directive to prevent harassment of petitioners. The teachers have also complained to Additional Secretary Education, accusing him of bribery and demanding a fair inquiry, as frustration grows over the department's inaction.--RT

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Azma Bukhari Claims Saad Rizvi Using Human Shields to Avoid Arrest

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari said on Thursday that Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Saad Rizvi and his brother Anas Rizvi will be arrested soon, and alleged they have been using human shields to evade detention.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, Bukhari said the Punjab cabinet has approved a ban on the TLP and that a summary has been forwarded to the federal government for final approval.

Responding to a question about the provincial government's failure to arrest Saad and Anas Rizvi, she said authorities want to make arrests without loss of life.

"If someone is hiding and using human shields, and repeatedly taking steps that could incite violence and bloodshed, the government must achieve its target with minimum loss, and that is what we are pursuing," she said.—RT/Agency

IHC Larger Bench Suspends Ruling Allowing Prisoners Political Discussions

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) larger bench has suspended a single-bench ruling that had removed the restriction on political discussions by prisoners under the Punjab Prison Rules.

The larger bench, headed by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, took up an intra-court appeal filed against the earlier decision. The Punjab government had challenged the single-bench verdict, which had declared the clause barring inmates from engaging in political conversation as void.

With this new order, the previous restriction on political discussions within jails under the Punjab Prison Rules has been reinstated until further proceedings. —RT/Agency

Teacher Dismissed After Brutally Beating Student in Kallar Syedan

RAWALPINDI: A teacher in Kallar Syedan tehsil of Rawalpindi allegedly subjected a student to severe physical abuse at a private school, leaving visible marks and bruises on the child's body.

According to Geo News, the incident occurred when the teacher allegedly beat the fifth-grade student for failing to memorize his lesson. The student later revealed that the punishment was so harsh it left him in pain and distress.

Outraged parents of the victim have urged Punjab Chief Minister and the CEO of Education to take immediate notice of the incident and initiate strict legal action against the teacher.—RT/Agency

Punjab Cancels 28 Arms Dealers' Licences, Confirms Azma Bukhari

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has announced that shops of unlicensed arms dealers across the province have been sealed as part of a strict crackdown on illegal weapons.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, here today, Azma Bukhari said 28 arms dealers have had their licences revoked, while no new weapons licences will be issued in the province.

"At present, more than one million people in Punjab possess firearms," she revealed.

Bukhari said all licenced weapons must be registered at service centres, adding that the provincial government has zero tolerance for illegal arms possession.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Bilawal, Speaker Awais Shah Discuss Legislative Affairs in Karachi Meeting

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met Sindh Assembly Speaker Syed Awais Shah at Bilawal House, where they held detailed discussions on the Assembly's proceedings and the ongoing legislative process. The meeting focused on ensuring smooth parliamentary functioning, strengthening democratic practices, and advancing the party's legislative agenda for the welfare and progress of Sindh's people.—RT

Bilawal Reviews Mehrabpur's Public Issues During High-Level Karachi Meeting

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held an important meeting with MNA Syed Abrar Shah at Bilawal House, attended by PPP Mehrabpur President Syed Aqeel Shah and Syed Mustafa Shah. The delegation briefed Chairman Bilawal on key public issues faced by the people of Mehrabpur and discussed coordinated strategies to enhance infrastructure, governance, and essential public services across the region.—RT

Mustafa Kamal Visits Health Asia, Praises Pakistan Eye Bank Society's Visionary Efforts

KARACHI: Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal visited the Expo Center after inaugurating Health Asia, where he lauded the remarkable advancements in Pakistan's healthcare sector. At the event, Joint Secretary of the Pakistan Eye Bank Society, Qazi Yasir Ali, briefed the Minister at his hospital's stall, highlighting the society's pioneering role in restoring sight, promoting organ donation awareness, and advancing eye health initiatives nationwide.—RT

Traffic Mishaps Down After Focused Policing, Says DIG Peer Muhammad Shah

KARACHI: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Traffic Peer Muhammad Shah has revealed that when he assumed office in February, Karachi was witnessing a surge in traffic accidents, with around 90 fatalities reported every month.

Addressing the media, he said that the traffic police launched a detailed study to identify the causes behind the alarming rise in accidents. "Our findings showed that out of every 100 victims, 57 were motorcyclists," he said, adding that nearly 20 percent of all road accidents were caused by motorbike riders.

He further stated that heavy vehicles such as tankers, dumpers, and trailers also contributed significantly to road mishaps. "Shockingly, only about 20 percent of motorcyclists possess valid driving licenses," the DIG noted.—RT/Agency

CTD Karachi Nabs Two Terrorists Linked to Cross-Border Banned Outfit

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), in coordination with a sensitive agency, has arrested two terrorists belonging to a banned organization operating from a neighboring country.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, DIG CTD Azfar Mahesar said the arrested suspects were identified as Israr Gilgiti and Masoom Raza alias Imran Mota. He revealed that Masoom Raza's name is also listed in the Red Book of wanted terrorists.

According to Mahesar, the arrested men were involved in the targeted killings of individuals named Anas and Abdul Rehman. —RT/Agency

Rs8.5 Million Vanishes as Fraudsters Exploit Fake SIM — NCCIA Launches Probe

KARACHI: A shocking case of financial fraud has come to light after a citizen's bank account was drained of Rs8.5 million through the use of an illegally issued duplicate SIM card, according to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), ARY News reported.

Officials said the inquiry was launched following a complaint filed by a citizen named Sunny Kumar, who reported that his mobile SIM suddenly stopped working on September 29, 2025.

According to NCCIA, Kumar later discovered at his mobile company's office that a duplicate SIM of his number had been issued in Hyderabad without biometric verification. —RT/Agency

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

District Intelligence Committee Reviews Security and Law Enforcement Efforts

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: An important meeting of the District Intelligence Coordination Committee was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Bolan Kachhi, Captain (Retd) Jumadad Khan Mandokhail. Law enforcement representatives, including Levies, police officers, and other officials, attended the session. Discussions focused on maintaining peace, curbing illegal activities, and enhancing cooperation among agencies. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized improving communication, speeding up intelligence sharing, and ensuring swift action against suspicious activities to safeguard public safety and sustain law and order in the district.

Raees Ali Bux Jamali Highlights Years of Neglect in UC Naushera

By Abdul Aziz Bangalzai

BOLAN/BHAG: Raees Ali Bux Jamali, of Union Council Naushera, Taluka Bhag, Kachhi district, expressed deep concern over years of neglect by current and former MPAs and MNAs. He said local communities are living in dire conditions, deprived of basic facilities like schools, healthcare, and clean drinking water. Children suffer due to lack of education, and residents travel miles for medical help. Despite billions in funds, no development has reached the area, while elected representatives live lavishly and favor select individuals. Jamali urged people to hold their leaders accountable in upcoming elections.

GLOBAL

Seoul Rejects Claims Linking ID Outage to Chinese Visa-Free Entry

By SHIM Kyu-Seok

SEOL: South Korea's interior ministry has denied claims that a fire-related outage of the national ID database allowed Chinese tourists to bypass verification rules during their visa-free entry period. Public Data Director Bae Il-gwon said access to the database was restored on September 29, the same day the visa-free program for Chinese group tourists began. "There are no problems now. The system was restored on the 29th," he told AFP, adding that stores continued identity checks manually and completed verification later. The outage followed a September 26 fire at the National Information Resources Service (NIRS) in Daejeon, which briefly disrupted government data systems. However, officials from the Ministry of Science and ICT confirmed that the legal requirement to verify subscribers' identities remained in force. Telecom firms SK Telecom, KT, and LG U+ said they temporarily used an "activate first, verify later" system, and most accounts were later confirmed as legitimate. Authorities emphasized that tourists cannot open mobile phone accounts without an Alien Registration Card, though prepaid SIM cards are allowed. The government and telecoms have dismissed social media claims that the outage enabled "burner phones" for visa-free Chinese tourists as false and misleading.

PTI Youth Leader Raja Shahbaz Bhatti Placed on 8-Day Physical Remand

RAWALPINDI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Thursday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader, Raja Shahbaz Bhatti, on an 8-day physical remand.

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah heard the case against Raja Shahbaz Bhatti, the President of the Insaf Youth Wing in Punjab. The police presented him before the court. The court handed him over to the police on 8-day physical remand.

Bhatti was arrested by the police in connection with cases related to protests held in October and September, police said.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) disposed of the petition filed for the recovery of Raja Shahbaz Bhatti after his arrest by the police.

The IHC heard the petition for Bhatti's recovery, filed by his brother. —RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Minister Junaid Anwar Lauded for Major Drug Bust at Sea

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Senior Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Haji Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, has been lauded for a significant success in combating drug smuggling. Under his leadership, naval forces seized a massive consignment of narcotics smuggled via maritime routes. Veteran journalists Malik Muhammad Ameen and Malik Muhammad Naveed Ameen praised the Federal Minister and naval forces for their dedication and effective operation. This achievement marks a major step forward in curbing narcotics trafficking through Pakistan's coastal waters.

