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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Hangu Tragedy: SP Asad Zubair And Two Policemen Martyred In Devastating Blast

HANGU: At least three Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) policemen, including the Superintendent of Police (SP) Operations, were martyred after twin blasts rocked KP's Hangu district on Friday, police said.

Police identified the martyred police officer as SP Operations Asad Zubair. They said at least three cops were also injured in a blast that targeted the vehicle of SP Operations.

KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed said that SP Zubair's vehicle was targeted in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack as they were rushing to inspect a blast site.

He said that the high-ranking police official and two others embraced martyrdom in the IED attack. The first blast occurred beside a police checkpoint in Ghulmina and caused no casualties, IGP Hameed added.

The second explosion, targeting SP Zubair's vehicle, took place in the Darband area, about two kilometres from the checkpoint.

The wounded were shifted to DHQ Hospital Hangu following the two blasts, District Police Officer Khanzeb Mohmand said.

A bomb disposal squad and police commandos have since launched a search operation in the area.

President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the attack on the police personnel, which he said was carried out by India-backed Khawarij terrorists.

He paid rich tribute to the martyred policemen, while lambasting the attackers as "enemies of Pakistan's peace and stability".

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families of the martyred policemen.

The minister vowed that SP Zubair and the two policemen's sacrifice would not go in vain, saying that the personnel had attained the highest rank of martyrdom.

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

PM Shehbaz Pitches Pakistan As The Region's Next Strategic Trade & Transit Hub

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underlined Pakistan's growing significance in regional transport and economic connectivity while addressing the closing session of the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference.

He described the event as a vital platform for dialogue and strengthening bilateral and regional relations.

"On behalf of the government and the people, I welcome all participating delegates," the PM Shehbaz said, emphasising the importance of collaboration and mutual prosperity.

He pointed out that global transport and connectivity systems are undergoing rapid changes, adding that Pakistan has long remained a key hub in the region, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the country's infrastructure, the premier mentioned Gwadar's long coastal belt and Karachi Port as integral parts of the Maritime Silk Road.

PM Shehbaz noted that Pakistan is entering the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which aims to enhance trade, investment, and economic integration.

"Increasing regional connectivity will bring a revolution in the economic and trade sectors," he said, adding that projects like the Trans-Afghan Railway and the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Railway Corridor are already underway.

He further emphasised that cooperation in trade, economy, and energy would usher in a new era, and that modern connectivity extends beyond physical routes.

"In the digital age, connectivity is not limited to roads, railways, or air routes. Today, it is linked with data and technological integration," PM Shehbaz said, highlighting Pakistan's ongoing investments in digital infrastructure.

Earlier today, the prime minister highlighted the country's investor-friendly policies, while inviting the Qatari investors to explore new avenues of collaboration under the government's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) framework.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani, underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation, emphasising opportunities in energy, agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism and infrastructure development.—RT/Agency

Pak-Afghan Border To Stay Shut: FO Says Citizens' Security Outweighs Trade

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has announced the temporary closure of Afghan border crossings, citing heightened security concerns along the frontier.

During his weekly media briefing in Islamabad on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said the decision was taken "in view of last week's security situation," emphasizing that "saving the lives of ordinary Pakistanis is more important than the movement of goods and trade."

He noted that while the closures may affect cross-border trade, protecting citizens remains the government's top priority.The spokesperson confirmed that the second round of Pakistan-Afghanistan talks will take place tomorrow (Saturday) in Istanbul, Turkiye, as a follow-up to the Doha peace discussions.

Andrabi said the meeting aims to build on the ceasefire agreement signed in Doha on October 19, which marked a "positive development" in bilateral relations.—RT/Agency

Sanctions Bite: China's State Oil Giants Halt Russian Crude Purchases

SINGAPORE: Chinese state oil majors have suspended purchases of seaborne Russian oil after the United States imposed sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, Moscow's two biggest oil companies, multiple trade sources said on Thursday.

The move comes as refiners in India, the largest buyer of seaborne Russian oil, are set to sharply cut their crude imports from Moscow to comply with the US sanctions imposed over the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

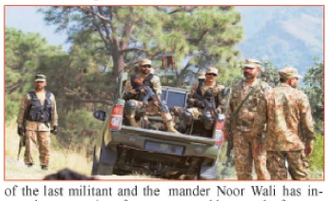
A sharp drop in oil demand from Russia's two largest customers will put a strain on Moscow's oil revenues and force the world's top importers to seek alternative supplies and push up global prices.

Chinese national oil companies PetroChina, Sinopec, CNOOC and Zhenhua Oil will refrain from dealing in seaborne Russian oil at least in the short-term due to concern over sanctions, the sources said.

The four companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

While China imports roughly 1.4 million barrels of Russian oil per day by sea, most of that is bought by independent refiners, including small operators known as teapots, although estimates of purchases by state refiners vary widely.—RT/Agency

KP Operation Success: Security Forces 'Neutralise' Eight Fitna Al-Khawarij Militants



KP: Pakistan security forces neutralised eight Fitna al Khawarij militants during an operation in Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The operation, carried out on October 24 in Wanda Sheikh Allah area of Lakki Marwat, resulted in killing of eight Fitna Al Khawarij and left five others seriously injured, security officials confirmed.

According to the sources, the operation was executed with high military precision, leaving the militants no chance to escape.

A search operation is currently underway in the area due to concerns over the possible presence of additional Fitna Al Khawarij.

Security sources further stated that under the National Action Plan, operations will continue until the elimination of the last militant and the complete restoration of peace and order.Earlier, security sources reported growing internal divisions within Fitna al Khawarij, following heavy lapses in recent months. Several major conformations of the group were excluded during border crossings in the once three months, leaving the leadership unsettled and decreasingly shattered.According to security sources, Fitna al Khawarij commander Noor Wali has instructed bottom dogfaces to refrain from using mobile phones to avoid discovery.

The leadership has also directed zealots to hide among civilians and use the original population as securities during operations.

Reports further reveal that kirks and guest houses have been exploited for making extemporized explosive bias(IEDs) and for sheltering fighters.—RT/Agency

ATC Gets Tough: Orders Confiscation Of Aleema Khan's CNIC & Passport Over Repeated Absences

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Friday ordered the confiscation of the computerised national identity card (CNIC) and passport of Aleema Khan, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, after she failed to appear before the court in the November 26 PTI protest case despite repeated summons.ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah issued orders while hearing a case related to the FIRs registered against Aleema, others in connection with the PTI's protest on November 26 last year.The development comes two days after the same court non-bailable arrest warrant for Imran Khan's sister for the fourth time over her continued absence from the proceedings.On November 26 last year, PTI supporters entered Islamabad in defiance of a ban on public gatherings and clashed with law enforcement agencies near D-Chowk. Police used teargas to disperse the crowd.The former ruling party's three-day protests were abruptly ended after fierce clashes erupted between the law enforcers and the protesters.The November 26, 2024, protest was aimed at building pressure on the government to release the PTI founder. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases ranging from corruption to terrorism since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022.—RT/Agency

Diplomatic Firestorm: Israeli Finance Minister Rejects Ties With Saudi Arabia, Makes Insulting Remarks

TEL AVIV: Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has openly dismissed the possibility of normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia, making controversial remarks about the kingdom. Speaking at a conference, Smotrich said Israel has no interest in establishing diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia.

According to reports, the minister stated, "If Saudi Arabia says we should normalize relations in exchange for a state, then no, thank you. Let them continue riding camels in their desert, while we continue developing our economy, society, and state."

His comments have sparked widespread criticism for being disrespectful and undermining regional diplomatic efforts. The statement comes amid ongoing discussions and international speculation about potential normalization talks between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which have been a key focus of recent Middle East diplomacy.—RT/Agency

Mercurial Trump Hits The Brakes: Declares All Trade Talks With Canada "Terminated"

WASHINGTON: U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that all trade talks with Canada were terminated following what he called a fraudulent advertisement in which former President Ronald Reagan spoke negatively about tariffs.

"Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said earlier this week that the ad with anti-tariff messaging had caught Trump's attention. The ad showed Reagan, a Republican, criticizing tariffs on foreign goods while saying they caused job losses and trade wars.

"I heard that the president heard our ad. I'm sure he wasn't too happy," Ford said on Tuesday.

Trump has used tariffs as leverage on many countries around the world.

His trade war has increased U.S. tariffs to their highest levels since the 1930s and he has regularly threatened more duties, sparking concerns among businesses and economists.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told reporters on Thursday that Canada will not allow unfair U.S. access to its markets if talks on various trade deals with Washington fail.

Trump imposed tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum and autos earlier this year, prompting Ottawa to respond in kind. The two sides have been in talks for weeks on a potential deal for the steel and aluminum sectors.

Next year, the U.S., Canada and Mexico are due to review their 2020 continental free-trade agreement.—RT/Agency

Canada Signals U-turn: Ready To Resume Trade Negotiations With The US, Says Carney

CANADA: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Friday said his country is prepared to pick up trade negotiations with the United States when Washington is ready, adding that Canada cannot control trade policy with its neighbor to the south.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday night said trade talks with Canada were over after an Ontario political ad cited Republican icon Ronald Reagan saying tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster.

"My colleagues have been working with their American colleagues on detailed constructive negotiations, discussions on specific sectors -- steel, aluminum and energy," Carney said before departing Ottawa for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in his first official visit to Asia.

"We stand ready to pick up on that progress," he said.

Carney added that Canada can control new partnerships and opportunities, including with the "economic giants of Asia," the focus of his trip.—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah: TLP Created To Undermine PML-N's Vote Bank

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, claimed that Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), recently banned by the federal cabinet, was designed to cut into the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vote bank. TLP's involvement in the 2018 elections allegedly cost PML-N up to 15 national seats. The Interior Ministry's ban follows violent TLP protests over Gaza, which led to fatalities and disrupted major cities. Sanaullah confirmed that TLP had been used politically to challenge rival parties in the past.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Woos Qatar: Invites Major Investments Under SIFC Economic Framework

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited Qatari investors to explore new avenues of collaboration under Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) framework, highlighting the country's investor-friendly policies.During a meeting with Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani, the prime minister underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and investment ties, particularly in the sectors of energy, agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism, and infrastructure development.

Sheikh Faisal is visiting Pakistan to co-chair the 6th Session of the Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC).Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Qatar relations, rooted in shared faith, values, and mutual respect. He also appreciated Qatar's role as an important partner and a key regional mediator.

Conveying warm greetings from the Qatari leadership, Sheikh Faisal reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to deepening economic engagement with Pakistan. He noted that the 6th JMC session provided a vital platform to review existing cooperation and identify new initiatives for mutually beneficial partnerships.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman Honors Legacy of Begum Nusrat Bhutto on Her Death Anniversary

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Chairman Sindhi Adabi Board and Sarwari Tanzeem, Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif," paid tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary, calling her a courageous and principled leader devoted to democracy and women's empowerment. He said her struggle against dictatorship remains a beacon for all. A Fateha was offered for her soul, and respect was expressed for her family.

