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KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 287 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Saturday, November 01, 2025, Jumada Al-Awal 10, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Pakistan Awards 23 Offshore Oil Exploration Blocks After 18-Year Hiatus

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said that it has awarded 23 offshore exploration blocks to four consortia led by local energy companies, some partnered with foreign firms, including Turkiye's national oil company TPAO.

In Pakistan's first such bidding round in nearly two decades, the Ministry of Energy said on Friday that bids were awarded for 23 of 40 offshore blocks offered, covering around 53,500 square kilometres.

The energy ministry listed state-run Oil and Gas Development Co. Ltd (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) and MariEnergies, along with privately-owned Prime Energy, which is backed by Pakistan's Hub Power Company (Hubco), among the successful bidders.

TPAO secured a 25% stake in one of the awarded blocks and the right to operate it after signing a joint bidding agreement with the PPL earlier this year to explore the country's offshore prospects.

Other partners include Hong Kong-based United Energy Group, Orient Petroleum, a major local independent producer, and Fatima Petroleum, part of Pakistan's Fatima Group conglomerate.

The four winning consortiums, led by OGDCL, PPL, Mari Petroleum and Prime Energy, collectively pledged about $80 million in exploration work over the initial three-year period, the energy ministry said.

Total investment could rise to between $750 million and $1 billion if drilling proceeds, it added.

A recent basin assessment study by DeGolyer and MacNaughton, a US petroleum consulting firm, indicated the presence of a significant yet-to-be-found potential of hydrocarbons in Pakistan's offshore basins.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Seeks No Further Escalation With Afghan Taliban: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi on Friday said that Pakistan does not seek further escalation of hostilities with the Afghan Taliban regime, but expects Kabul to take concrete and verifiable action against terrorist entities such as Fitna al-Khwaraj and Fitna al-Hindustan operating from Afghan territory.

Addressing his weekly media briefing, the spokesperson stressed Pakistan's restraint and constructive approach in the ongoing dialogue with the Taliban authorities. He said Pakistan has consistently called for practical measures to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for terrorism against Pakistan.

He reiterated that while Pakistan remains committed to regional peace and stability, it will "respond resolutely to any continued provocation."

Ambassador Andrabi briefed the media on the recent second round of Pakistan–Afghanistan talks held in Istanbul (October 25–29), facilitated by brotherly countries.

Originally planned for two days, the dialogue was extended to four in pursuit of an amicable resolution.

"Pakistan participated in good faith and with a positive spirit," he said, adding that Islamabad positively engaged with the Taliban regime without compromising on its clear position that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorism against Pakistan.

He appreciated the mediating role of Qatar and Türkiye, expressing hope for a peaceful outcome in the next round of talks scheduled for November 6.

"Pakistan does not seek further escalation of hostilities but expects the Afghan Taliban regime to honour its commitment to the international community and address Pakistan's legitimate security concerns by taking concrete and verifiable actions against terrorist entities, including Fitna al-Khwaraj and Fitna al-Hindustan", Andrabi stated.

The spokesperson noted that Pakistan has, for the past four years, urged the Taliban authorities to take decisive and effective measures against terrorist groups present on Afghan soil. However, despite repeated assurances, there has been a surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan originating from Afghanistan.

He said the Afghan Taliban's "consistent disregard" for Pakistan's legitimate security concerns, coupled with unprovoked aggression on October 11–12 and October 14–15 with the support of Fitna al-Khwaraj, resulted in violent exchanges across the international border.

"Pakistan will respond resolutely if provocations continue," he warned.

Ambassador Andrabi said Pakistan has always desired a peaceful, stable, regionally integrated, and prosperous Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbours. Following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, Pakistan expected regional peace and connectivity to improve.

Despite security concerns, Pakistan took several initiatives this year to support Afghanistan and granted multiple concessions, particularly related to transit trade, Andrabi added.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Says PPP Ready To Lead Azad Kashmir Government

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Friday that his party was in a position to form and take charge of the government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, whose incumbent prime minister faces a no-confidence motion.

In his press conference alongside PPP leaders in Islamabad, Bilawal remained tight-lipped about his party's candidate for the prime minister's slot.

"Don't worry, that announcement will be made from Kashmir, not Islamabad," quipped Bilawal, the former foreign minister, when asked about the nominee's name.

The PPP chairman emphasised that his party was committed to resolving Kashmir's issues, saying that during his tenure as foreign minister, he highlighted the Kashmir issue both domestically and internationally.

"For three generations, the PPP has fought Kashmir's cause across the world," said Bilawal, who also led Pakistan's delegation to counter the Indian narrative after the May war.