Toba Tek Singh Police Meet Religious Leaders to Promote Peace

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A key meeting took place at Police Lines, chaired by DPO Ibadat Nisar and DC Umar Abbas Mela, bringing together religious scholars and district officials. Discussions focused on law and order, religious harmony, and mutual respect among sects. DPO Ibadat Nisar emphasized the scholars' vital role in peace, while DC Umar Abbas praised their cooperation and promised ongoing efforts for unity. Scholars commended police and administration efforts, pledging full support. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to fostering peace and brotherhood.

Deputy Commissioner Holds Introductory Meeting With Local Journalists

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: An introductory meeting of district journalists was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, chaired by DC Umar Abbas Mela. Media representatives discussed key civic issues such as poor sanitation, drainage, and rising prices. The DC assured prompt action and highlighted upcoming sewerage repairs under Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's development schemes. He emphasized media's role as the fourth pillar and praised positive cooperation for better public service. Journalists appreciated his approachable attitude and promised stronger ties.

Narowal Peace Committee Stresses Unity and Religious Harmony

By Rana Nudassar

NAROWAL: Under Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza's leadership, a key District Peace Committee meeting was held, attended by DPO Malik Naveed, religious scholars from Barelvi, Deobandi, Ahl-e-Hadith, and Shia sects, along with district officials. The scholars strongly condemned sectarian hatred and vowed strict action against those spreading provocative content. They praised the administration's efforts in maintaining peace and pledged full cooperation to promote tolerance and unity. The meeting concluded with a call to avoid spreading false information on social media and a special prayer for the late cousin of Pir Qazi Muhammad Yaqoob Rizvi.

Punjab Food Authority Cracks Down on Food Adulteration in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's orders, the Punjab Food Authority, led by Deputy Director Yasir Mushtaq, conducted inspections at 18 food units in Toba Tek Singh. Fines totaling Rs 163,000 were imposed on 16 units, while a tea stall in Faisal Bazaar, Gojra, was sealed for selling substandard food. Over 60 kg of adulterated desi ghee and other items were destroyed. Authorities cited poor hygiene and lack of compliance. Citizens are urged to test milk for safety and report complaints via helpline 1223.

Narowal Police Arrest Six in Drugs and Illegal Arms Crackdown

By Rana Nudassar

Narowal Police, led by DPO NAROWAL: Narowal, carried out an extensive crackdown over the last 48 hours targeting anti-social elements. Six accused, including four drug peddlers, were arrested during multiple operations. Under DSP Headquarters, SHO Sadar Narowal apprehended Syed Shahrukh Gilani and Hassan Bilal, recovering 1.2 kg charas and 20 liters of liquor. Muhammad Haider was also arrested with a 30-bore pistol. DSP Shakargarh's team arrested Farman with 520 grams of charas, while DSP Sadar's unit detained Hamza with 5 liters of liquor. Additionally, SHO Lassar Kalan, under DSP Zafarwal, arrested Saqlain with a 30-bore pistol. All accused have been booked and imprisoned.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, October 24, 2025

Enough is Enough: Israel's Annexation Gambit Must Be Stopped

Israel's relentless push to annex the West Bank is a flagrant affront to international law and a dagger aimed at the fragile heart of Middle East peace. Every time there is a glimmer of hope—a ceasefire, a peace plan, or regional normalisation—Israel acts to undermine it, prioritizing territorial ambition over justice and stability. The recent preliminary approval of a bill to extend Israeli law over the occupied West Bank, despite global condemnation, is nothing short of a political provocation.

The United States, Israel's most powerful ally, now faces a crucial test. President Trump has clearly warned that annexation would cost Israel its vital US support, a stance echoed by Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. This is not a mere suggestion; it is a moral and strategic imperative. Every delay, every equivocation, emboldens extremist elements in Israel and jeopardizes the precarious peace achieved in Gaza after years of brutal conflict.

The international community, led by Washington, must act decisively. Annexation is not a domestic matter; it threatens millions of Palestinians, destabilizes the region, and undermines every sincere effort toward reconciliation. Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey, and 13 other Muslim-majority nations have rightly condemned this move, and the United States must now transform words into action.The world cannot allow history to repeat itself. Israel's settlement expansion and annexation schemes are the mother of all illegalities, a blatant attempt to rewrite borders with impunity. Enough is enough. The United States and its allies must put Israel firmly in its place, enforce international law, and safeguard the dream of a viable Palestinian state. Peace is not optional—it is overdue, and it cannot survive while annexation remains on the table.This is a defining moment: either the world stands up to lawless ambition, or it resigns itself to a Middle East where hope is perpetually sabotaged.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Bilawal Pays Glowing Tribute to Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tribute to Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary, remembering her as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment to democracy. Chairman PPP said in his message that Begum Nusrat Bhutto stood tall against tyranny and dictatorship, leading the struggle for democracy with unmatched grace and determination. "She was not only the devoted companion of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the mother of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, but also a guiding light for all who believe in freedom, justice, and equality," he said. He said that Begum Nusrat Bhutto's sacrifices and resilience continue to inspire generations of Pakistanis, especially women, to stand firm in the face of oppression and to serve their nation with integrity and courage. Concluding his message, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed his resolve to continue the mission of Madar-e-Jamhooriat to uphold democracy, protect the rights of the people, and build a peaceful, progressive, and inclusive Pakistan.

Tando Allahyar Rallies for Nationwide Measles Drive Launching November 17

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Tando Allahyar Deputy Commissioner Noor Mustafa Laghari has instructed health officials to fully mobilize for the upcoming National Measles Vaccination Campaign from November 17 to 29, 2025. The campaign targets vaccinating 135,958 children aged six months to five years under a detailed micro plan. Laghari stressed zero tolerance for negligence, urging awareness to combat this dangerous disease. The drive will involve 84 outreach teams, 6 mobile units, 110 trained staff, and 194 social mobilizers, with participation from health, education, police, and local government departments to ensure success.

HESCO Chief Inspects Training Centre, Reviews Safety and Technical Readiness

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: HESCO CEO Faizullah Dahri visited the Regional Training Centre in Jamshoro to inspect modern facilities and training programs focusing on safety rules for technical employees. Principal Safdar Hussain Memon briefed the CEO on practical and classroom training in PPE, safety regulations, and tools usage. Dahri interacted with trainees who praised the quality of education and facilities, including hostels and a mosque. He instructed completion of pending civil works and announced a Hiace van for trainee study tours. Senior officials accompanied the CEO during the visit.

Citizens Overpower Two Armed Robbers After Bloody Clash

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Shahdadpur witnessed a violent robbery attempt near Sanghar Stop, where two armed robbers tried to snatch a motorcycle at gunpoint. During resistance, two men Shan Ali Rajput and retired soldier Anwar Ali were shot and injured.

Locals chased, caught, and handed the robbers to police. Anwar's condition is critical and he was transferred to Hyderabad. Police are investigating the suspects, reportedly from Punjab and Sanghar. The rising insecurity has raised serious concerns among citizens and business owners in Shahdadpur.

Sindh Press Club Honors Muhammad Qasim Khaskheli for Literary and Media Excellence

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Sindh Press Club held a farewell event to honor Muhammad Qasim Khaskheli, a renowned writer, poet, and journalist, recognizing his valuable services in literature and journalism. Prominent personalities including Sanwal Kario and Niaz Lashari praised his sincere work and timely articles on political issues. Khaskheli was presented with Ajrak, shawls, and flowers.

Speaking at the event, Khaskheli expressed gratitude for the appreciation and support. The ceremony was attended by many scholars, writers, and press club members, celebrating his lifelong dedication to the Sindhi language and press.

Poet Sarwech Sujawali Remembered with Passion on 18th Anniversary in Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Sujawal witnessed the 18th anniversary of renowned Sindhi revolutionary poet Sarwech Sujawali. The event, organized by the Cultural Department at Sarwech Nagar, was chaired by Professor Abdullah Mallah. Poets, writers, political leaders, and students participated, praising Sarwech's contributions to Sindhi literature and his message of truth and resistance. Key attendees included PPP leaders and local officials. The ceremony featured poetry recitations and musical performances by famous Sindhi artists. Speakers highlighted Sarwech's role in giving voice to the people and inspiring future generations through his work.

Tragic Moro Crash: Rickshaw Tire Burst Claims Driver's Life, Injures Three

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: Near the National Highway at Keeria Mori close to Moro, a chingchi rickshaw's tire suddenly burst, causing the vehicle to overturn. As a result, the rickshaw driver, Imtiaz Ali Chandio, died on the spot. Three passengers including Kiho Laghari, Allahi Bakhsh Laghari, and Ghulam Ali Laghari sustained serious injuries. The deceased and injured were taken to Moro Hospital, where after initial treatment, the injured were transferred to Nawabshah Hospital for further care. Following legal formalities, the driver's body was handed over to his heirs. The rickshaw was traveling from Moro towards Rind Mori when the accident occurred.

Ombudsman's Regional Director Holds Open Katcheries in Sujawal and Mirpur Bathoro

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Haroon Ahmed Khan, Regional Director Ombudsman for Thatta and Sujawal, held open katcheries at the Mukhtiarkar offices to address public grievances. Citizens raised issues related to revenue and administration, and Khan issued on-the-spot directives for immediate resolution. He urged officials to resolve complaints promptly and without discrimination to restore public trust. Khan highlighted the Ombudsman's role in providing justice without legal fees and encouraged citizens to submit complaints easily.

The sessions were attended by Mukhtiarkars, officials, landlords, and local notables, ensuring active public participation and transparency.