Executive Club Nooriabad Hosts Prestigious Reception for Brigadier Muhammad Umar Farooq

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: The Executive Club of Trade and Industry Nooriabad held a special ceremony to welcome Brigadier Muhammad Umar Farooq, Regional Commander ANF Sindh. The event was attended by Sardar Haji Ramzan Palari, Chairman Badal Palari, Malik Waheed, Tasawar Khan Palari, Site Engineer Imran Saho, DSP Jhirak Wajid Thaheem, DSP Nooriabad Sarwar Wastro, Aslam Nawab Palari, Abdul Khaliq Palari, Labor Director Asghar Lakho, and others. Special guest Kanwar Ziaur Rehman presented Brigadier Umar Farooq with a commemorative shield and traditional Sindhi topi Ajrak.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Steps Up with Powerful Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar

By Farooq Junejo & Samad Ayaz Dahri

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: On the directives of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Madad Ali Shah, the Female Students Welfare Office of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad, organized a breast cancer awareness seminar attended by a large number of female students. Specialist Dr. Sardar Khatoon Chandio emphasized early diagnosis, regular self-examination, and healthy living to prevent breast cancer. Members of Inner Wheel Club Shaheed Benazirabad also participated. Female Students Welfare Officer Rashida Pathan thanked all participants for supporting women's health awareness initiatives.

Umerkot Police Keep Pressure On as District-Wide Crackdowns Gain Pace

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: On the directives of SSP Umerkot Uzair Ahmed (PSP), police across the district have intensified operations against criminal elements. In various actions, drug peddlers, fugitives, and accused in serious crimes were arrested. Kunri Police arrested Rustam Chandio and recovered gutka and cash. Umerkot Police apprehended proclaimed offender Jamun Shar wanted in a 2020 murder case. Pithoro Police arrested two accused with weapons, while Sufi Faqir Police caught Bhimo Kolhi, wanted in a murder case. SSP Uzair Ahmed praised the police teams' performance.

Hyderabad Marks World Polio Day with Major Awareness Rally

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: On World Polio Day, an awareness rally was organized in Hyderabad under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon. The rally started from Shahbaz Building and concluded at Postmaster General Chowk, with DHO Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, AC City Babar Saleh Rahpoto, AC Latifabad Saud Ahmed, and Health Department officials participating. Participants chanted slogans for a "Polio-Free Pakistan." The DC emphasized collective efforts to eradicate polio, noting nine cases in Sindh this year, including one in Hyderabad. The rally aimed to raise public awareness and responsibility for polio eradication.

Students Rise in Protest Over Issues Plaguing Thar Foundation Schools

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Metric-pass students from Thar Foundation-run schools in Thar Coal Block-2 affected village Thario Halepoto protested at Islamkot Press Club, alleging the collection of Rs 6,000 from each student in exchange for certificates. Students Mehmood Halepoto, Sandeep Meghwar, and Mewaram Meghwar said Thar Foundation failed to fulfill promises of scholarships and educational support. They complained they are being denied admission to government schools and that the Foundation has abandoned affected students after launching new projects without proper management or future planning.

Tragic Discovery as Young Man's Body Found Near Village Gul Sher Kanrani

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A young man's body was found near Village Gul Sher Kanrani. The deceased was identified as Deedar, son of Dar Muhammad Kanrani, whose body was discovered in an agricultural field. Locals informed the police and the family immediately. Upon receiving the report, Garhi Hassan Police reached the spot, took the body into custody, and shifted it to Thul Taluka Hospital. After post-mortem, the body was handed over to relatives. According to the family, the youth had no enmity or illness. Grief spread as the body reached home.

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro Salutes Sacrifice of Pak Army Martyr Faraz Ali Bhatti

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of Lance Naik Faraz Ali Bhatti, who was killed fighting the terrorist group Khawarij al-Hind in Tirah Valley. The Mayor offered Fateha for the martyr's elevation in paradise and praised his courage. He lauded the sacrifices of Pakistan Army martyrs, emphasizing that their bravery ensures the nation's safety. Mayor Shoro also honored the martyr's family, praying for their patience and strength, and urged the public to remember such heroes with pride.

Thatta Police Nab Four Suspects in Lakhatio Community Murder Investigation

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Thatta Police successfully arrested four suspects involved in the murder of Ghulam Hussain Lakhatio following a labour dispute in the Lakhatio community. The incident occurred on October 21, 2025, injuring Gul Hassan Lakhatio as well. FIR No. 227/2025 was registered at Gharo Police Station under Sections 302, 324, and 34 PPC. Acting on SSP Thatta Farooq Ahmed Bijarani's directives, police arrested Gulshair, Shafi Muhammad, Khair Muhammad, and Abbas Lakhatio. The accused reportedly confessed, and further investigation is underway.

Umerkot Mobilizes Residents in Major Polio Eradication Awareness March

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A large awareness walk rally was organized in Umerkot by the district administration, Rotary Club, and social organizations to promote polio eradication and public awareness. Led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Javed Ahmed Dahri, participants carried banners and placards urging polio vaccination for children. Awareness sessions highlighted the importance of polio drops, with officials, teachers, parents, and students emphasizing joint responsibility to protect children from this deadly disease.

University of Sindh Champions Tobacco-Free Future in Student Awareness Session

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The Department of Social Work, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, organized an awareness session titled "Quit Smoking, Live a Better Life-Make Pakistan Tobacco-Free". Speakers, including Advocacy Officer Jaffar Mehdi and Program Manager Romus Bhatti, highlighted smoking's harmful effects on health, its link to serious diseases, and the role of youth in creating a smoke-free society. Final-year students delivered presentations, and Dr. Syed Faisal Hyder Shah honored guests with traditional Ajraks.

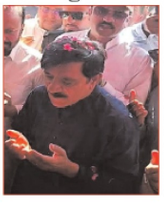
PPP's Qazi Ashhad Abbasi Calls for United Action to Wipe Out Polio Nationwide

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: On World Polio Day, PPP leader and Opposition Leader in Hyderabad Cantonment Board, Qazi Ashhad Abbasi, urged the public to fully cooperate with polio vaccination teams. He praised the government, health department, and international organizations for their efforts and called polio a crippling disease threatening children's future. Abbasi also honored polio workers as national heroes and appealed to citizens to help make Pakistan permanently polio-free.

Coastal Highway Project Launched to Shield Thatta from Rising Sea Erosion

By Mohammad Khan Memon



THATTA: Sindh Provincial Minister for Works and Prisons, Ali Hassan Zardari, announced that the Coastal Highway Project is underway to prevent sea intrusion in the coastal belt. The Gharo to Keti Bunder Road is expected to be completed within one year. During his visit to PS-76 Mirpur Sakro and Keti Bunder, Zardari inaugurated a 17-km road costing Rs. 300 million. He emphasized the importance of roads, water, education, and health as citizens' basic rights and reaffirmed his commitment to Thatta's development and prison reforms.

Larkana Authorities Urge Polio Vaccination, Open Court Announced for Government Staff

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, emphasized the importance of safeguarding children from lifelong disability by ensuring polio drops during every campaign. Speaking at Government Elementary School on World Polio Day, he urged parents to fully cooperate with vaccination teams. A walk was organized under his leadership with education officials, teachers, students, and citizens. Meanwhile, Regional Director Ali Akbar Jagirani announced an open court on October 30 at District Accounts Office Larkana for government employees to address salaries, pensions, GP fund, and other dues.

Twelve Larkana Students Set for Advanced Technical Training in China

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Twelve skilled students from Government College of Technology, Larkana, are ready to travel to China for advanced technical education and training, a major achievement for the district and Sindh's education sector. This opportunity was made possible through the support of PPP leaders, including Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Adi Faryal Talpur, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro, and Waqar Hussain Bhutto, who arranged air tickets for four students. Regional Director STEVTA Larkana, Mureed Hussain Khakhrani, appreciated this initiative, emphasizing its role in providing global learning opportunities. Principal Dr. Muhammad Saleh Shah, faculty, and scholarship students Adeel Mastoi, Hasnain Aziz, Mudassir Ali, and Rabnawaz attended the event.

Shahmir Khan Bhutto Demands Tough Response to Alarming Rise in AIDS Cases

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Commissioner Shahmir Khan Bhutto chaired a crucial meeting to address the rising HIV/AIDS cases in the district. He directed health officials to take strict action against quack doctors, unregistered labs, and illegal blood banks. The Commissioner emphasized public awareness campaigns, seminars in schools, and SOP compliance in private medical centers. Officials were instructed to intensify inspections, ensure proper hygiene practices, and conduct community sessions to educate citizens on AIDS prevention.

Jamiat Tulaba-e-Islam Sindh Kicks Off Organizational Drive in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Jamiat Talaba-e-Islam Sindh held an introductory meeting at Gulshan-e-Shaheed-e-Islam Jamia Islamia Larkana under President Osama Mahmood Halejvi. Key guest Maulana Rashid Khalid Mehmood Soomro urged youth to fight corruption and protect educational institutions from drugs and irreligiosity. The meeting, conducted by General Secretary Muhammad Ali Dars, saw active participation from student leaders across Sindh, including Daniyal Bukhari, Junaid Tanyu, Waqar Ahmed Bhutto, and others. The provincial leadership also announced key plans and decisions for the year.

Charity Feast Held in Loving Memory of Din Muhammad Khan Shahani

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: A charity feast (Khairat fi Sabilillah) will be organized on October 26 in Village Din Muhammad Shahani to honor the late Din Muhammad Khan Shahani, father of former Press Club President and senior journalist Abdullah Khan Shahani of Daily The Regional Times. The event invited community members, relatives, friends, and residents of various schools of thought. The program includes Quran recitation at 9:00 AM, followed by the charity meal at 11:00 AM.

PPP Leaders in Sanghar Recall Bhutto Family's Enduring Struggle for Democracy

By Khadim Hussain Khaskheli

SANGHAR: PPP leaders, including Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, PPP Sindh Liaison Secretary Nauman Shaikh, Cultural Wing General Secretary Liaquat Ali Shahani, Deputy General Secretary Qadir Saba, Liaison Secretary Ghani Gopang, Shaheed Benazirabad Division Cultural Wing President Nisar Ahmed Wassan, Sanghar District Cultural Wing President Abdul Sattar Khaskheli, General Secretary Mir Hassan Nuhri, and Vice President Bhai Khan Laghari, highlighted the unparalleled sacrifices of Shaheed Rani Benazir Bhutto for the restoration of democracy. They urged poets, writers, artists, and intellectuals to join PPP Cultural Wing to promote Sindhi culture and the party's vision. They praised the Bhutto family's leadership and emphasized Sanghar as a stronghold of PPP due to workers' dedication and sacrifices.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

ATC Clears Maryam Nawaz and Capt Safdar in NAB Office Attack Case

LAHORE: The Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court on Friday approved the police report seeking dismissal of the NAB Office attack case against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, her husband retired Capt Muhammad Safdar Awan, Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, and other PML-N leaders.

Announcing its reserved verdict on the police report, the court ruled that there was no evidence to support the allegations against the accused.

According to the police report, the claims of stone-pelting during Maryam Nawaz's appearance at the NAB office could not be proven. The complainant, Additional Director NAB Chaudhry Asghar, appeared in court and stated that he had no objection to the dismissal report.

During the hearing, SP Moazzam Ali, DSP Zulfiqar Ali Butt, and DSP Muhammad Khan appeared as witnesses. They testified that there was no substantial evidence to proceed with the trial against the accused.—RT/Agency

Fawad Chaudhry Says Ban on TLP Originated During Imran Khan's Government

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has said that the ban on the "Crane Party" was enforced during the tenure of former prime minister Imran Khan, while the current Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has been "brought in on rent."

According to media reports, Fawad Chaudhry criticized the current PTI leadership, saying, "They travel to London and Canada, while we continue to appear before the courts." He, however, acknowledged Pakistan's diplomatic progress in recent years, particularly the strengthening of ties with major regional and global powers.—RT/Agency

Rare Sight as Bryde's Whales Spotted Near Gwadar Coast

GWADAR: A group of Bryde's whales has been sighted in the coastal waters of Gwadar, Balochistan, marking a rare and significant marine observation. Local fishermen captured videos of the whales and shared them with WWF-Pakistan for documentation.

According to WWF-Pakistan Director Muhammad Moazzam Khan, the Bryde's whale is one of three whale species found in Pakistani waters. He explained that these whales are typically seen in groups of three to four and are known to inhabit warm and temperate seas.

Khan added that the whales' movement toward coastal areas is likely related to feeding behavior, as they often follow schools of fish near the surface. Marine experts consider this sighting an encouraging sign of biodiversity in Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone, emphasizing the need to protect marine habitats and ensure safe migration routes for large sea mammals.—RT/Agency

Azma Bukhari Claims TLP Was a 'Project,' Not a Grassroots Movement

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the so-called "Crane Party" was launched as a project rather than a genuine political movement. Speaking in an interview with a private TV channel, Bukhari stated that while it is true some groups in the past changed their names after being banned, this case was different.

She emphasized that the actions of the Crane Party did not constitute politics but rather an attempt to spread chaos and instability. "The government's decision is not against any religious group; it is a decision by the state against a particular mindset that promotes disorder," she said.

Bukhari reiterated that the state would continue to take firm action against elements undermining peace and stability, adding that responsible political activity must align with the law and national interest.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Mayor Highlights Improved Citizen Response Through Water Corporation Complaint Center

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has described the establishment of the Complaint Management Center (CMC) as a milestone in the history of the Water Corporation, aimed at ensuring timely resolution of citizen complaints and delivering improved public services.

Addressing a ceremony marking the completion of one year of the CMC, the mayor said, "The prompt redressal of complaints reflects our commitment to public service. Over the past year, the CMC has demonstrated that the Water Corporation is moving towards modern governance and a transparent system."

CEO Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, in his speech, praised the CMC team for efficiently handling numerous citizen complaints during the past year, describing their performance as a source of pride for the institution. Both officials emphasized that the center has strengthened accountability and improved public trust in the Water Corporation's services.—RT/Agency

Karachi Resident Loses Rs8.5 Million After SIM Duplication in Telecom Fraud

KARACHI: A Karachi resident has reported the unauthorized withdrawal of Rs8.5 million from his bank account through the use of an illegal duplicate SIM card. The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has launched an inquiry following the citizen's complaint.

According to the complainant, on September 29, 2025, his SIM card stopped working. Upon visiting the mobile company office, he discovered that a duplicate SIM had been issued in Hyderabad without biometric verification. The same SIM was linked to his bank account. Upon checking the account, the resident found that Rs8.5 million had been withdrawn through approximately 100 transactions and transferred to various accounts.

The complainant provided evidence, prompting the NCCIA to request records from the private bank and mobile company. However, both institutions have so far failed to provide the necessary information, delaying the investigation into the cyber fraud.—RT/Agency

CM Sindh Orders Investigation Into KDA Projects Awarded Without Tender Process

KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Minister has ordered an immediate investigation after revelations that the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) awarded consultancy contracts worth billions of rupees without following proper tendering procedures.

According to a notification issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat and reported by Geo News, a private company received projects exceeding Rs11 billion without advertisements or formal tenders. The notification described the matter as "extremely serious" and assigned a joint inquiry to Sindh's Minister for Local Government Nasser Hussain Shah and Minister for Planning & Development Jam Khan Shoro.

The probe follows a complaint from the Sindh Contractors Association, alleging significant financial and administrative irregularities at KDA. The inquiry will examine the circumstances under which these contracts were awarded and recommend accountability measures to ensure transparency and compliance with established procurement rules.—RT/Agency

Karachi Gears Up to Host World Culture Festival Welcoming 141 Nations in Celebration of Peace and Art

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Haider Shah announced that the Sindh Government is proud to host the World Culture Festival Karachi, showcasing Pakistan's peaceful and diverse image to the world. Featuring over 1,000 artists from 141 countries, the event will promote "Diplomacy through Culture" and highlight Sindh's rich heritage and hospitality. Scheduled from October 30 to December 7, the festival will feature strict security, efficient traffic management, and full administrative support. Shah emphasized that the festival symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to peace, cultural harmony, and global friendship through art and culture.

Punjab Governor Says PPP-PML-N Alliance Formed Out of Necessity, Not Affection

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan termed the alliance between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) a "compulsion, not love" and said that the system could be derailed even by a little irresponsibility.

Addressing a presser alongside his Khyber Pakhtunkhwa counterpart, Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Khan said that the two parties joined forces after the General Elections 2024 to ensure government stability.—RT/Agency

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

New SSP Assumes Charge in Bolan-Kachhi, Pays Tribute to Police Martyrs

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: PSP officer Moazzal-ur-Rehman formally assumed charge as SSP Bolan-Kachhi and was welcomed with a police guard of honor at SP Dhadar's office. He paid tribute at the Martyrs' Memorial, offering prayers for the departed police personnel. Meeting office staff, he stressed dedication, integrity, and teamwork in duties. He vowed to ensure law enforcement, maintain peace, and restore public trust in the district, while keeping his office open for citizens to share issues and suggestions.

FIA Intensifies Crackdown on Human Traffickers Across Gujranwala Zone

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) continues its crackdown on human traffickers in the Gujranwala zone, arresting five suspects involved in illegally sending citizens to Europe by sea. The arrested include Javed Iqbal, Muhammad Ashfaq, Muhammad Haris, Mazhar Hussain, and Muhammad Hasnain. The accused extorted over PKR 1.56 crore from victims under the pretense of overseas jobs but failed to deliver and went into hiding. FIA has launched a detailed investigation against them.

Central Punjab

PPP Leaders Mark 14th Death Anniversary of Begum Nusrat Bhutto with Tributes

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: PPP District Leader Rana Khalid Mahmood paid homage to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, highlighting her lifelong struggle for democracy and people's rights against oppression and dictatorship. Speaking to journalists, he praised her sacrifices and stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party continues to uphold her ideology under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari. He reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to serve the poor and oppressed communities.

Major Search Operation Launched Against Illegal Afghan Residents in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the instructions of DPO Ibadat Nisar, police in Toba Tek Singh are conducting a district-wide operation against Afghan nationals residing illegally. Teams are carrying out door-to-door verification in suspected areas. Several individuals have been taken into custody for identity and residence checks. So far, 130 illegal Afghan residents have been deported. The DPO emphasized a zero-tolerance policy to ensure law and order and eliminate illegal residency in the district.

RPO Gujranwala Holds Open Katcheries, Inspects Police Stations, Promotes Traffic Safety Measures

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Under directives from the Chief Minister Punjab and IG Police, RPO Gujranwala Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, along with DPO Narowal, held Khuli Kacheris at Police Station Kot Nainan, Shakargarh, and Noorkot to address public complaints. Citizens directly presented their issues, and immediate instructions were issued for redressal.

The RPO inspected police stations, reviewed cleanliness, records, and lockups, and issued efficiency-improving directives. He inaugurated the SDPO Office Shakargarh, Admin Block, and Police Driving Training School, and paid tribute at the Martyrs' Memorial. At a Traffic Awareness Camp, free helmets were distributed to promote road safety.

Concluding his visit, the RPO met police martyrs' families, listened to their grievances, and rewarded officers for outstanding performance, emphasizing public service and prompt resolution of complaints.

DC Toba Tek Singh Reviews E-Khidmat Center, Calls for Enhanced Citizen Service Delivery

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela visited the E-Khidmat Center in Toba Tek Singh to assess the quality of services and facilities provided to citizens. He interacted with visitors, seeking feedback on services such as ID cards, domiciles, licenses, e-challans, and other official documents. Citizens praised the center for its convenience, promptness, and staff behavior. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that E-Khidmat Centers reflect modem governance, transparency, and public facilitation, instructing staff to further enhance courtesy and service standards. He also inspected the Buildings Rest House Project, reviewing its design, quality, and progress. He highlighted that thorough planning ensures the project's completion with top-quality standards.

Agriculture Department Seizes Suspicious Fertilizer Stock in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Agriculture Department, led by Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Gulzar Shahid, intercepted suspicious fertilizer being transported in a rickshaw and traced it to a local warehouse. Samples were collected in the presence of the owner and will be sent to Faisalabad and Raiwind laboratories for testing. Legal action will follow once results are confirmed. Gulzar Shahid emphasized a zero-tolerance policy against substandard or fake fertilizer, assuring farmers that quality supplies will be protected and monitored.

Gujranwala Introduces Pink Mobile Police Station and Licensing Unit to Facilitate Women

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Police has launched a Pink Mobile Police Station and Licensing Unit to enhance women's access to justice and licensing services. Chief Traffic Officer Ayesha Butt, speaking at an awareness seminar at Government Post Graduate College for Women, Satellite Town, said the mobile unit will allow women to register complaints and access all traffic licensing services, including learner, regular, international, duplicate, and renewal licenses. She emphasized that the unit, staffed entirely by women, symbolizes confidence and empowerment for women. The initiative received wide appreciation from students and teachers attending the seminar.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, October 25 , 2025

Majestic Giants in Our Waters — A Wake-Up Call for Marine Stewardship

The recent sighting of four rare Bryde's whales off the coast of Gwadar is more than just a breathtaking natural moment — it is a reminder of the extraordinary marine heritage that Pakistan is blessed with. These gentle giants, observed by local fishermen participating in WWF-Pakistan's citizen science initiative, represent a living treasure in our waters. Yet, their presence also carries a warning: we must learn to respect, protect and celebrate this fragile ecosystem before it slips beyond recovery.

Pakistan's coastline is home to three majestic baleen whale species — the blue whale, the Arabian humpback whale, and the Bryde's whale, the very species spotted near Demi Zur. But these creatures are listed as "data deficient," meaning their global numbers and threats remain insufficiently studied. Past tragic incidents of stranded and deceased whales highlight the risks they face from human negligence, destructive fishing practices, marine traffic, and pollution.

This is where we, as a nation, must decide whether we remain passive spectators or become responsible custodians of our seas.

The efforts of coastal communities and WWF-Pakistan demonstrate that collaboration works. Fishermen reporting sightings, researchers documenting patterns, and authorities enforcing protective laws form the foundation of effective conservation. But awareness must extend far beyond marine experts — it must reach classrooms, policy halls, coastal villages, and the national mindset.