PPP Observes 14th Death Anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto with Reverence

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: On the 14th death anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the Mother of Democracy, the Pakistan Peoples Party District organized a ceremony at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto to offer prayers and recite the Holy Quran. Many leaders and party workers, including PPP Larkana Division General Secretary Abdul Fattah Bhutto and District President MNA Khursheed Ahmed Junejo, attended.

Leaders paid tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto's unwavering dedication to democracy and the party, highlighting her resilience during difficult times. Prayers were also offered for her soul's forgiveness.

World Bank Team Assesses Keti Bandar Rehabilitation Projects for Progress

By Sajid Ali Janyaro & Hyder Shah

KETI BANDAR/MIRPUR SAKRO: A World Bank delegation, guided by Provincial Minister Ali Hassan Zardari, visited Keti Bandar to review recently completed rehabilitation projects. Accompanied by Chairman District Council Thatta, Abdul Hameed Panhwar, they inspected repaired outfall gates at Keti Bandar, Baghan, and Garho. The projects, supported by the Sindh government and World Bank collaboration, aim to improve local drainage infrastructure. The delegation also engaged with residents to assess the impact on the drainage system. The Ochhto Outfall Drain has been redesigned to enhance water management. Local leaders, including Muhammad Ramzan Panhwar and Zakir Hussain Karmoon, praised the government's efforts in boosting regional infrastructure development.

Thirst and Frustration Grip Shadi Palli as Residents Struggle for Clean Water

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The drinking water supply line in Shadi Palli, serving around 5,000 homes including nearby villages like Faqir Muhammad Palli, Haji Nobat Khan Mari, and Jalalabad, is currently facing some difficulties. Despite significant funds spent recently on improving the water system, frequent leaks have caused interruptions in clean water availability. Due to these issues, residents are sometimes forced to use water that may not meet hygiene standards, which raises health concerns. Locals kindly request timely repairs to ensure safe and continuous drinking water for the community.

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

SPORTS

South Africa Crush Pakistan in Pindi Test to Level Series in Style

South Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the second Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday to level a two-match series 1-1.

Chasing a meager 68-run target, the visitors got over the line with eight wickets to spare. Captain Aiden Markram made 42 before being dismissed by Noman Ali, who also removed Tristan Stubbs (0) in the same over.

Resuming Day 4 on 94-4, Pakistan's batters folded, adding just 44 runs. Off-spinner Simon Harmer took six wickets to help dismiss Pakistan for 138. The 36-year-old finished with 6-50 for a maiden five-wicket haul — also completing 1,000 first-class wickets — on a deteriorating Rawalpindi stadium pitch.

Harmer jolted Pakistan's hopes of saving the Test when he trapped Babar Azam leg-before with the fifth ball of the day after the batsman had reached his 30th Test half-century.

Pakistan's hopes had rested on Azam ending his century drought, having not scored a ton since December 2022.

Nine runs later, Harmer had Mohammad Rizwan caught by close-in fielder Tony de Zorzi for 18.

In his next over, the spinner dismissed Noman for nought, caught behind for Harmer's 1,000th wicket in his 235th first-class match. Shaheen Shah Afridi was run out without scoring, while Keshav Maharaj dismissed Salman Agha for 28 and Sajid Khan for 13 to swiftly wrap up the innings.—Agency

Babar Azam Returns as Pakistan Announce Squads for Home White-Ball Series

LAHORE: Former captain Babar Azam has made a comeback to Pakistan's T20I squad as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday announced squads for the upcoming white-ball home series with South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Babar last represented the national side in T20Is against South Africa in Centurion in December 2024 and had been sidelined for the series against Bangladesh, West Indies, and the Asia Cup 2025.

A 15-member squad has been named for the T20I series against South Africa and the subsequent tri-nation event, while a 16-member lineup has been selected for the ODIs against South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Salman Ali Agha has been retained as the T20I captain, and Shaheen Shah Afridi will lead the national team in ODIs for the first time. In the T20I squad, Abdul Samad and Naseem Shah also made their return, while Usman Tariq earned his maiden call-up.

For the ODIs, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, and Haseebullah have been recalled to the national setup.

The three-match T20I series between Pakistan and South Africa will be held in Rawalpindi and Lahore from 28 October to 1 November, followed by a three-match ODI series in Faisalabad from 4 to 8 November.

Pakistan will then host Sri Lanka for another ODI series in Rawalpindi from November 11 to 15, before turning their attention to the T20I tri-series (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe) from November 17 to 29 .

Pakistan T20I squad (15-member):

Salman Ali Agha (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan (wicket-keeper), Usman Tariq.

Reserves: Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Sufiyan Moqim.—Agency

Short, Connolly Shine as Australia Triumph Over India to Clinch ODI Series

A composed 74 from Matt Short and a maiden half-century by Cooper Connolly steered Australia to a two-wicket win over India on Thursday, sealing the three-match one-day series with a game to go.

After India made 264-9 at a sold-out Adelaide Oval on the back of Rohit Sharma's 73, the hosts reached their target with 22 balls remaining.

Short, who was twice dropped, led the charge before Connolly (61 not out) and Mitch Owen (36) finished the job.

Australia won a rain-affected opening game in Perth by seven wickets, with the dead-rubber clash in Sydney on Saturday.

The hosts made a tentative start to the chase with Marsh falling for 11 to Arshdeep Singh after swinging wildly.

Travis Head also departed softly, thick-edging Harshit Rana to Virat Kohli on 28.

Short was joined by Matt Renshaw, and they got the scoreboard moving with quick singles, putting on 55.

But spin bamboozled Renshaw, bowled for 30 by Axar Patel, then Alex Carey, dismissed for nine by Washington Sundar, attempting a sweep shot.

Short kept his focus, making a third ODI half-century, before departing to Rana, caught on the ropes as he tried to up the tempo.—Agency

Bellingham Magic Seals Real Madrid's Narrow Win Over Juventus

Jude Bellingham's goal helped record 15-time winners Real Madrid maintain their 100 percent start to the Champions League with a 1-0 victory over Juventus on Wednesday.

Xabi Alonso's Spanish giants mostly outplayed their visitors but could not extend their lead after England international Bellingham netted from close range in the second half.

Italian heavyweights Juventus, now without a win in seven games across all competitions, fought hard but failed to find an equaliser at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid's solid win was ideal preparation for Sunday's Clasico against rivals Barcelona in La Liga and left them as one of five sides to win all three of their opening league phase matches, including holders Paris Saint-Germain.

"It was a very tough game with chances at both ends and we had to sweat for it, but it was an important win against a big team," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois told Movistar, after making his 300th appearance for the club.—Agency

Markram Hails Tough Pakistan Conditions After South Africa's Hard-Fought Win

South Africa captain Aiden Markram said on Thursday that their test victory over hosts Pakistan in difficult conditions was a major confidence boost for the tourists, who will be heading to India next and expect an even sterner Test.

South Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets to level the series at 1-1, dominating on a spinning track and showing some impressive resolve to turn the match on its head when they looked in trouble near the end of their first innings.

"It was a really good response after the first test and we were put under pressure in this test once again, and there were moments where

guys had to put their hands up and stand up for the team, and they really did that, and then excelled in that," said Markram.

"We take a lot of confidence and a lot of belief from the win, but when your character is tested and you manage to come out on the right side, I think that means quite a bit more."

South Africa won the World Test Championship in June but have a much tougher programme in the new two-year cycle with away series against Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Usually South Africa sides struggle with the slow wickets.

"It's still a work in progress for us playing in these conditions, but for guys to put up their hands at various stages throughout the game, throughout the series, is a big positive for us," Markram added.

"It gives the change room heaps of belief, heaps of confidence and something that we can keep looking forward to."

Markram said South Africa now boasted a match-winning spin bowling armoury after Simon Harmer, Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthusamy all registered significant wicket hauls over the two Tests in Pakistan.

"I think the unit that is out here in these conditions is up with the best in the world. Generally, you think of South Africa as just seamers but in conditions like this the guys put in performances. It's exciting for us as a team to see."—Agency

PCB Issues NOCs for Pakistan Stars Heading to BBL 15

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reportedly granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for players participating in the Big Bash League (BBL) 15.

Seven Pakistan cricketers, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Mohammad Rizwan, are set to feature in the 15th edition of the tournament.

The development comes after the PCB had initially suspended the NOCs for players to participate in the overseas T20 leagues on 30 September 2025.

"With the approval of Chairman PCB, all No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for players with respect to participation in leagues and other out-of-country tournaments are hereby put on hold until further orders," the board had said.

However, the reason behind the decision was unknown, with reports stating that PCB wanted to link the NOCs to a performance-based system.

For the unversed, the BBL starts on 14th December, with major Pakistani stars like Shaheen Afridi, Babar Azam, and Mohammad Rizwan set to feature in the league.

Earlier today, Sydney Sixers rolled out a grand welcome for Pakistan's batting superstar Babar Azam, announcing the launch of a special fan zone titled "Babaristan" ahead of the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) season.

The franchise made the announcement across its social media platforms with the caption, "Introducing Babaristan — A Fan Zone Like No Other," sparking excitement among cricket fans both in Australia and Pakistan.—Agency

Masood Defends Slow Pitches Strategy to Aid Pakistan's Test Fortunes

Pakistan captain Shan Masood gave a vote of confidence to his country's controversial policy of preparing slow, spinning wickets for home tests, even after it backfired on Thursday and they lost the second test to South Africa.