We cannot continue being our own worst enemies, poisoning our waters with waste, overfishing without foresight, and ignoring the delicate rhythms of marine life. Instead, let us foster eco-tourism, support sustainable fishing, and strengthen marine sanctuaries to not only preserve these magnificent beings but allow them to flourish.

The appearance of Bryde's whales is not just a beautiful sight — it is nature asking us to do better. Let us answer with commitment, pride, and care.

THE HEARTLAND

Municipal Committee Chairman Pir Danish Reviews Critical Rainwater Drainage Works in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Following the directives of PPP District President and MPA Dadu Barrister Pir Majeeb-ul-Haq, Pir Danish Ali, Chairman Municipal Committee Dadu, visited the ongoing drainage scheme on College Road to address rainwater disposal issues. He also instructed Public Health officers to ensure the work is completed efficiently and properly. The project aims to improve facilities for Dadu residents. Present at the visit were Public Health Engineer, party leaders Imdad Hussain Dawach, Shamir Khan Chhawan, Advocate Kora Khan Memon, Municipal Officers Javed Ahmed Rahputo, Mukhtiar Ahmed Rahputo, PA Muhammad Aslam Chhawan, Riaz Ahmed Dawach, Jansher Khan Chhawan, Pervez Korejo, worker Tahir Hussain Laghari, and others.

Hyderabad Rallies Strong on World Polio Day Awareness Drive

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: On World Polio Day, Hyderabad District organized an awareness rally led by Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon from Shahbaz Building to Post Master General Chowk. The event saw participation from health officials, vaccinators, and volunteers, carrying banners promoting a Polio-Free Hyderabad. The Deputy Commissioner urged parents and communities to ensure every child receives polio drops. Authorities emphasized coordinated efforts to tackle refusal cases and achieve complete eradication of polio in the district.

Badin to Observe Black Day in Solidarity with Valiant Kashmir Struggle

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Deputy Commissioner of Badin, Yasir Bhatti, has announced that October 27 will be observed as "Black Day" to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. A rally will be held from DC Office to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chowk at 10:00 AM. All government departments, educational institutions, health, agriculture, and other offices have been directed to participate. The day marks India's illegal occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947, highlighting ongoing atrocities against Kashmiris.

Severe Wheat Flour Shortage Pushes Labor Class in Tando Bago to the Brink

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: A severe shortage of wheat flour has emerged in Tando Bago, creating distress among the labor class. Flour meant for city mills and chakkis under quota is being sold illegally on the black market, making it inaccessible and posing serious health risks. Labor representatives, including Hussain Mallah, Bhuro Kolhi, and Aijaz Ahmed, demanded that the Sindh government regulate flour distribution and take strict legal action against those selling adulterated or black-market flour to protect poor workers.

Digri Resident Protests for Recovery of Two Stolen Goats

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Near Markaz Stop, two unidentified armed men on motorcycles broke into the house of laborer Nanji Kolhi and stole his two goats before fleeing. The incident occurred late night between Wednesday and Thursday. The victim lodged a formal complaint (FIR) at Digri police station, but no recovery has been made yet. Nanji Kolhi appealed to the culprits to return the stolen items, describing himself as a poor laborer.

Mehar Residents Protest Alleged Medical Negligence After Patient's Death

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Residents of Qurbanabad village, including Haji Hakim Gorar, staged a protest at Mehar Press Club against alleged medical negligence by a local doctor. They claimed improper treatment of a child during a cesarean, despite paying 25,000 PKR. The center's owner reportedly threatened the family. Protesters demanded justice and warned of filing a case in High Court if no action is taken.

Sindh Minister Ali Hassan Zardari Inaugurates Road Development Projects in Mirpur Sakro

By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari inaugurated newly constructed roads, including Late Stop to Ghulamullah Road, in Mirpur Sakro. Speaking to the media, he stated that serving the public is a duty, not a favor, and promised to continue working for citizens' welfare. He highlighted Thatta as the first district in Sindh with numerous developed roads and assured the people that he considers Thatta his home and will continue delivering basic facilities.

Khadro Notable Succumbs to Injuries Following Clash During Resistance

By Akhtar Marri

KHADRO: A local community leader, Jameel Shar of Jailer village, succumbed to injuries sustained during a recent clash with thieves. His funeral prayer was offered in his native village with hundreds in attendance, while no political or official representatives were present. Police have yet to apprehend the accused or recover the stolen motorcycle. Family members stated they hold no enmity with anyone and demanded justice, warning of a community protest if the culprits are not arrested promptly.

Prominent Personalities Remember and Honor Late Muhammad Soomar Shaikh

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: Patron-in-Chief of Rajooni Shaikh Ittehad Badin, along with Naib Naik Mohammad Shaikh and leaders of the International Shaikh Ittehad, Shaukat Ali Shaikh and Bashir Ahmed Shaikh, visited the grave of the late Muhammad Soomar Shaikh at Shah Qadri Cemetery. The attendees offered Fateha and laid roses with devotion. They highly praised the late Shaikh's contributions to education, literature.

Robber Shot Dead in Shahdadpur Police Encounter, Accomplice Captured Alive

By Sajan Jani Detho

SHAHDADPUR: During a police encounter in Shahdadpur, notorious criminal Haq Nawaz Bhatti was killed, while his accomplice Sajad Ali Rajput was arrested. Haq Nawaz was wanted by Punjab Police in over 20 serious cases. According to police, after their attempt to raid a house failed, the suspects opened fire, hitting a police mobile as well. Citizens have praised the police for their effective performance.

Badin Police Intensify War Against Narcotics with Expanded Operations

TALHAR: Police in Badin District have stepped up operations against drug trafficking. During a patrol near Goth Zubair Mallah, Talhar, officers arrested a drug dealer, Ayub Machhi, recovering 300 tablets, while his accomplice, Manzoor Soomro, escaped. SHO Talhar Alauddin Khaskheli stated that the area was immediately cordoned off upon receiving information. A case (No. 158/2025) under Section 8 SPPM has been registered against the arrested suspect, and a special team is searching for the fugitive.—RT

Dairy Lake Company Holds Major Convention Showcasing High-Quality Animal Feed

By Zain-ul-Abideen Samo

SITA ROAD: Dairy Lake Company organized a grand convention at Laghari Garden, hosted by local businessman Seth Akhtar Hussain Khoso and his brothers. Town Committee Chairman Qambar Ali Khan Laghari attended as chief guest. Company representatives highlighted their high-quality feed, which improves milk, meat, weight, and animal health. Akhtar Hussain Khoso has been appointed as the local dealer. Guests lauded the feed's nutritional benefits and the company's commitment to the livestock sector.

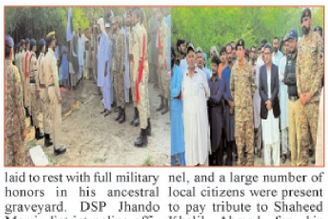
Federal Ombudsman's Secretariat Conducts Awareness Seminar at Zubaida College

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat organized an awareness seminar at Government Girls Zubaida College, aiming to educate students and teachers about the Ombudsman's role and complaint mechanism against federal institutions. Regional Head Ghulam Rasool explained that complaints against any federal department can be filed free of charge through a simple written application, ensuring timely justice. Advisor Dr. Rizwan Ahmed highlighted the importance of accountability, transparency, and civic awareness, urging participants to actively contribute to building a just and fair society

Tando Allahyar Bids Farewell as Senior Officials Attend Funeral of Martyred Khalil Ahmed

By Afaq Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar Noor Mustafa Laghari and SSP Tando Allahyar Syed Saleem Shah today attended the funeral and burial of brave son of Tando Allahyar, Khalil Ahmed, who was martyred in terrorist activities by Fitna al-Khawarij, in the village Heera Singh Mari, Tehsil Jhando Marri. The body of the martyr was laid to rest with full military honors in his ancestral graveyard. DSP Jhando Marri, district police officers, Pakistan Army personnel, and a large number of local citizens were present to pay tribute to Shaheed Khalil Ahmed for his bravery and sacrifice.

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SPORTS

McNamee Says Italy Feels Deeply Let Down by Sinner After Davis Cup Exit

BOLOGNA: Former Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee stated that the whole of Italy is mad at Jannik Sinner following the world no. 2's decision to withdraw from the Davis Cup Final 8, scheduled to take place in Bologna next month.

In a recent social media post, McNamee shared his views on the controversy, noting that the Italians feel disappointed after standing firmly behind Sinner during his recent doping case, only to feel let down by his withdrawal.

"Many Italian journalists, and the Italian public, fiercely loyal to Sinner during the doping crisis, but his decision to bypass the Davis Cup Finals – probably they felt going on national duty this year would have been the right thing to do," McNamee tweeted on 'X'.

Sinner announced earlier this week that he would not attend the Davis Cup because he was physically exhausted from the lengthy season and needed time to rest.

However, fans and former players criticised his choice, arguing that representing the national team should have been a top priority.

Former French Open champion Nicola Pietrangeli was among those to condemn the move, saying that the Italian should reconsider his decision.

"He has to play tennis, not go to war," Pietrangeli remarked.

The 24-year-old, currently participating in the ATP 500 tournament in Vienna, remains committed to finishing the season on a strong note.—Agency

Rain Washes Away Pakistan's World Cup Dreams as Green Shirts Exit in Usual Disappointment

Pakistan's final ICC Women's World Cup clash against Sri Lanka ended in heartbreak — not from defeat, but from the skies above. Torrential rain washed out the much-anticipated match at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium on Friday, bringing a damp and disappointing close to Pakistan's campaign.

Persistent showers delayed the toss for hours, forcing officials to reduce the contest to just 34 overs per side. Once play finally began, Pakistan — led by Fatima Sana — cautiously reached 18 for no loss in 4.2 overs. But as dark clouds gathered once again, the heavens opened, forcing players off the field and eventually sealing the match's fate as a washout.

With this no-result, the Green Shirts finished second from the bottom on the World Cup points table, managing only three points and a negative net run rate of 2.65. The team struggled throughout the tournament to find consistency, with flashes of promise often dimmed by batting collapses and missed opportunities.

For Pakistan, the rain-soaked finale symbolizes a campaign of unfulfilled potential. Young talents like Fatima Sana and Sidra Ameen showed sparks of brilliance, but the side lacked the finishing touch needed to challenge the top teams. As Sri Lanka's drenched fans left the stands, disappointment hung in the humid Colombo air — not just for a lost match, but for Pakistan's World Cup journey that never quite took off. The Green Shirts now look ahead, determined to regroup and rebuild for a stronger comeback in the next global showdown.—Agency

Mercurial NFL Quarterback Aaron Rodgers Reveals He Plans to Retire as a Packer

GREEN BAY: Aaron Rodgers has made it clear that he wants to end his career with the Green Bay Packers. He shared his wish ahead of Sunday's matchup between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Packers.

This weekend, Rodgers will face his former team for the first time, and the Packers hope he can set sentiment aside and focus on helping them improve to 5-2.

Reflecting on his long tenure with the Packers, Rodgers said that he has given 18 years of his career to the team, and he will retire as a Packer.

"I was there for 18 years, regardless of when I hang it up, that's the bulk of my career. I'll retire a Packer and see what happens after that. I've got a lot of love for the organization [and] my time there," Rodgers said.

The Packers are expected to eventually welcome Rodgers back the same way as they did with Brett Favre.

Favre returned to Green Bay in 2015, one year before his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and his No. 4 was retired.

Rodgers last played for the Packers in 2022, before being traded to the New York Jets in 2023.

After two seasons in New York, he signed with the Steelers this past offseason, while Sunday's game marks his first matchup against his former team.

Speaking with Packers reporters on a Zoom call Thursday, Rodgers reflected warmly on his year in Green Bay and showed no hard feelings about not finishing his career there.—Agency

Tareen Posts Barbed Apology After Receiving PCB Legal Notice

Ali Tareen, owner of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Multan Sultans, has issued a sharply sarcastic "apology" after receiving a legal notice from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Framed as contrition but delivered with barbed asides, his response took aim at the league's stewardship while acknowledging the board's grievances over alleged breaches of the 10-year franchise contract.

According to the notice, the PCB accused Tareen of violating multiple clauses of the PSL franchise agreement and demanded both a public apology and a retraction of his critical remarks. It warned that failure to comply could trigger termination of Multan Sultans' contract and see Tareen blacklisted from the league—an ultimatum that significantly raised the stakes of the dispute.

Posting a video on his X account, Tareen appeared to comply in form while contesting the substance, using sarcastic language to question the PSL's management and decision-making.

Tareen began by outlining the PCB's ultimatum before questioning the board's approach to conflict. He expressed frustration over the lack of direct communication, stating that he never received "a single call, message, email, or invitation asking to meet and resolve these issues together."

"Instead, I was served a legal notice," he said. "If you were more competent, you would know these matters aren't handled this way." He accused the management of being surrounded by "yes-men" and unable to accept criticism, asserting that the league "belongs to the fans and to all of Pakistan, not to the handful of people currently running it."

While stating his legal team saw no need for an apology, Tareen proceeded to offer one "because I want the PSL to improve." His apology, however, served to reiterate all his previous complaints.

He apologised for expressing frustration when he noticed issues and for his critical remarks about what he perceived as a lack of professionalism.

He apologised for "criticising the opening ceremony," sarcastically praising the "amazing" act of having "national stars… lip-sync." He conceded that wanting the ceremony to "start on time, finish on time, and that the mic should work properly" was going too far. —Agency

Aisam-ul-Haq Vows to Elevate Pakistan Tennis Through Action, Not Words

LAHORE: President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), Aisam-ul-Haq, has reaffirmed his commitment to developing tennis in the country, saying that all promises made to the players are being fulfilled — stressing that he believes in "action, not words."

In an interview with Geo News, Aisam said that since taking charge, his administration has taken concrete steps to raise the sport's standards nationwide.

"We have introduced 12 new national tournaments and gradually increased the prize money," he shared.

He emphasised the landmark achievement of securing an ATP Challenger Tour event for the first time in Pakistan's history, describing it as a development "equivalent to hosting an ICC event in cricket.

"I had promised the return of international tennis to Pakistan. We've now been allotted seven ITF junior tournaments, and for the first time, we've secured an ATP Challenger Tour event — which is equivalent to hosting an ICC event in cricket," he stated.

Aisam, who represented Pakistan globally for over two decades, stressed his philosophy of performance over promises.

"I've always believed in letting my racket do the talking. Even during my playing career, I focused on making my country proud through results, not words," he said.

The PTF chief also revealed that junior players now have more opportunities to compete internationally.

"The number of players participating abroad has increased. We're prioritising merit — opportunities will go to those who deserve them, not just those who can afford to play overseas," Aisam concluded.—Agency

Shan Masood Takes on Key Role with PCB, Strengthening Cricket Operations

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed Test captain Shan Masood as Consultant for International Cricket and Players' Affairs. This newly created position, aimed at enhancing international cricket operations and player-management coordination, marks a significant step in PCB's efforts. Masood, 36, with over 3,100 international runs, including six Test centuries, has captained Pakistan in 14 Tests, leading them to a historic series win over England in 2024.—RT

Messi Signs New Inter Miami Contract, Staying with Club Until 2028

NEW YORK: Lionel Messi has signed a new contract with Major League Soccer side Inter Miami, keeping him at the club until 2028, the club announced.

The move has delighted fans and given a big boost to the team as well as the North American league . At 38, the Argentine star shows no sign of slowing down and remains hungry to win more trophies with the Florida side.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had previously said that Inter Miami would be his last club, but the 38-year-old has given no hint about his possible retirement, saying that age would not be a factor.

"Our vision was to bring the best players to Inter Miami and to this city, and that's exactly what we have done," Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham said in a statement.

"He's still as committed as he's ever been and he still wants to win."

The 2022 World Cup winner led the league in goals (29) this season, as Inter Miami finished third in the Eastern Conference. They are set to play Nashville SC in the first round of the MLS Cup play-offs beginning on Friday.

He was named among five finalists for the league's MVP award on Thursday.—Agency

Darren Sammy Criticizes West Indies Spinners After Costly ODI Defeat to Bangladesh

DHAKA: West Indies head coach Daren Sammy did not hold back his criticism of his bowlers following the team's 2-1 series loss to Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series.

Sammy expressed disappointment over his spinners' failure to exploit conditions that heavily favoured them, describing the pitches as "dark, cracked, and offering variable bounce."

Bangladesh's spinners completely outclassed their West Indian counterparts, taking 27 wickets at an average of 14.66 and an economy rate of 3.80. In contrast, West Indies spinners managed only 18 wickets at an average of 30.05 and an economy rate of 4.39.

Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie and all-rounder Roston Chase struggled throughout the series, while even part-timer Alick Athanaze produced better figures than them in the second ODI.

Returning spinners Khary Pierre and Akeal Hosein, however, showed improvement — with Hosein's four-wicket haul in the third ODI standing out as the lone bowling highlight for the visitors.

"The positive in the ODI series was probably the batting of Shai Hope — how he continues to put the team on his back every time he faces a challenge," Sammy said.

"He is a leader. But I am really disappointed in the way we bowled. You come to Bangladesh and you know spinners should be licking their lips. The conditions were ideal, but what we displayed over the last three games was very poor and inconsistent."

Despite his frustration, Sammy acknowledged that home advantage plays an important role in international cricket.

"I always want to ask for home advantage," he added. "I can't tell Bangladesh what wickets to prepare. My job is to make sure my team has the skillset to handle any conditions. Bangladesh did what they had to do to win at home — that's what matters. But I felt my players just didn't perform well throughout the series."

Sammy also voiced concern over West Indies' poor fielding effort, admitting that the team underperformed in all areas.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Farzeen Ahmed
About me: I enjoy Modeling and playing video games!
Location: Karachi

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Emman Atienza, Daughter of TV Host Kuya Kim, Passes Away at 19

Social media star Emman Atienza has passed away at the age of 19.

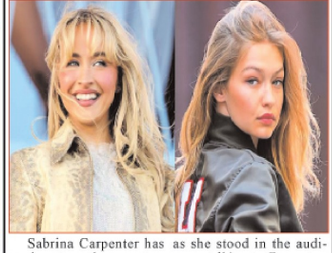
Kim Atienza, mother of Emman, announced the death of her daughter on social media on Tuesday, September 23.

"It's with deep sadness that we share the unexpected passing of our daughter and sister, Emman," penned Filipino TV host Kim on her Instagram.

She further penned, "She brought so much joy, laughter, and love into our lives and into the lives of everyone who knew her. Emman had a way of making people feel seen and heard, and she wasn't afraid to share her own journey with mental health. Her authenticity helped so many feel less alone."

The TV host, also known by his nickname Kuya Kim, continued, "To honor Emman's memory, we hope you carry forward the qualities she lived by: compassion, courage, and a little extra kindness in your everyday life."

Gigi Hadid Steps Into Spotlight as Sabrina Carpenter's Juno Girl



Sabrina Carpenter has made yet another arrest, a "gorgeous" arrest though.

At the singer's Short n' Sweet tour stop in Pittsburgh, Gigi Hadid was the latest victim to be arrested for being a "gorgeous girl."

During each stop of her tour, the Espresso hitmaker, "arrests" someone from the audience before the start of her song, Juno.

As seen in multiple fan-captured videos, Hadid, wearing an animal-print tank top over a white tee and jeans, looked excited as she stood in the audience, talking to Carpenter, who asked, "Gigi, where are you from?"

After Hadid answered that she is from Bucks County, she made a flirty face at Carpenter to which the Feathers singer reacted, "Wow, maybe we are soulmates! Gigi, I'm getting so hot and flustered." In her typical fashion, Carpenter then gave Hadid her pink, furry handcuffs, which she spun in the air as the Please Please Please crooner said, "This one is for Gigi, everybody."

Taylor Swift Receives Prestigious Nomination for Songwriters Hall of Fame

Taylor Swift might just make it to the Songwriters Hall of Fame.Officials announced the nominees for the next round of inductions into the prestigious institution, which is "dedicated to recognising and celebrating the exceptional work and lives of composers and lyricists."

Alongside The Fate of Ophelia singer, other musicians to be nominated in the "performing songwriters" category for the class of 2026 include Pink, Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell of America, David Byrne, Richard Carpenter, Harry Wayne Casey, Randy Bachman and Burton Cummings of The Guess Who, Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley of KISS, Kenny Loggins, Sarah McLachlan, Boz Scaggs, LL Cool J, as well as Charlotte Caffey, Kathy Valentine, and Jane M. Wiedlin of The Go-Go's.

Songwriters in the "non-performing" category include Mariah Carey collaborator Walter Afanasieff, Pete Bellotte, Andreas Carlsson, Steve Kipner, Jeffrey Steele, Patrick Leonard, Bob McDill, Kenny Nolan, Martin Page, Vini Poncia, Tom Snow, Christopher 'Tricky' Stewart, and Larry Weiss.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Smog Chokes Punjab: Schools on the Brink of Closure as Air Turns Hazardous

LAHORE: A severe smog alert has sparked speculation over early winter vacations in Punjab as air quality worsens, especially in Lahore — now ranked the world's most polluted city with an alarming AQI of 362. The Meteorological Department warns conditions may deteriorate further due to dry weather. While the government and Education Department monitor the crisis closely, no decision on school closures has been announced yet, echoing last year's emergency shutdowns.—RT/Agency

Punjab's Green Cover Under Siege: Timber Mafia Ravages Jand Bare Forests

PUNJAB: Before dawn breaks over Jand in Punjab's Attock district, the whir of chainsaws fills the misty air. By sunrise, truckloads of timber vanish toward distant markets, leaving behind desolate patches where forests once stood. "These trees took decades to grow but only hours to fell," laments Muhammad Ramzan, a farmer from Kanni village. Across Jand and nearby areas, an organized web of illegal loggers, transporters, and middlemen — infamously known as the 'timber mafia' — is ravaging the land. The unchecked deforestation is stripping hillsides bare, threatening local livelihoods and pushing Punjab's fragile environment toward collapse.—RT/Agency

NA Committee Cracks Down: Orders Countrywide Gender Audit of Land Ownership

By Naz Solangi

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Gender Mainstreaming Committee has directed provincial governments and federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive gender mapping of all land and property records across Pakistan. Citing that only 2.5% of women solely own homes and 7.5% have joint ownership, Chairperson Dr. Nafisa Shah emphasized removing legal, social, and cultural barriers to women's asset ownership. The Committee also proposed a dedicated national institution for gender equality and called for transparency in reporting Pakistan's commitments at international forums.