Pakistan have deliberately looked to produce dry and deteriorating pitches for their spin bowlers to thrive on in home tests over the last 12 months against England, West Indies and South Africa – a decision that has attracted some criticism.

But after losing by eight wickets to South Africa at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, where giant fans were used to help dry out the pitch, Masood de-

fended the policy.

"Look, it's been four wins out of six since we've operated on these wickets," he said.

"Obviously, the wickets have got a bit better. They've been much more battable. Four out of six isn't bad considering in the two test matches we've lost we got into winning positions. Had we finished those games off it could easily have been six out of six."

Pakistan came from one test down to beat England twice in a row last October when they prepared viciously spinning tracks and then drew 1-1 with West Indies in Multan in January.

The two-test series against South Africa in Lahore and Rawalpindi also saw prodigious spin, but it was the visiting team who best used the conditions in the second test to level the series.

Critics of the Pakistan approach fear it holds back the development of their fast bowlers, and this would erode their competitiveness in away series.

Pakistan had South Africa on the ropes on the third day on Wednesday but struggled to bowl them out as the tourists' tail-enders fought a rearguard action to turn the test on its head before going on to win.—Agency

Babaristan Fever: Sydney Sixers Celebrate Babar Azam With Dedicated Fan Zone

Following the footsteps of Melbourne Stars and Brisbane Heat, Sydney Sixers have announced the launch of a special fan zone titled "Babaristan" to welcome star batter from Pakistan, Babar Azam.

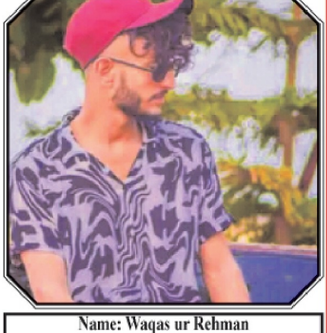
The prolific batter is all set for a maiden Big Bash (BBL) stint later this year. He will be teaming up with star batter Steve Smith and pacer Mitchell Starc of Australia.

The franchise announced on its social media platforms, stating: "Introducing Babaristan — A Fan Zone Like No Other."

"We're celebrating cricket culture like never before with Babaristan — a brand-new Sixers fan zone dedicated to welcoming one of the world's greatest cricketers, Babar Azam," the franchise stated.

The Sixers have encouraged fans to join the festivities when they face the Adelaide Strikers in their opening clash on December 17, a match that will also mark Babar's much-awaited BBL debut.—Agency

Face of the Day



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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Miley Cyrus Confirms Exciting Role in Upcoming Blockbuster 'Avatar: Fire and Ash'

Miley Cyrus is a part of the upcoming highly-anticipate film, Avatar: Fire and Ash.

The 32-year-old singer would be singing an original song for the soundtrack and has recorded the track Dream as One for James Cameron's upcoming sci-fi movie.

She explained that the track held a lot of personal significance after she lost her home in the Woolsey Fire in California back in 2018.

Miley wrote on Instagram: "Honoured to support Avatar: Fire and Ash with an original song I've written with Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt."

"Having been personally affected by fire and being rebuilt from the ashes, this project holds profound meaning for me," the Wrecking Ball singer added.

The song will be featured in the end credits of Avatar: Fire and Ash, which is the third movie in the franchise, to be released in December.

The Flowers hitmaker further wrote: "Thank you, Jim, for the opportunity to turn that experience into musical medicine. The film's themes of unity, healing, and love resonate deeply within my soul, and to even be a small star in the universe the Avatar family has created is truly a dream come true." Miley released her ninth studio album Something Beautiful in May and explained that the record marked "another bold artistic evolution"

Miss Nevada Breaks Beauty Norms, Proudly Flaunts Alopecia at Miss USA Prelims

Miss Nevada USA Mary Sickler made a powerful statement during the Miss USA on Wednesday by removing her wig onstage and revealing her alopecia universalis diagnosis.

During a preliminary round, the 22-year-old contestant walked the stage in Reno, Nev., wearing a silver bejeweled head piece and matching gown with ornate beading and a train.

Her walk received applause as she stood beside Miss New Hampshire Mona Lesa Brackett, who competed in a hijab.

"I lost all my hair, and I definitely didn't think that I would be walking on the Miss USA stage without any hair, but I am," Sickler told People in September.

"It took me a long time to finally be able to see myself as beautiful, and I think that's the first step. If you see yourself as beautiful and you own it, then other people will too."

Sickler began losing her hair in patches last December and was later diagnosed with alopecia universalis, a condition that causes complete hair loss.

Kim Kardashian Diagnosed With Rare, Life-Threatening Illness — Fans Express Concern

Kim Kardashian gets diagnosed with life threatening illness

An aneurysm is the bulge in the artery of the brain. Kim Kardashian is now diagnosed to have it, and she blamed Kanye West for it.

The shocking health scare came to fans' knowledge when, in the latest episode of The Kardashians, the mom-of-four went to a doctor for a regular check-up.

After the MRI scan at a medical centre, doctors found a "little" aneurysm, which they attributed to "stress".

In the clip, the Skims mogul is in tears, as she says while on a call with sister Kourtney Kardashian, "Why the **** is this happening?"

Regarding the stress, Kim, in a separate clip, pointed to the divorce from Kanye in 2022, which became a chaotic affair in her life.

Earlier, a source claimed to RadarOnline that the 45-year-old's recent faceless mask look at the 2025 Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles was a message to Ye.

"That outfit wasn't just fashion – it was a statement. Kim felt invisible for years. The faceless mask perfectly captured how she was silenced and shaped by Kanye's control. It's one of the most haunting metaphors Hollywood has ever seen," the source adds.

Ye and Kim tied the knot in 2014. But they called it quits in 2021. They share four kids.

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Parents Alarmed by Crumbling Govt Boys High School in Deh 161

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: The Government Boys High School in Deh 161 near Digri has fallen into a severely dilapidated state, with the school building's roof frequently collapsing. Due to safety concerns, many parents have stopped sending their children to school. Classrooms and verandas are damaged, the science hall has become a ruin, and the workshop walls have cracked and are infested with bees and wasps. Students from around 20 nearby villages attend the school, including many girls, but lack of facilities and furniture is harming their education. Locals urge the Sindh Chief Minister and Education Minister to rebuild the school urgently.

Dadu Administration Targets Cleanliness, Fair Pricing, and Better Public Services

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, a meeting of the district administration was held to review public services, ongoing actions against profiteering, cleanliness arrangements, and the performance of offices under the district administration. The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to improve performance, ensure transparency, and prioritize public complaint resolution. He also ordered strict operations against illegal encroachments and actions to prevent hoarding of daily-use goods, aiming to provide affordable commodities to the public. Officers were urged to cooperate for better service delivery.

Drug Awareness Drive in Raju Khanani Highlights Rising Youth Addiction Risks

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: A joint awareness seminar on drug prevention was organized at New City Public School Raju Khanani by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Hep Development Organization. Additional Director Abdul Ghaffar Khoso stated that drug addiction is more dangerous than poison, affecting not only individuals but the entire society and future generations. He emphasized that teachers and parents have a responsibility to protect children from drugs and other harmful habits. He urged keeping children engaged in healthy activities like sports and speech competitions to promote their mental and physical well-being. Teachers and students also shared their views during the seminar.

Federal Ombudsman Brings Justice to People's Doorstep in Jhudo Open Katchery

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: A public hearing was held at the Town Committee Hall in Jhadoh by Federal Ombudsman Muhammad Arif. Officials from WAPDA, NADRA, BSP, and the Town Committee attended along with a large number of citizens. Residents presented various complaints to the Federal Ombudsman, who took immediate notice and directed the relevant officials to resolve the issues promptly.

Muhammad Arif assured the citizens that their legitimate problems and grievances would be addressed as soon as possible.

Johi Forum Urges Shift from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy Future

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: The Village Shadabad Organization (VSO), part of the Grow Green Network (GGN), held a public forum in Johi in collaboration with the Indus Consortium. The event focused on community-driven climate solutions under the campaign Public Forums 2025: Mobilising Communities to Demand Solar Equity, Exit Fossil Fuels, and Secure Climate-Resilient Recovery. Speakers stressed urgent policy reforms, including removing GST on solar, phasing out fossil fuels, ensuring climate justice, and prioritizing flood recovery grants. The forum ended with widespread public support for the People's Charter for Energy and Climate Justice 2025.

Hyderabad Police Crack Down Hard on Organized Crime, Arrest 15 Suspects

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police, under SSP's directives, arrested 15 suspects in a city-wide operation targeting narcotics, illegal weapons, gambling, and illicit liquor. Key arrests include four individuals linked to banned tobacco products Gutka and Mainpuri, two suspects with illegal firearms, and seven involved in illegal gambling.

Additionally, two were detained for possession of illicit liquor. Multiple cases have been registered under relevant laws, including the Sindh Arms Act and Gambling Ordinance. Police confirmed ongoing investigations and reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating crime from Hyderabad through continued intensive operations.