Punjab Govt Announces Early Salaries Ahead of Festival Rush Weekend

LAHORE: In a surprise move, the Punjab government has announced that October salaries and pensions for its employees will be released ahead of schedule, on Friday, 31 October 2025, instead of the usual date. The decision, made in light of the upcoming long weekend (1st-2nd November), aims to ensure government workers receive their dues before the holidays. A notification has been sent to all concerned departments to complete the payments by the revised deadline.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Pir Noorullah Qureshi Condoles With Wahab Munshi Over Brother's Passing

HYDERABAD: On the directives of the Pir of Luari Sharif, Hazrat Saeen Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, his younger brother and former Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Pir Noorullah Qureshi, visited Hyderabad's Munshi House to express condolences to prominent Columnist and High Court Lawyer, Wahab Munshi over the passing of his brother, Salman Munshi. He offered heartfelt prayers for the eternal peace and forgiveness of the late Salman Munshi, whose services to his community were widely admired. The visit drew emotional moments as family members recalled his contributions with respect and reverence.—RT

Teachers' Action Committee Announces Protest After Vehicles Stolen from Educators

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The Teachers' Action Committee has announced that if the vehicles stolen from Hingorja Sagyon Link Road two days ago are not returned, they will stage a protest and sit-in in front of Hingorja Police Station on Sunday. Committee leaders Sajid Hussain Shah and Gulab Khan Chang stated in a press conference that crime and theft have surged in Hingorja, while the police have failed to control the situation. They urged the authorities to recover the stolen vehicles and take strict action to curb the rising lawlessness.

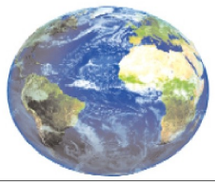
Court Rejects Transfer Plea in Dr. Shahnawaz Kunbhar Custodial Murder Case, ATC Trial to Proceed

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: In the case of Dr. Shahnawaz Kunbhar, who was allegedly killed due to torture while in police custody, the Anti-Terrorism Court of Mirpurkhas has rejected the defendants' applications seeking transfer of the case from the ATC to the Sessions Court. The decision was announced on the previously reserved date. The defendants' lawyers had filed the applications under Section 23 of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. Arguments were heard from the defense lawyers representing defendants Hidayatullah, Nadir Parvez, and Niaz Muhammad Khoso, as well as from the complainant's lawyers, including Supreme Court lawyer Mir Ahmed Mangrio and FIA Assistant Director Legal Madam Sindhu. The court has adjourned the next hearing until November 6, 2025.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH



Lucky Strike in Arkansas: Man Unearths 2.71-Carat Diamond at Public Park Mine

INDIA: An Indiana man visiting Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas spotted something shiny on his shovel and confirmed it was a 2.71-carat white diamond.

Paoli resident Dewy White said he and his wife spent two days at Crater of Diamonds State Park at the start of their long road trip, and they enjoyed their time so much they decided to stop again on their way home.

White said he came armed with some screens he bought from a store in Murfreesboro prior to his second visit and he and his wife ended up in the Canary Hill area by the south wash pavilion.

"A very nice gentleman I met on my first day out here suggested that area," White told Arkansas State Parks officials. "He seemed like he knew what he was doing, and it looked like a nice, shaded spot."

White said he knew the object he unearthed was something different from the quartz he had been encountering before it even hit his screen.

"It looked like a metal piece of glass," he said. "The minute I saw it in my shovel, I knew." —RT/Agency

Goats on the Loose: Escaped Herd Causes Stir in Arizona Suburban Neighborhood

ARIZONA: Police in Arizona are trying to find the owner of some "friendly suspects" rounded up in a residential subdivision: a small group of goats.The Marana Police Department shared photos and videos on social media showing the "furry fugitives" rounded up in the Colina de Anaza subdivision off Hartman Lane in Marana."Our officers helped bring these friendly suspects into custody last night," the department.Police said they are now trying to identify the owner of the goats so the animals can be returned home.—RT/Agency

Lottery Miracle: Months-Old Quick Pick Numbers Score $140,000 Win

CAROLINA: A South Carolina woman said she recycled the same set of quick pick lottery numbers for several months, and was rewarded with a $140,000 Palmetto Cash 5 jackpot.

The Pee Dee woman told South Carolina Education Lottery officials she is a frequent Palmetto Cash 5 player and a few months ago she got a set of numbers from a quick pick ticket and decided to stick with them.

"I played it over and over again," she said.—RT

Germany on Alert: Deadly Bird Flu Outbreak Kills Thousands, Authorities Race to Contain Spread

BERLIN: Germany is gripped by a massive bird flu outbreak, with the H5N1 strain now detected in nearly all 16 federal states, sparing only Bremen, officials confirmed Friday. The Friedrich Loeffler Institute warned of a "very dynamic infection pattern" spreading rapidly among cranes and wild birds. Over 1,000 dead cranes were found near Berlin this week, and more than 200,000 poultry — including chickens, ducks, and turkeys — have been culled nationwide. —RT

Red Tide on the Move: Millions of Crabs Begin Spectacular Annual March on Christmas Island

CHRISTMAS ISLAND: Roads turned red this week as millions of red crabs on Christmas Island emerged from the centre of the island for their annual migration journey on the island off the coast of Western Australia.

With a population of over 100 million, the crabs are unique to the island — much of which is designated as a national park — and protected by Australian law.

The migration, which usually lasts for days, sees the crabs journey from the island off the coast of Western Australia to the ocean, where they mate. The females then stay behind in burrows near the ocean to hatch their eggs and the males return inland.

Each female crab can produce up to 100,000 eggs, which she will deposit into the ocean. —RT/Agency

Pakistan & Uzbekistan Forge New Chapter: Joint Aquaculture Project Set to Boost Food Security

By Daim Shah

TASHKENT: In a landmark move to boost regional cooperation in sustainable aquaculture, Pak Gharo Agri & Livestock Farms (PGA&LF), in collaboration with Aquamimicry Pakistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Uzbekistan Fisheries Association. The agreement focuses on introducing eco-friendly aquaculture technologies, promoting giant freshwater prawn cultivation, establishing pilot and commercial projects, and training local farmers. The partnership aims to enhance productivity, diversify aquaculture species, and strengthen Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations in the agri-aquaculture sector, fostering innovation and sustainable growth across Central Asia.

Border Chaos Erupts: Over 1,000 Escape Myanmar Military Raid on Giant Scam Syndicate

MYANMAR: More than 1,000 people — most of them Chinese nationals — have fled from Myanmar into Thailand this week after the Myanmar military launched a dramatic raid on one of the country's biggest cyber-scam centres, Thai authorities revealed on Friday.The exodus began after troops stormed the notorious KK Park compound, a sprawling complex long suspected of hosting large-scale online fraud operations. These scam hubs, hidden along Myanmar's conflict-ridden border regions, have flourished amid years of civil unrest and weak governance. They are known for running sophisticated online cons that swindle victims across Asia and beyond.According to Thailand's Tak provincial office, 1,049 people crossed into Mae Sot district between Wednesday and Friday morning — a sharp increase from 677 who had fled just a day earlier. Many of the escapees were taken into custody for questioning as authorities scrambled to manage the sudden influx.—RT/Agency

Delhi Takes to the Skies: India Launches Cloud Seeding to Fight Toxic Smog Crisis

DELHI: In a bold experiment to combat deadly air pollution, India conducted its first-ever cloud seeding trial over smog-choked New Delhi on Thursday. Using a Cessna light aircraft, scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur partnered with city authorities to spray chemicals over the northern Burari area, hoping to trigger artificial rain and wash pollutants from the air. Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa confirmed that "cloud seeding flares were fired" during the trial. The move comes as the capital grapples with hazardous air quality, raising hopes that weather modification could offer short-term relief from the city's annual pollution crisis.—RT/Agency

Louvre Heist Scandal: Museum Chief Points to CCTV Blind Spots in $102 Million Jewelry Theft

PARIS:The Louvre's cameras failed to detect burglars in time to prevent their audacious daylight heist of some of France's crown jewels, the museum's director said, amid growing anger directed at officials over major security lapses.The thieves broke into the world-famous Paris museum on Sunday using a crane to smash an upstairs window, then stole jewels worth an estimated 88 million euros ($102 million) before escaping on motorbikes. News of the robbery reverberated around the world, and prompted soul-searching in France over what some viewed as a national humiliation.Laurence des Cars, the Louvre director, told senators that she had offered her resignation, but it had been refused by Culture Minister Rachida Dati, who has also come under fire as recriminations flew after the robbery.—RT/Agency

Heroic Ascent: Firefighters Break World Record Climbing Burj Khalifa

DUBAI: Dubai Civil Defence has achieved a remarkable global milestone by securing a place in the Guinness World Records.

A team of firefighters successfully set a new world record for the fastest ascent of Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.The team completed the challenging climb — a total of 159 floors via the stairs — in just 52 minutes and 30 seconds, marking the fastest recorded time for such a feat. What makes this accomplishment even more extraordinary is that the firefighters performed the climb while wearing their full firefighting gear, which weighed approximately 15 kilograms.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Rubina Khalid's High-Profile Karachi Visit: Key Steps for Heritage & Empowerment

KARACHI: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), made a significant visit to Karachi, attending the 100th meeting of the Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board. She emphasized preserving Pakistan's heritage and promoting collaboration between BISP and STEVTA for vocational training. Highlighting skill development as vital for economic empowerment, she praised STEVTA's efforts. Khalid also visited the BISP Regional Office, commending staff dedication and ensuring transparency in the program's operations while reaffirming support for its officers.-RT

METRO KARACHI

CM Murad Says Sindh is Now Driving Pakistan's Polio Eradication Push

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said that the anti-polio campaign across Sindh is progressing effectively, with the provincial government playing a leading role in Pakistan's fight against the disease. In his message on World Polio Day, the chief minister emphasized that ensuring every child receives polio drops is a national responsibility.

He urged parents to protect their children from the crippling virus, noting that the Sindh government is providing vaccination services that meet international standards. CM Shah said that polio teams have been given full access to even the most remote areas of the province.