Larkana Jail Refutes Fake Reports, Reaffirms Transparency and Rule of Law

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Superintendent of Larkana Jail issued a statement addressing recent false claims circulating on social media about the jail. The administration clarified that these allegations are baseless and stressed the jail operates under Pakistan Prisons Rules 2019, guided by Sindh's Prisons Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari and IG Fida Hussain Mastoi. Regular inspections by DIG Muhammad Aslam Malik and monthly judicial visits by four judges ensure transparency. Authorities vowed to take action against those spreading misinformation.

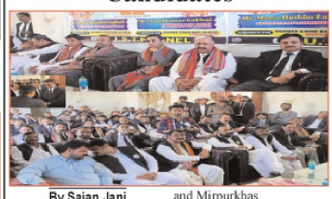
Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro Remembers Begum Nusrat Bhutto's Enduring Legacy on 14th Anniversary

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro honored Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the "Mother of Democracy," on her 14th death anniversary. He praised her unmatched sacrifices and resilience for democracy and the Pakistan Peoples Party.

Despite imprisonment and exile, she never bowed to dictatorship. Begum Nusrat Bhutto led the fight against tyranny, supporting her husband Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The mayor said her legacy continues to inspire the nation and lives on in everyone's hearts.

Shahdadpur Bar Hosts Grand Reception for Sindh Bar Council Candidates



By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: The Shahdadpur Bar Association organized a grand reception honoring Sindh Bar Council candidates Nandkumar Goklani and Mama Hashim Laghari. The upcoming elections on November 1st will see a tough contest between candidates Nandkumar Goklani and Mama Hashim Laghari and their opponents Altaf Junejo and Mumtaz Jarwar, representing Sanghar and Mirpurkhas.

The event, hosted by Shahdadpur Bar Association President Agha Iftikhar Tarin, Vice President Kashwar Kumar, and General Secretary Fayaz Khaskheli, witnessed strong participation from local lawyers. Both candidates vowed to work diligently for resolving bar issues and supporting the legal community. They were presented with bouquets and gifts as a token of appreciation.

Sindhi Language Authority Champions Folk Wisdom as Future Economic Asset

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: As part of its ongoing lecture series, the Sindhi Language Authority hosted Amar Fayaz Buriro, Sindhi computing expert and Director of Abdul Majid Bhurgri Institute, who spoke on "Sindh's Folk Wisdom and Language: In the Market of the Future." Chairman Dr. Ishaq Samejo emphasized concerns about Sindhi language's future amid multilingual education but reassured that the language is not endangered. Buriro stressed the vital role of folk wisdom and cultural heritage in a technology-driven world, urging youth to preserve and promote Sindhi language and literature, including the legacy of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. The event was attended by scholars, writers, and students.

Girls College Latifabad Celebrates Star Athletes for Sporting Glory

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Rehana Bhatti, Chief Director of Physical Education at Government Girls Degree College Latifabad No-8, emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication for success in sports during a ceremony to distribute sports stoles to college athletes. She praised the athletes for their recent achievements and encouraged them to maintain their commitment, inspiring pride for their college and families. The event saw stoles awarded to students including Sameera, Dua, Manahil, Iqra, Areeba, Zarmeen, and others, motivating them to aim for future representation of Pakistan in sports.

Journalists Rally Against Toll Tax Collection in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Daulatpur journalists protested against Jhalo Masjid Toll Plaza management for forcibly collecting taxes from local residents. Despite a High Court order banning such collection, armed guards at the toll plaza reportedly harass people and journalists.

The protesters demanded immediate action from district authorities to stop the illegal tax and address the mistreatment of journalists. They warned of further protests if their demands are not met, urging officials to protect locals and uphold the court's directive.

Aizaz Hussain Panhwar Pays Glowing Tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto

HYDERABAD: Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Youth Wing, District Hyderabad, Aizaz Hussain Panhwar, paid rich tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her 14th death anniversary, recognizing her lifelong struggle, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment to democracy.

He said Begum Nusrat Bhutto bravely resisted dictatorship, united the PPP after the martyrdom of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and led the party through its most challenging periods.

Mr. Panhwar noted that her courage and leadership remain a lasting source of strength and inspiration, particularly for Pakistan's women and youth. "We pledge to continue her mission under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for democracy, people's rights, and social justice," he affirmed.

PPP Leader Condemns Gruesome Killing of Six Civilians in North Waziristan

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Senior PPP leader and former general secretary PS-64 Abdul Manan Siddiqui strongly condemned the "cowardly and barbaric" killing of six unarmed civilians in Mir Ali, North Waziristan. Siddiqui denounced the extremist attackers and praised Pakistan's security forces and fighters, saying they will soon obliterate terrorist hideouts. He accused foreign-backed elements of fueling militancy and vowed the terrorists will be driven out, bringing peace and stability to the region.

Mehar Property Dispute Erupts Into Deadly Family Clash

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A violent clash erupted between brothers over a property dispute in Ibrahim Colony, Mehar. The younger brothers attacked their two elder brothers, Zubair Ahmed Channa and Humair Ahmed Channa, with sticks and rods, seriously injuring them. The injured were admitted to Taluka Hospital. Protesters gathered outside Mehar Press Club demanding police register a case and arrest the attackers. The injured accused the police of demanding bribes and refusing to file their complaint.

They appealed to SSP Dadu to ensure their protection and arrest the influential attackers, expressing fear due to the delay in police action.

Bilawal Bhutto Public School Project Stuck in Limbo Even After 15 Years

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The public school project named after Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has remained incomplete even after 15 years, despite millions of rupees being spent on it. The school building is now on the verge of collapse, and the contractor has attempted to cover up the damage by repainting parts of the structure. Local residents and political leaders have urged Bilawal Bhutto and the area's MNAs and MPAs to take immediate notice and complete the construction so that the educational process can commence.

Funeral Prayers Held for Murder Victim Qurban Ali Channa Amid Grief

By M Dino Lakho

KHUHRA: Funeral prayers of villager Qurban Ali Channa, killed in a recent shooting, were held in Lal Dino Channa village under Mahmood Channa police limits. A large number of community members attended the prayers, after which he was buried in Abaani cemetery. Following a complaint by the victim's wife, Sakina Chano, a murder case was registered against seven accused, including four named and three unidentified. The incident reportedly stemmed from a tribal dispute. Khuhra SHO Amir Ali Chang said the accused have fled, but police are working to apprehend them and ensure justice for the victim's family. Qurban Ali was shot dead by unknown armed men while returning from Gambat to Koralabad on a motorcycle.

Larkana Zakat Committee Seeks Clarity Over Rs10 Million Hospital Allocation

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Serious allegations have surfaced regarding the alleged misappropriation of Zakat funds meant for poor patients at Chandka Medical College Hospital. Zakat Committee Chairman Munir Shaikh reported that the hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr. Niaz Dahar failed to provide expenditure details for Rs 10 million received under the Zakat fund. The committee stated that the Zakat record is missing, reportedly under the supervision of Zakat Section Incharge Ehsan Khokhar, whom Dr. Dahar claims has become mentally unfit and unable to explain the loss. Munir Shaikh has written to the department secretary, recommending suspension of new Zakat installments for 2024-2025.

Dr. Dahar, however, described the issue as minor and said the chairman acted hastily in sending the letter.

Badin Police Nab Fugitive After 22 Years on the Run in Murder Case

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: Badin police have arrested Aasif Ali Shah, a fugitive wanted for the 2003 murder of Ali Mardan Chandio. Shah, who evaded arrest for nearly 22 years due to his influence and fearsome reputation, was caught following a coordinated operation led by SSP Qamar Raza Jaskani. The accused was located at a hotel in Mithi, Tharparkar, and brought to Badin for court proceedings. Authorities praised the police for their persistent efforts. Shah's bail plea is pending, with calls urging the court to deny it and ensure strict punishment for the accused in this high-profile case.

Twelve New ASIs Appointed in Shikarpur Following Official Notification

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: SSP Shikarpur has issued a notification appointing twelve candidates from District Shikarpur as Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) BPS-11. The appointments were made following recommendations from the Sindh Public Service Commission, approval from the Sindh Home Department, and directives from the IG Sindh and DIG Larkana Range. All candidates were declared medically fit based on reports from Civil Hospital Shikarpur, Aga Khan Laboratory, and the Medical Officer of Police Dispensary Shikarpur. SSP Shikarpur instructed the new officers to perform their duties with honesty, dedication, and integrity. He emphasized that police recruitments in Sindh are now a model of merit and transparency, a standard that will continue in the future.

Greater Israel's Dream, India's Failure, and Pakistan's Rising Role

By Qazi Tariq Mahmood

Global politics moves in patterns shaped by old ambitions and modern power games. Israel's long-cherished dream of "Greater Israel" has always been more than a territorial idea—it is a religious and civilizational pursuit centered on constructing the Third Temple. To achieve it, no strong Muslim state was to remain capable of defiance. Arab nations were dismantled one by one—Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Yemen reduced to chaos—while Afghanistan was crushed under America's 20-year invasion, leaving it too weak to play any strategic role.The U.S. war in Afghanistan (2001–2021) cost over 243,000 lives and more than two trillion dollars. Its deeper objective was to neutralize the region, ensuring that no united Muslim front could challenge Western or Israeli designs. With the Middle East destabilized, focus shifted toward Iran and Pakistan—the last two strongholds of resistance.

Israel targeted Iran through a web of cyberattacks, assassinations, and sabotage. From the 2010 Stuxnet virus to the 2020 killing of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, and later covert operations in 2025, the aim was clear: cripple Iran's nuclear capability and fracture its internal unity. Yet Iran's steadfastness and national cohesion turned these attacks into Israel's strategic failure.

Next in line was Pakistan. For this mission, India was built up as a regional enforcer—equipped, financed, and elevated by the U.S., France, and Israel. Through defence pacts and the Quad alliance, India amassed Rafale jets, Barak-8 systems, and advanced military technology. The objective was to use New Delhi as the primary force against China and Pakistan.

That strategy collapsed in May 2025. Under the pretext of a Kashmir provocation, India launched a sudden offensive—widely seen as a false flag—expecting Pakistan to falter. But Islamabad's rapid, precise counterstrike overturned expectations. Within hours, Pakistan downed six Indian jets, including two Rafales, and seized the initiative. The myth of India's invincible military strength crumbled instantly.This shock forced a global rethink. Western capitals, which had poured billions into India's defence and economy, began questioning their returns. The U.S. imposed steep tariffs, tightened H1B visa rules, and slowed joint ventures like Chabahar—while quietly softening its stance toward Pakistan. Russia, China, and Gulf nations also recalibrated their regional approaches, signalling a subtle but clear shift in Pakistan's favor.

Behind these power shifts lies a grim human tragedy. Millions have paid the price for wars driven by ideology and greed—from the ruins of Aleppo and Tripoli to the refugee camps of Kabul and Sana'a. The dream of Greater Israel has left a trail of devastation that continues to haunt the Muslim world.

Yet amid this turmoil, Pakistan has emerged stronger and more self-aware. Its resilience now depends not on military might alone but on domestic stability, economic reform, and unified leadership. If Islamabad safeguards CPEC and BRI projects, achieves energy self-reliance, and invests in its youth, it can redefine its role as a stabilizing force in South Asia and the Middle East.

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METRO KARACHI

CM Murad: Begum Nusrat Bhutto's Democratic Struggle Will Never Be Forgotten

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Begum Nusrat Bhutto's services for democracy, the constitution, and the rights of the people are unforgettable.

In his message on the 14th death anniversary of the Madr-e-Jamhooriat (Mother of Democracy), the Chief Minister praised Begum Nusrat Bhutto as a visionary and courageous leader who led the MRD movement against the dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq.

He said Begum Nusrat Bhutto carried forward the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, endured imprisonment, and never compromised on principles. "She inspired women to participate in politics and public life," Murad Ali Shah noted. The Chief Minister said Begum Nusrat Bhutto sacrificed her husband, sons, and daughter for the cause of democracy.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto Embodied Courage and Grace: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari

KARACHI: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary, describing her as a woman of extraordinary courage and dignity who stood tall even during the darkest chapters of the nation's history.

In her message, Aseefa said Begum Nusrat Bhutto devoted her entire life not to the pursuit of power but to the struggle for democracy and the rights of the people. "She never allowed sorrow to overshadow her courage. Despite tears and trials, she carried the torch of democracy forward with unmatched grace and resilience," she said.

The First Lady added that Begum Nusrat Bhutto was not only a political leader but also a devoted wife, mother, sister, and one of Pakistan's most dignified and remarkable First Ladies. Aseefa emphasized that her legacy continues to inspire generations in the ongoing struggle for democratic values.—RT

Governor Tessori Meets New NAB Sindh DG Shakeel Ahmad Durrani

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with the newly appointed Director General of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi, Shakeel Ahmad Durrani, at Governor House. Former DG NAB Karachi, Javed Akbar Riaz, was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, both officials discussed measures to eradicate corruption across Sindh, enhance transparency in development projects, and ensure the timely investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

Governor Tessori congratulated Shakeel Ahmad Durrani on assuming his new role and lauded NAB's efforts in promoting accountability and good governance. He assured the provincial government's full cooperation and support for NAB's initiatives aimed at maintaining integrity in public institutions.—RT/Agency

Karachi Traffic Police Issue 1.2 Million Challans Worth Rs970 Million

KARACHI: In the first nine months of this year, Karachi Traffic Police issued over 1.2 million challans for traffic violations, imposing fines exceeding Rs970 million.

According to traffic police data, more than 700,000 challans were issued to motorcyclists alone, resulting in fines worth over Rs410 million. Similarly, mini-truck drivers faced around 129,000 challans, with penalties exceeding Rs130 million.

The report stated that 92,000 Suzuki vehicles were fined a total of Rs75.2 million, while car drivers paid fines of more than Rs80 million. Rickshaw owners were fined Rs92.1 million for various violations.

Officials further informed that on-the-spot challans have been discontinued since October 1. From October 27 onward, challans for traffic violations will be sent directly to violators' homes via postal service, in an effort to streamline enforcement and ensure better compliance with traffic regulations.—RT/Agency

Saeed Ghani Pledges to Preserve and Promote Sindh's Traditional Malakhra Sport

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani emphasized the importance of Malakhra, one of Sindh's oldest traditional sports, as a symbol of heritage and healthy recreation. Addressing the Malakhra contest at Chanesar Goth during the 234th Urs of Syed Mahmood Shah Bukhari, he praised wrestlers from across Sindh and organizers for upholding this legacy. Ghani affirmed that the government is committed to promoting Malakhra nationwide and supporting local athletes through such historic sporting events.—RT

PIB Colony Merchants Protest Over Lack of Basic Facilities

By Saeed Lashari

KARACHI: Led by business leader Naveed Jamal, PIB Colony traders staged a protest against recent demolition actions that destroyed the local food street. Speaking to the media, Jamal highlighted the colony's dire conditions, including broken roads, lack of gas and water, and disruption of businesses. He demanded the government promptly provide essential facilities to residents, protect commercial activities, and address ongoing infrastructure issues to restore normalcy in the area.

Saeed Ghani Expresses Condolences on Passing of Ismail Rahu's Sister

KARACHI: aeed Ghani, Sindh's Minister for Labour, Human Resources, and Social Protection, expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Hasanah Rahu, sister of Provincial Minister Ismail Rahu, in a tragic accident. He prayed for the departed soul, asking Allah Almighty to grant her a high place in His mercy and to bless the entire family, especially Ismail Rahu, with patience and strength.-RT

SEPMA Music Academy Launches to Celebrate a Decade of Shaan-e-Pakistan

KARACHI: Shaan-e-Pakistan marked its 10-year milestone with the launch of SEPMA Academy offering free music education for the visually impaired and specially-abled. The event featured a vibrant Red Carpet, musical performances, a Hot Seat discussion on inclusivity, and an MOU signing with Ida Rieu. Founders Huma and Irfan Pardesi emphasized nurturing talent and creating a symphony of hope, highlighting SEPMA's commitment to empowerment, music, and global inclusivity.—RT

Karachi Entering a New Era of Development: Mayor Wahab

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has declared 2025 as the year of development, reaffirming his commitment to improving the city's infrastructure and public services. Speaking to the media in Karachi, he said that during the past two years, he had not visited local neighborhoods as it was not part of his official responsibilities then.

Now that the time for real work has come, I will personally visit every street and neighborhood to ensure development —RT

Sohrab Goth UC-7 Reels Under 6-Hour Outages, Malaria Outbreak

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Residents of Sohrab Goth Town UC-7 and surrounding areas in District East face daily unannounced six-hour load shedding by K-Electric, disrupting businesses and daily life. Poor sanitation and lack of mosquito spraying have led to rising malaria and dengue cases. Despite repeated requests, the district administration has taken no action. Locals accuse authorities of neglect and demand intervention from Sindh High Court Chief Justice, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and CM Murad Ali Shah. They warn of strong protests if the issues remain unresolved, highlighting the growing injustices and hardships caused by electricity shortages and poor municipal services.

SHC Issues Landmark Ruling Backing Ibrahim Hyderi Town Corporation

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a significant judicial victory led by Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, the Sindh High Court upheld the position of Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporation (TMC). The court authorized the TMC to collect matching tax and healthcare tax from its check posts, overturning the earlier October 7, 2025 order and quashing all related cases. Following the decision, Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, along with town members and lawyers, arrived at the town office where officials, employees, and party workers welcomed him with flower garlands and sweets. Senior lawyers Abdul Sattar Pirzada, Mamoon N. Chaudhry, Khalid Javed, Altaf Hussain, and Waqar Jamro praised the court's ruling, stating it upheld justice. Nazir Ahmed Bhutto declared this victory a triumph for the people of Ibrahim Hyderi Town and the truth.

Karachi Pays Tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on 14th Death Anniversary

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The 14th anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, revered as the mother of democracy, was solemnly observed in Karachi's Architect Engineering Cooperative Housing Society. Senior leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party paid tribute to her enduring legacy. Speakers, including former Youth Shaheed Bhutto Sindh leader Mohammad Ali Mirjat and others, highlighted her courage during Ayub and Zia's martial laws, her steadfast activism despite imprisonment and injuries, and her unwavering support for democracy. They recalled her sacrifices, including the loss of her sons Murtaza and Shah Nawaz, and daughter Benazir's separation. Though absent today, her sacrifices remain unforgettable.