He praised polio workers as the "true heroes of the nation" and highlighted that Sindh's surveillance system has been further strengthened. —RT

City's Elite Turn Out for Dazzling Dinner Hosted by Dr. Zahid Ansari at Karachi Gymkhana

KARACHI: Dr. Zahid Hasan Ansari, Former Vice President of Karachi Gymkhana, hosted a grand dinner at his residence "Ansari's" to honour Chairman Akbar Iqbal Puri and President Jan Mohammad Dadabhoy. The glittering evening drew Karachi's elite — industrialists, diplomats, corporate tycoons, senior officials, and celebrities. Dr. Ansari warmly welcomed guests and thanked them for their presence. The memorable night concluded with a joyful birthday cake-cutting ceremony celebrating Mr. Akbar Iqbal Puri amid cheers and heartfelt wishes.—RT

Sindh and UNICEF Roll Out Landmark Child Labour Survey Showing Major 50% Reduction

KARACHI: The Sindh Government and UNICEF launched the Sindh Child Labour Survey 2023–24 in Karachi, revealing that 10.3% of children aged 5–17 are engaged in child labour — a 50% drop since 1996. The landmark study, the first in nearly three decades, highlights child labour trends across 29 districts, with highest rates in Sujawal and Tharparkar. Officials pledged stronger enforcement of child protection laws, stressing education, poverty reduction, and social support to eradicate child labour in Sindh.—RT

SSGC Launches Major Operation, Cuts 662 Illegal Gas Connections in Balochistan

KARACHI: In a major anti-theft drive, Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) disconnected 662 illegal gas connections across Balochistan. The Security Services and Counter Gas Theft Operations team, working with CRD and Recovery departments, removed underground and overhead clamps used for stealing gas from main lines. SSGC warned of strict action and urged citizens to report theft via helpline 1199, social media, or the SSGC Customer Connect app to conserve the rapidly depleting resource.—RT/Agency

Manghopir Town Showcased as Rapid Development Model, Says DC West Zulfiqar Memon

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Under the special directives of Commissioner Karachi, a comprehensive meeting was held at the office of Deputy Commissioner West, Mr. Zulfiqar Memon, to review ongoing development projects and administrative performance across the district, with a particular focus on Manghopir Town.

Chairman Manghopir Town Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Vice Chairman Rana Muhammad Arif, Municipal Commissioner Agha Khaleeq Durrani, along with engineers, officers, and field staff from relevant departments attended the session.

During the meeting, Chairman Brohi presented a detailed progress report, highlighting key initiatives such as installation of sewerage lines, road rehabilitation, improved sanitation, restoration of streetlights, and beautification of parks. He emphasized that every project was being executed with transparency, quality, and public welfare in mind.

Deputy Commissioner Zulfiqar Memon appreciated the town's progress, calling Manghopir a "model for other towns" due to its effective sanitation system, anti-polio campaign, and ongoing development works.

Chairman Brohi reaffirmed his commitment to public service, directing all departments to expedite works, address public complaints promptly, and ensure visible, field-based supervision. "We believe in action, not promises — making Manghopir Town the most exemplary in District West is our ultimate goal," he said.

FPCCI Welcomes Productive SIFC Session Focused on Business Ease and FBR Overhaul

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has praised the recent meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) committee, which focused on key business facilitation measures and reforms in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) operations. The session marked a significant step toward easing taxation processes and promoting an investor-friendly environment in Pakistan.—RT

Pakistan on the Brink of Eradicating Polio: Aziz Memon

KARACHI: Speaking on the occasion of World Polio Day, which was observed yesterday (October 24), National Chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee, Aziz Memon, said Pakistan is now "this close" to finally eradicating the polio virus. He noted that the recently concluded National Immunization Drive targeted over 45 million children nationwide, showing improved results with each round. Mr. Memon also emphasized Rotary's decades-long leadership and unwavering support, adding that the final push requires continued political will, community engagement, and vigilance.--RT

Citywide Cleanup Drive Kicks Off Under Mayor Murtaza Wahab's Directive

KARACHI: On the directives of Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, a large-scale cleaning and washing operation has begun on the city's main roads and pedestrian pathways. According to a spokesperson, the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) launched the drive late at night in areas including Fereer Town and Shah Faisal Town, where streets and walkways were thoroughly cleaned and washed.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab stated that Karachi's vibrancy and charm are being restored, emphasizing that providing better facilities to citizens remains his top priority. He added that the Solid Waste Management Board will extend the cleaning and washing operations to all districts of the city to ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more attractive urban environment.

The mayor urged residents to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness, stressing that a clean Karachi reflects a responsible and united community.—RT

Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan Launches PS-9 Shikarpur By-Election

KARACHI: The by-election process for Provincial Assembly constituency PS-9 Shikarpur has officially begun. In this regard, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Ejaz Anwar Chohan, administered the oath to the appointed District Returning Officer. Regional Election Commissioner Larkana, Abdul Waheed, has been designated as the DRO for this important by-election. With the oath-taking ceremony completed, election preparations and political activities in the constituency are expected to intensify as parties begin mobilizing for the upcoming contest.—RT

Meteorologists Track Depression Forming Over Southeastern Arabian Sea

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has reported the presence of a depression in the southeastern Arabian Sea. According to the department, the weather system has moved northeastward over the past 24 hours and is currently located about 1,340 kilometers southeast of Karachi.

The depression is positioned over the Arabian Sea, approximately 340 kilometers northwest of India's Lakshadweep region.

PMD officials stated that, at present, there is no threat to any coastal areas of Pakistan. However, the department continues to closely monitor the system's movement and intensity. Fishermen and maritime authorities have been advised to stay informed about updated forecasts, although normal sea conditions are expected to prevail along Pakistan's coast in the coming days.—RT/Agency

KDA Director Reveals KCCI's Key Role in Shaping Karachi's Future

KARACHI: KDA Director Asif Jan Siddiqui has announced that the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) will play a central role in shaping the city's future under the Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047. Siddiqui revealed that KCCI is part of two key committees overseeing the master plan, developed with foreign consultants, which will guide all future development and infrastructure decisions for the city. This inclusion ensures KCCI's vital input in Karachi's long-term growth strategy.—RT

Tharo Mengal Goth School Struggles as Teacher Shortage Imperils Students' Future

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Shaukat Ali Mengal, President of the Mengal Baloch Welfare Association in Tharo Mengal Goth, UC-12, Manghopir Town, has raised serious concerns over the lack of teachers at the Government Boys Elementary School in the area. Hundreds of students are enrolled, but a single teacher is forced to handle 108 students, far exceeding the Education Department's policy of 40 students per teacher. Shaukat Ali Mengal highlighted that despite repeated complaints and invitations to local representatives, no action has been taken. He appealed to Sindh's Minister for Education, Sardar Shah, to immediately provide 9 additional teachers, stressing that education is a basic right for all children. The community remains fully supportive, but the neglect of the Education Department is putting students' futures at risk.

Sharjeel and Nasir Shah Steer Sindh's Cultural Film Revival Initiative

KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon chaired a high-level meeting of the Content and Production Oversight Board, announcing the completion of four film projects — three documentaries and one feature film. Joined by Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and top officials, the board discussed new film ventures, marketing, and cultural impact. Memon said the government aims to promote Sindh's rich heritage globally and empower young filmmakers through creative opportunities.—RT

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho Says Resistance Persists When Addressing Stray Dog Control

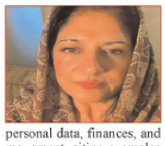
KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho has said that whenever the government takes measures to control stray dogs, animal rights activists start protesting. Speaking to the media, she remarked that the issue of stray dogs poses serious health and safety risks, especially due to increasing cases of dog bites across the province.

Dr. Pechuho stated that the government's intention is not cruelty but public protection. "When we talk about eliminating stray dogs, animal rights groups immediately raise objections, but they don't present practical solutions," she said.

The minister emphasized that rabies control requires coordinated efforts, including mass vaccination of dogs, improved waste management, and public awareness. She reiterated that the Sindh government is fully committed to safeguarding citizens' health while ensuring humane and sustainable measures to manage the stray dog population.—RT/Agency

Digital ID Systems Could Threaten Fundamental Rights, Warns Sumblina Hassan

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: Sumblina Hassan, former secretary to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, warned that global digital ID systems threaten citizens' freedom and privacy. Speaking to the press, she said these systems allow governments to control personal data, finances, and movement, citing examples from China. Hasan urged citizens, journalists, politicians, and civil society to unite and pressure authorities to protect fundamental human rights before digital IDs expand into mobile phones or implants.

Injured Police Officer Still Awaiting High-Level Visit Following Duty Incident

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Four days after police officer Rustam Chanu was injured during an encounter with criminals in Madina Colony, no senior police officials, including SSP East Dr. Farrukh Raza Malik, have visited him at Aga Khan Hospital. Speaking to journalists, his brother Amir Ali Channa expressed disappointment over the lack of support for the officer who risked his life. Families of injured personnel are reportedly in despair over the negligence.

Karachi University Halts Memon Village Bus Service, Students Facing Daily Hardship

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Students and residents of Memon Village are facing severe difficulties after Karachi University abruptly suspended the point (bus) service to the area. The service was the primary means of transport for students commuting to the university. Since its closure, students must now change three buses to reach the campus, often arriving late despite early departures. Return journeys have also become challenging, causing wasted time and increased expenses. Students demand the immediate restoration of the service and have appealed to the Provincial Education Department and public representatives to intervene. They warned that continued neglect could force protests, emphasizing that the bus service is crucial for the education of many poor students.

PPP Malir Holds Condolence Reference Honoring Begum Nusrat Bhutto's Legacy

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: On the occasion of Begum Nusrat Bhutto's anniversary, PPP Malir organized a condolence reference attended by MPA Raja Razzaq Baloch, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, Secretary Information Shahjahan Khan, senior leaders, local chairmen, and party workers. Speakers praised Begum Nusrat Bhutto for her sacrifices for democracy, enduring imprisonment after Zulfikar Bhutto's execution, and bravely opposing dictatorship. Leaders highlighted her role as a symbol of courage and democratic struggle.

Sindh Orders Comprehensive Survey of College Buildings Over Structural Concerns

KARACHI: The Sindh College Education Department has ordered a province-wide survey of all college buildings to assess infrastructure conditions and plan urgent repairs. Chairing a key meeting, Secretary Nadeem Memon expressed dissatisfaction over poor maintenance and directed mandatory soil testing for new constructions. Officials were also told to address staff shortages, compile data on student admissions, and review college fees. Construction of seven new colleges is underway, while over 1,200 teaching posts have been sent to the Sindh Public Service Commission for recruitment—RT.

Domestic Worker Arrested in Major Karachi Heist of Gold and Cash Worth Millions

KARACHI: The Saahil Police in Defence, Karachi, have arrested a domestic worker for allegedly stealing cash and gold worth millions from his employer's residence. According to SSP South, the police acted promptly on a complaint and recovered Rs227,000 in cash along with 21 tolas of gold bars from the accused, Wajid Ali, son of Mohammad Siddique, who was employed at the house.

During initial investigations, the suspect reportedly confessed to committing the thefts over a long period, stealing cash, gold, dollars, and other valuables from the house. He also admitted to transferring significant sums through ATM transactions and cheques, with the total value of stolen property running into millions of rupees.

The case has been handed over to the investigation branch for further inquiry. Authorities are now examining the suspect's bank accounts and assets to trace the full extent of the thefts.—RT/Agency

Believe you can and you're halfway there."

—Theodore Roosevelt

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 2025

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Trans-Afghan Rail & Trilateral Corridor Advancing, PM Confirms

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday underscored the importance of regional connectivity and economic cooperation, saying that enhanced collaboration in transport and trade would revolutionize economic growth across the region.

Addressing the closing session of the Regional Transport Ministers Conference 2025 in Islamabad, the PM said the event provided an important platform for dialogue on strengthening bilateral and regional ties.

"Changes are taking place in the global transport and connectivity systems, and our region remains a key axis of connectivity under the current Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)," he said.

Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to advancing major regional projects, including the Trans-Afghan Railway and the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Corridor, emphasizing that such initiatives would connect economies, boost trade, and create shared prosperity.

"Pakistan is now entering the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," he said, adding that greater regional connectivity would unlock new trade routes and drive growth across South and Central Asia.

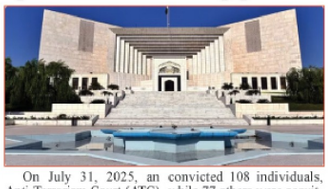
The PM highlighted that Gwadar's long coastline and Karachi Port are integral parts of the Maritime Silk Road, underscoring Pakistan's growing role in the global supply chain and regional transport integration.

Digital connectivity, youth empowerment emphasized

Prime Minister Shehbaz noted that in the digital era, connectivity extends beyond physical infrastructure. "Today's age is defined by data and technological integration. We are investing in digital infrastructure to prepare our youth for the modern economy," he said.

He added that education and training programs are being aligned with technological trends to create a workforce capable of driving future innovation and connectivity.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court Forms Bench To Hear Shibli Faraz & Omar Ayub's Disqualification Appeals



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has scheduled the hearing of appeals filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz against their disqualification.

A five-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan will hear the case on October 27. The bench also includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Shakeel Ahmed.

Both PTI leaders had challenged their disqualification following convictions in the May 9 cases. Earlier, the Peshawar High Court had dismissed their appeals as inadmissible, citing that the petitioners had not surrendered before the authorities.

On July 31, 2025, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Faisalabad sentenced Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Omar Ayub, Zartaj Gul and Shibli Faraz to 10 years in prison in connection with the May 9 riots cases.

The ATC Faisalabad verdict, announced in cases registered at the Ghulam Muhammadabad and Civil Lines police stations (Case No. 1277 and Case No. 832), convicted 108 individuals, while 77 others were acquitted.

As per details, former PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, Zain Qureshi, and Khayal Kastro were acquitted in these cases. On the other hand, PTI MPA Junaid Afzal Sahi received a three-year prison term, while Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, nephew of Sheikh Rashid, SIC head Sahibzada Hamid Raza was also handed a 10-year sentence.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Gets Upgrade: PM Shehbaz Lays Foundation Stone Of Shaheen Chowk Underpass

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has laid the foundation stone of the Shaheen Chowk underpass project in Islamabad, marking another key step towards easing traffic congestion in the federal capital.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the prime minister said that several infrastructure projects are currently underway across Islamabad to manage the increasing traffic load and improve urban mobility. He congratulated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman CDA, and their teams for their continued dedication, adding that their day-and-night efforts are transforming Islamabad into a more beautiful and efficient city.

Shehbaz Sharif also underlined the importance of timely completion of development works, noting that upcoming events, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference, require additional preparations such as enhanced hotel and residential facilities. He assured full government support to ensure the swift execution of these initiatives in the national interest.

During the ceremony, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasised that the Shaheen Chowk underpass has been designed with precision and foresight to facilitate smoother traffic movement. He added that work has also commenced on other congested areas, including Margalla Road and 9th Avenue, where traffic issues have persisted for years.

The Shaheen Chowk underpass is part of Islamabad's broader infrastructure improvement strategy aimed at reducing bottlenecks, improving connectivity, and enhancing the overall quality of urban life in the capital.—RT/Agency

KP CM Declares: "Only Imran Khan's Policy Line Will Prevail"

CHARSADDA: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi declared that the message for all of Pakistan is clear — the only policy to be followed will be that of Imran Khan.

Addressing a public gathering in Charsadda, CM Afridi said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand firmly with the party founder and will continue to do so. "Since the day the founder nominated me, some said my appointment was unacceptable — but I do not care about them. The people have accepted me. Change has not yet to come; it has already arrived," he stated.

The Chief Minister accused opponents of attempting to portray him as a terrorist through press conferences, claiming they said he lacked experience. He added that education and health reforms would move forward in line with the founder's vision.Afridi reiterated that the entire nation should know only Imran Khan's policy will guide governance, pledging to follow the PTI founder's instructions. He also complained that despite taking all constitutional and legal steps, he has not been allowed to meet the PTI founder.—RT/Agency

Punjab Minister Warns: Top TLP Leadership To Face Imminent Arrests

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the top leadership of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) has gone into hiding outside the province following the violent protests, assuring that they will be apprehended soon.

Speaking on Geo Pakistan, Azma said that according to available information, the group's senior leaders are currently outside Punjab and are adept at going underground to evade arrest.

"Law enforcement agencies are actively working on it, and you will soon receive good news," the information minister added.

"I would request that we not refer to this extremist group as a political party. They are not a party, but rather a mindset that we must collectively confront as a society."

She added, "It is neither a political nor a religious party; it has been operating like a project to collect watches and billions of rupees."

Azma said that it has been revealed that those conducting transactions in the name of religion have been earning interest on those payments. The provincial information minister said that whenever the TLP takes to the streets, it engages in "violence and attempts to disrupt law and order".

"They have a track record unlike any other group in this country, acting as a pressure group to dictate terms to the state," she said, and added, "Our leadership is convinced that now is the best time to correct past mistakes."

Azma said that during dialogue with the TLP aimed at easing tensions, there was no discussion of Gaza or Palestine.—RT/Agency

Aleema Khan Stands Firm: "Won't Go To KP—Ready To Be Jailed Instead"

LAHORE: Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, on Friday asked the police to arrest her, declaring that she is ready to go to jail.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Friday directed authorities to block Aleema Khan's national identity card (CNIC) after she repeatedly failed to appear before the court in a case related to the November 26 protest.

The judge ordered the Director General of Immigration and Passports to block her passport. The court also instructed the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmed, to immediately freeze all of her bank accounts.

However, Aleema Khan and her sister Uzma Khan appeared before an ATC in Lahore on Friday in connection with a separate case pertaining to the October 5 PTI protest. ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gul extended their interim bail until December 5, 2025.Speaking to the media outside the court, Aleema Khan said she was not afraid of arrest and would not bow down to pressure."They can't silence me. I am ready to go to jail," she said. "KP officials offered to move me to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but I refused. Let the police arrest me."—RT/Agency

Pakistan's Military Leadership Engages In Strategic Talks During CJCSC's Visit To Maldives

MALDIVES: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza is on an official visit to the Maldives, where he met President Dr Mohamed Muizzu.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the meeting covered matters of mutual interest, the global and regional security situation, and cooperation in defence and security.

General Mirza also met Minister of Defence Ghassan Maumoon and the chief of Defence Force. During these meetings, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen Pakistan–Maldives military ties and enhance defence cooperation.

The Maldivian civil and military leadership praised the professional standards of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

The spokesman said General Mirza received a guard of honour on his arrival at the Maldives National Defence Force Headquarters.—RT/Agency

Dar Holds High-Level Talks With UAE Counterpart On Regional & Global Affairs

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke on the phone with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Foreign Office, in a statement, said the two leaders discussed bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest as well as recent regional and global developments.

Both sides have agreed to stay closely engaged, it said.

A day earlier, Pakistan and Poland reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including trade, energy, defence, education, technology, and fintech.

The commitment was expressed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs Radoslaw Sikorski during a joint press stakeout here.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Poland relations and emphasized the need to further explore untapped potential in various sectors.

"We have over a billion dollars in bilateral trade, and both sides agreed that there remains immense untapped potential to further expand trade and economic cooperation……we have just signed today a memorandum of understanding which envisions regular bilateral consultations," the deputy PM said.

He said Poland's oil and gas expertise could greatly benefit Pakistan and a leading Polish energy company had already invested nearly half a billion dollars in Pakistan.—RT/Agency

TLP Banned Under Anti-Terrorism Act After Surge In Violence

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has officially banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) under the Anti-Terrorism Act, following a federal cabinet decision. The ban, supported by the Punjab government, cites TLP's involvement in terrorism, violent protests, and inciting unrest since its formation in 2016. TLP is accused of causing fatalities, promoting sectarianism, and engaging in destructive acts. The decision comes after repeated incidents of chaos and attacks on security personnel, with the organization now listed in the First Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act.—RT/Agency

China Now Leads Global Nuclear Power Expansion, Surpassing The US

BEIJING: China has overtaken the United States in the global race for nuclear energy advancement, according to a report by The New York Times. The report highlights that over the past decade, China has made remarkable progress in the nuclear power sector, emerging as the fastest-growing nuclear nation in the world.Currently, China is constructing 33 new nuclear reactors — the highest number under development by any country. In contrast, American nuclear projects have faced significant setbacks, including delays of up to seven years and cost overruns amounting to $17 billion.China's approach has been notably faster and more cost-effective, positioning it as a potential global leader in nuclear energy. By 2030, experts predict China will reach parity with the United States in nuclear capacity, as Beijing aims to become the world's leading exporter of nuclear technology and clean energy solutions.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Exposes Joint Propaganda Campaign By Afghan Taliban & Indian Networks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has uncovered a coordinated online propaganda campaign being run by the Afghan Taliban regime, with alleged support from Indian-linked social media accounts.

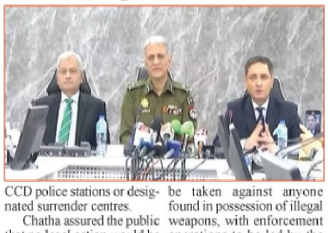
The ministry revealed that these accounts were actively spreading fabricated content aimed at misleading the public and maligning Pakistan's image.

According to official sources, several social media handles connected to Afghan and Indian networks were found circulating misleading videos and images. Among these, footage from the Chaman gathering held in December 2022 has been widely shared, falsely presented as a recent event to fuel anti-Pakistan sentiment.

The ministry stated that the campaign involved a combination of doctored images, false reports, and recycled videos – all designed to manipulate perceptions. These efforts, officials said, form part of a broader, organised disinformation strategy driven by elements within the Afghan Taliban regime.

The report further highlighted that India remains a key facilitator of Afghan propaganda operations against Pakistan. This collaboration, according to Pakistani authorities, reflects a deliberate attempt to distort facts and undermine Pakistan through digital misinformation.—RT/Agency

Punjab Begins De-Weaponisation Drive: Citizens Get 15 Days To Surrender Illegal Arms



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the Crime Control Department (CCD) to launch a province-wide campaign to deweaponise Punjab within four months.

Addressing a joint press conference alongside IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Additional IG CCD Sohail Zafar Chatha announced that the CCD has been given a clear mandate to curb the proliferation of illegal firearms across the province.

He vowed to reduce gun-related crimes in Punjab by 75% within the stipulated four-month period. As part of the campaign, citizens have been given a 15-day deadline to voluntarily surrender all illicit and illegal weapons at CCD police stations or designated surrender centres.

Chatha assured the public that no legal action would be taken against those who voluntarily hand over illegal arms during this grace period, adding that such individuals would be granted legal indemnity.However, he warned that once the deadline expires, strict action will be taken against anyone found in possession of illegal weapons, with enforcement operations to be led by the CCD.Earlier, Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari announced that shops of unlicensed arms dealers across the province have been sealed as part of a strict crackdown on illegal weapons.—RT/Agency

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