Malir TMC Worker Injured in Violent Robbery in Steel Town

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Violence in Steel Town spiraled out of control when armed attackers targeted Malir Town Municipal Corporation employee and PPP activist Bashir Ahmed Soomro. While withdrawing cash from an ATM near Jamia Masjid Hajra, three armed robbers ambushed him, snatched 25,000 PKR, and opened fire during his resistance. Bashir was slightly injured and is now stable in the hospital. He suspects the attack was planned by a relative involved in an earlier police case.

Mustafa Kamal: Karachi Holds Key to Reviving Pakistan's Economy

KARACHI: Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal has emphasized Karachi's vital role in Pakistan's economic revival, saying the city holds the key to strengthening the country's financial stability.

In his remarks, the minister said Karachi serves as the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing significantly to trade, industry, and revenue generation. "If Karachi progresses, Pakistan progresses — the city has the potential to revive the entire national economy," he stated.—RT/Agency

Faryal Talpur: Pakistan-China Friendship Mirrors Shared Dreams and Destiny

KARACHI: PPP Central Leader Ms. Faryal Talpur said Pakistan-China friendship goes beyond two neighboring nations — it is a bond of shared dreams for peace, progress, and equality, rooted in mutual trust. Speaking at a women's empowerment event hosted by the Chinese Consulate Karachi, she said Shaheed Benazir Bhutto pioneered women's political and economic rights, and her vision continues under Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari.

She highlighted initiatives like the Benazir Income Support Programme, Pink Bus Service, and Pink Electric Scooty Scheme, reflecting PPP's commitment to women's welfare. Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong praised Benazir Bhutto's leadership and reaffirmed China's support for gender equality and women's professional development.—RT

Sindh Minister Jam Ikram Invites Russian Investors to Sindh's Growing Markets

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that Sindh offers vast opportunities for foreign investment, and the provincial government is providing every possible facility to investors.

He expressed these views while meeting a delegation of fifteen Russian companies led by Vitaly Stepanov, CEO of the Moscow Export Center, at the Expo Center Karachi. Federal Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal was also present on the occasion.

The minister briefed the delegation about Sindh's investment potential, noting that several Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been established, offering secure and profitable opportunities. He highlighted that FDI Magazine ranked the Khairpur SEZ among Asia's top industrial zones—comparable to those in China, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Dharejo said the Sindh government is ready to fully cooperate with Russian investors and plans to send a delegation to Russia soon to further strengthen bilateral trade relations.

SHC Orders SBCA to Resolve Amenity Plot Dispute Within 30 Days

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday disposed of a constitutional petition regarding the alleged illegal construction and commercial use of an amenity plot in the Kathiawar Cooperative Housing Society, Karachi, after the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) undertook to decide the matter within 30 days.

A division bench comprising Justice Yousuf Ali Saeed and Justice Abdul Mobeen Lakho heard the petition (CP D-7897/2022) filed by Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor through his counsel, Advocate Khurram Lakhani.

According to the court's short order, the petitioner contended that a marriage hall built on the society's amenity plot was being misused for commercial purposes and involved illegal construction. —RT/Agency

PTI's Faheem Khan Slams Power Outages as Karachi Drowns in Darkness

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Division Senior Vice President and former MNA Faheem Khan has voiced deep concern over the worsening power crisis in Karachi, saying the city, already suffering from poor civic infrastructure, has been further pushed into darkness due to prolonged load-shedding.

Speaking at Insaf House Karachi, Faheem Khan said that residents are facing 12 to 16 hours of unannounced power cuts daily, crippling business activities and making life unbearable. "Karachi's system has collapsed — people can neither work during the day nor rest at night," he lamented.

He blamed K-Electric's inefficiency and outdated infrastructure for the crisis and criticized the PPP-led Sindh government for neglecting the city's needs. —RT/Agency

K-Electric Warns Consumers as Tariff Cut May Affect Operations

KARACHI: K-Electric Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi has expressed concern that the recent reduction in the utility's multi-year tariff could have financial implications for electricity consumers.

In a statement on the revised Multi-Year Tariff (MYT), Alvi said that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) had made significant changes and reductions to K-Electric's earlier approved tariff. He noted that the tariff, which was initially issued in June after two and a half years of consultations, research, verification, and scrutiny, had now been drastically altered within just a few months.

Alvi stated that K-Electric is currently reviewing how to sustain operations under the revised tariff structure, assuring that the company's management is making every effort to minimize the impact on consumers. He further confirmed that the company's board has been briefed on the adjustments and their potential operational effects.—RT/Agency

Gold Prices Plummet by Rs3,500 per Tola Nationwide

KARACHI: The price of gold fell by Rs3,500 per tola across the country, according to the All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association. With the latest decrease, the price of 24-karat gold now stands at Rs433,862 per tola.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold declined by Rs3,001, bringing the new rate to Rs371,966.

The association further reported that international gold prices also witnessed a notable drop of $35 per ounce, settling at $4,115. Market analysts attributed the decline to fluctuations in global demand and a stronger US dollar, which put downward pressure on precious metal prices. Jewellers said that the domestic market continues to mirror international trends, with prices adjusting in response to changes in the global bullion market and currency exchange rates.—RT/Agency

Review Session Highlights Muhammad Ali Pathan's Urdu Translation of Allah Ki Lathi

By Gul Mohammad Umrani

"Allah Ki Lathi", the latest work of Muhammad Ali Pathan, marks another milestone in his literary journey of over forty publications. Despite personal and financial challenges, Pathan continues to contribute remarkably to Sindhi and Urdu literature.

The book presents Urdu translations of his original Sindhi short stories, offering a cultural and linguistic bridge between two traditions. Written during the COVID-19 pandemic, the stories reflect human suffering, social struggles, and moral resilience.

Influenced by Sindhi literary greats like Jamal Abro and Amar Jaleel, Pathan's work captures realism and compassion, free from exaggerated romanticism. "Allah Ki Lathi" — meaning Divine Retribution — symbolizes faith in justice and truth.

The collection echoes the humanism of Maupassant, Chekhov, and Gorky, while staying rooted in Sindhi society. Pathan once again proves himself a people's writer, shaping meaningful and enduring literature.

Dream big, work hard, succeed.
—Unknown

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Poland's Deputy PM Sikorski Arrives In Pakistan For Two-Day Visit

Poland Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski arrived in Pakistan on Thursday on a two-day official visit from October 23 to 24.

The Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement that Sikorski was received by Poland's ambassador and other senior officials.

According to FO, Sikorski is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar. This marks Sikorski's second visit to Pakistan, as his previous visit took place in 2011.

DPM Dar held 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 followed by a joint press stakeout.

DPM Dar said that Pakistan highly appreciates its "historically warm and friendly" relationship with Poland, hoping that the bilateral relations would keep progressing positively in the future.

He said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Poland are based on mutual respect, goodwill, and amity since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1962.

Referring to the "unique historic" connections between the two countries, the deputy prime minister recalled that during World War II, the Polish refugees had taken shelter in Karachi and Quetta cities of today's Pakistan.

"The Polish air force veterans also played an invaluable role in laying the foundation of Pakistan Air Force for which the country continued to remember them as 'national heroes," DPM Dar added.

He said that Pakistan took inspiration from Poland's long struggle for freedom and sovereignty and that modern-day Europe owed a lot to the founder of the Second Polish Republic.

"Poland's transition from 1991 to now, becoming a trillion-dollar economy, is truly impressive," the deputy prime minister said. DPM Dar also congratulated his Polish counterpart on the successful and smooth presidential elections held recently.

Dar said that he looks forward to Sikorski's further visits to Pakistan with reduced gaps.

In his remarks, Radoslaw Sikorski termed the visit "sentimental as well as official." He said that relations between Pakistan and Poland are good, as both countries have things to "offer" to each other besides discussing the regional and international matters

The FO in an earlier statement said, "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."—RT/Agency

Dar Links Economic Growth To Regional Connectivity, Calls CPEC Development Catalyst

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday underscored the importance of regional connectivity for stability, economic growth and collective progress.

Addressing the Regional Transport Ministers' International Conference in Islamabad on Thursday, he said Pakistan stands ready to coordinate transport plans, enhance crossborder facilitation, mobilise joint investments and strengthen regional value chains, reported Radio Pakistan.

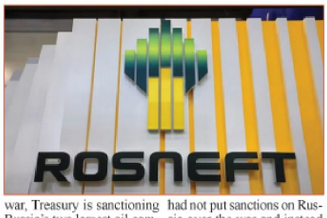
He mentioned that Pakistan's strategic location connecting South Asia with Central Asia, the Middle East and China makes it a natural hub for regional connectivity.

Emphasising that the region has to built seamless linkages through road, rail, air, maritime and energy and digital corridors, turning geography into an opportunity, the DPM said that CPEC was now widely recognised as a catalyst for energy infrastructure development, transport connectivity and enhanced trade across the whole of South Asia and Central Asia.

Dar further noted that the initiative embodies the country's commitment to building partnerships that deliver tangible benefits not just for Pakistan and China but for the entire region.

He said Pakistan's motorways and highways form the backbone of regional and domestic connectivity linking key border crossings to the ports of Karachi and Gwadar.—RT/Agency

US President Pressures Putin, Sanctions Top Russian Oil Firms; EU Bans LNG



WASHINGTON/BRUSSELS: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday imposed Ukraine-related sanctions on Russia for the first time in his second term, targeting oil companies Lukoil and Rosneft as his frustration grows with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the war.

The move came after EU countries on Wednesday approved a 19th package of sanctions on Moscow for its war against Ukraine that included a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas imports. Trump's measures also followed Britain's sanctioning last week of Rosneft and Lukoil.

The US Treasury Department said it was prepared to take further action as it called on Moscow to agree immediately to a ceasefire in Russia's war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022.

"Given President Putin's refusal to end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies that fund the Kremlin's war machine," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "We encourage our allies to join us in and adhere to these sanctions."

Oil prices jumped more than $2 a barrel after the US measures, with Brent crude futures extending gains after settlement, rising to about $64.

The sanctions are a major policy shift for Trump, who had not put sanctions on Russia over the war and instead relied on trade measures. Trump earlier this year imposed additional 25% tariffs on goods from India in retaliation for its purchasing discounted Russian oil.The US has not imposed tariffs on China, another major buyer of Russian oil. A $60 price cap on Russian oil imposed by Western countries after Russia's invasion has shifted Russia's oil customers in recent years from Europe to Asia.—RT/Agency

NAB Achieves Historic Rs. 1.10 Trillion Recovery in Q3 2025

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has achieved a record Rs. 1,102.04 billion (1.10 trillion) recovery in the third quarter of 2025, marking a 242% increase over the previous quarter.

This brings total recoveries for the first three quarters to Rs. 1,649.36 billion, with assets disbursed to federal and provincial bodies and 17,194 affectees compensated.

NAB's efforts reflect its continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and protection of state resources across Pakistan.-RT

Pakistan-US Relations Crucial, Says Ambassador

WASHINGTON, DC: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, has reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to diplomacy, stability, and pragmatic economic policies while stressing the significance of bilateral relations between Islamabad and Washington.

"Between the two mega countries of today and tomorrow — from both a present and a futuristic perspective — good relations are not a matter of choice or preference; they are indispensable," Ambassador Sheikh stated during a panel discussion on "The Future of the US-Pakistan Relationship" at the Future Security Forum 2025 in Washington, DC.

Highlighting the depth and continuity of the bilateral partnership, Ambassador Sheikh noted that Pakistan and the United States shared a longstanding and consequential relationship, marked by collaboration on critical global challenges, including counterterrorism and climate change.

The 11th Annual Future Security Forum was organised by Arizona State University and New America in collaboration with Security & Defence PLuS. The event brought together senior policymakers, defence experts, and thought leaders for discussions on emerging global security dynamics.

He thanked the US leadership, particularly President Trump, for facilitating the ceasefire that ended the 88-hour standoff, calling it "a vital act that prevented escalation in a nuclear neighbourhood of 1.7 billion people."—RT/Agency

Ten Armed Forces Officers Inducted Into Civil Service

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) has given its approval for the induction of 10 officers from the armed forces into the civil service.

According to the official notification issued by the commission, five officers have been allocated to the Pakistan Administrative Service, three to the Police Service, and two to the Foreign Service.The approval follows their successful completion of the FPSC's psychological and viva voce assessments.

Seven of them belong to the Pakistan Army, two to the Pakistan Air Force and one to the Pakistan Navy.

Capt Yasir Hameed and Capt Zohaib Nasir have been approved to join the Foreign Service. Capt Hamza Tahir Shah, Capt Imtiaz Hussain and Capt Muhammad Bilal Khan Wazir have been approved to join the police service. Capt Syed Abdul Rehman Bin Qasim and Capt Syed Muhammad Umar Shah have been inducted into the Pakistan Administrative Service.—RT/Agency

Police Refrain From Arresting Aleema Khan Despite Warrant Compliance

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi police on Thursday refrained from arresting Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, even though she complied with the arrest warrant issued against her.

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi had issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema Khan for the fourth time in relation to a protest case on November 26. However, it appears the police have decided not to arrest her.

At the previous hearing, the police submitted a report claiming that Aleema Khan had gone into hiding. However, Judge Amjad Ali Shah rejected the report, labeling it as "bogus."

The ATC had also issued notices to Rawal Division SP Muhammad Saad and DSP Waris Khan Circle Naeem, directing them to appear before the court on Friday for contempt of court proceedings.

Today, she appeared at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for a hearing related to a petition filed by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi, requesting a meeting with Imran Khan.Rawalpindi police also arrived at the IHC to comply with the arrest warrant. She signed the arrest warrant and surrendered to the police for arrest. Surprisingly, the police chose not to arrest her.—RT/Agency

SP Adeel Akbar's Suicide Linked To Severe Stress And Depression

ISLAMABAD: Senior Police Officer (SP) Adeel Akbar tragically ended his life in Islamabad early Thursday morning. According to ARY News, sources confirmed that SP Akbar had been battling severe depression and was under psychiatric treatment. He had reportedly consulted a mental health specialist about ten days prior, who advised him to avoid keeping a firearm. Despite ongoing treatment, stress and psychological pressure are believed to have contributed to his suicide. Authorities have launched an inquiry, while colleagues and officials expressed deep sorrow over the loss of the respected officer.—RT

KP CM Afridi Returns From Adiala Jail After Being Denied Meeting With Imran

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has left Rawalpindi's Adiala jail after prison authorities did not grant permission for a meeting with incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, despite the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order to allow such meetings.

Earlier today, the high court directed the superintendent of Adiala jail to allow meetings of the PTI leaders with the party's jailed founder.

The directives came on the PTI's leaders' petitions, including CM Afridi, who have sought a meeting with Imran to discuss "policy matters" and cabinet formation of the newly elected provincial government.

Hearing a bunch of pleas filed by several PTI leaders, an IHC bench, headed by Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar, directed the Adiala jail superintendent to implement the court's March 24 decision regarding jail meetings with the PTI founder.

The three-member bench also comprised Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Azam Khan.

Soon after the decision, CM Afridi arrived at Adiala Jail to meet Imran, but his convoy was stopped by police at Dahgal checkpoint near the prison.

He staged a short sit-in outside Adiala jail, demanding the implementation of the high court's directives to permit his meeting with the incarcerated party founder.Speaking to journalists at the check post, Afridi said that he wanted to meet his leader, adding that he would still wait for the PTI founder's instructions even if he is not allowed to meet him.—RT/Agency

Trump Heads To Asia Seeking Deals With Xi Jinping

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is set to embark on a major trip to Asia this week with all eyes on an expected meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping that has huge implications for the global economy.

Trump said on Wednesday he was making a "big trip" to Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, his first visit to the region since he returned to the White House in a blaze of tariffs and geopolitical brinkmanship.Much of the trip remains shrouded in uncertainty. The White House has given almost no details, and Trump has warned that his anticipated sit-down with Xi in South Korea may not even happen amid ongoing tensions.But Trump has made it clear he hopes to seal a "good" deal with China and end a bitter trade war between the world's two largest economies that has caused global shockwaves.

The host nations are meanwhile set to roll out the red carpet to ensure they stay on the right side of the unpredictable 79-year-old, and win the best deals they can on tariffs and security assistance.

Malaysia and Japan

His first stop is expected to be Malaysia for the October 26-28 summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — a grouping Trump skipped several times in his first term.

Trump is set to ink a trade deal with Malaysia — but more importantly to oversee the signing of a peace accord between Thailand and Cambodia, as he continues his quest for a Nobel Peace Prize."President Trump is keen to see the more positive results of the peace negotiations between Thailand and Cambodia," Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Wednesday.

The US leader may also meet Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the sidelines of the summit to improve ties after months of bad blood, officials from both countries told AFP.—RT/Agency

Russian Drone Kills Two Ukrainian Journalists In East

KYIV, Ukraine: A Russian drone killed two Ukrainian journalists and wounded another in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk on Thursday, their news outlet and regional officials announced.

Freedom Media, a state-funded news organisation, said the crew had been struck by a Russian Lancet drone while in their car at a gas station in the industrial city.

The news outlet named the killed television crew as 43-year-old Donetsk region native Olena Gramova and Yevgen Karmazin, 33, from Kramatorsk.

It added that another reporter, Alexander Kolychev, was hospitalised after the attack.

The Donetsk regional governor earlier announced details of the strike and posted images showing the charred remains of the journalists' car.

The proliferation of cheap but deadly drones used both by Russian and Ukrainian forces has made reporting from frontline regions of Ukraine increasingly dangerous and unpredictable.

Thursday's attack comes after a Russian state media correspondent was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike in the Moscow-occupied part of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region.—RT/Agency

India Approves $9bn Defence Purchases To Boost Military Strength

DELHI: India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday approved capital acquisition proposals worth 79,000 crore Indian rupees (approximately $9 billion) to enhance the operational and combat readiness of the Indian armed forces.The meeting, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, sanctioned multiple projects covering the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, aiming to strengthen national defence preparedness across land, sea, and air domains.

Indian Army to get new missile systemsFor the Indian Army, the DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for several key procurements, including the Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), the Ground-Based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES), and High Mobility Vehicles (HMVs) equipped with material-handling cranes.The NAMIS (Tracked) is designed to bolster the Army's ability to neutralise armoured vehicles, bunkers, and fortifications, providing superior precision and battlefield capability. Meanwhile, the GBMES will enhance India's electronic intelligence (ELINT) capabilities by offering round-the-clock surveillance of enemy emitters.—RT/Agency

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