Bilawal claimed that the PPP had won the AJK elections during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's tenure in the federal government, despite facing a wide range of challenges.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Army Fully Prepared To Defend Nation Against Any Aggression: DG ISPR

ABBOTTABAD: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army is fully committed to the defense of the country and will respond firmly and decisively to any external aggression.Speaking to teachers and students in Abbottabad on recent Pakistan-Afghanistan border tensions and the overall security situation, Lt. Gen. Chaudhry said that Pakistan has taken effective measures against terrorism and the menace of Khawarij (militant extremists).During the session, he discussed several key national and defense-related topics, including the ongoing efforts to maintain internal stability. The Vice Chancellor of Hazara University praised the Pakistan Army as the true symbol of patriotism, while teachers highlighted the growing efforts of hostile elements to mislead the youth through propaganda and misinformation.Lt. Gen. Chaudhry emphasized that unity, awareness, and resilience are essential for safeguarding Pakistan's future.—RT/Agency

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Rejects Remarks On Disarming Hamas

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday rubbished and strongly condemned the contentious remarks made by government spokesperson Danyal Chaudhry regarding the role of Pakistani troops in the Gaza peace force, which also included the disarming of Hamas.

Addressing the remarks by the federal parliamentary secretary for information and broadcasting in an interview on Media show 'Naya Pakistan', the defence minister said: "I will say God forbid on all these three remarks; what kind of statement has he given. Nothing from this is our target or suits us."

In an interview on Tuesday on Media show '11th Hour', Chaudhry had said regarding the mandate of the Gaza peace force: "Pakistan and the other countries that will be chosen will make sure there is no extremism or violence … or that there is no cross-border attack. Pakistan will enforce that."

Chaudhry also said that the security of any Pakistani soldier deputed for duty in the force would be the utmost priority. "We will fulfil our duty and protect Muslim brothers and make sure there are no cross-border violations or terrorism."

Questioned if the mandate would also include the disarmament of Hamas, Chaudhry had said: "Yes absolutely, if [Hamas] will be disarmed, only then the other force will be able to carry on. Things will only move forward after disarmament."

A cornerstone of the US-brokered Gaza Peace Agreement is the establishment of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), composed mainly of troops from Muslim-majority countries.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Dismisses Indian Media Propaganda Over Passport Clause On Israel

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has categorically rejected Indian media reports claiming that the clause declaring Pakistani passports "invalid for travel to Israel" has been removed.

In an official statement, the ministry clarified that no such change has been made and that the clause remains firmly in place. "The Pakistani passport continues to state that it is valid for all countries except Israel," the statement read.

The Director General of Passports also confirmed that the note — "This passport is valid for all countries except Israel" — is still clearly printed on all Pakistani passports.

The clarification came after an Indian news channel falsely reported that Pakistan had allegedly deleted the restriction regarding travel to Israel from its passports, a claim the Foreign Office described as baseless propaganda.—RT/Agency

New 10-Member KP Cabinet Takes Oath

PESHAWAR: Ten ministers of the newly-formed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's cabinet took oath on Friday at a ceremony held at the Governor House in the provincial capital of Peshawar.

Newly elected KP Chief Minister KP Sohail Afridi — who replaced Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief executive earlier this month — had announced his cabinet after jailed PTI founder Imran Khan directed him to go ahead with cabinet formation.

Since his election as CM, Afridi has been denied permission four times to meet the PTI founder in Adiala Jail, despite the court's directives. CM Afridi had maintained that he wanted to meet the party founder to seek his guidance for the cabinet formation.

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi administered the oath to Mina Khan, Fazal Shakoor, Faisal Turkai, Aaqibullah, Arshad Ayub Khan, Aftab Alam, Dr Amjad, Khaliq-ur-Rehman, Riaz Khan, and Syed Fakhar Jehan. They all have taken an oath as ministers and their portfolios will be announced in due course.

Muzammil Aslam and Taj Muhammad Tarand have been appointed as advisers to the provincial chief executive, while Shafeeullah Jan has been made a special assistant. Their portfolios will also be announced later.

It is pertinent to mention that the new KP cabinet is considerably smaller compared to Gandapur's cabinet, which once had 33 members and was later reduced following a reshuffle.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Says Taliban Admit Presence Of TTP, Other Terror Groups In Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said that the Afghan Taliban regime has admitted the presence of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist organisations on Afghan soil during the recent round of talks between the two countries.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi, during his press briefing on Friday, said Afghan officials presented various justifications for not taking action against these groups, adding that the presence of terrorist elements across the border reinforced Pakistan's security concerns.The spokesperson said that given the sensitivity of the dialogue, "minute-by-minute commentary" was not possible, as the Foreign Office reserves the right to exercise caution in such matters.

He said all relevant institutions participated in the Istanbul talks, where detailed discussions were held on key issues.—RT/Agency

Tarar Expresses Hope Attacks From Afghan Soil Will Cease

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban has been finalized and expressed the hope that terrorist attacks against Pakistan from Afghan soil will no longer take place.Talking exclusively with Media, Attaullah Tarar said that the Afghan Taliban have agreed to cease terrorist activities, and added that the ceasefire agreement also includes actions against the Fitna al-Khawarij by the Afghan Taliban.He informed that any party that violates the ceasefire will be penalized.

He further said that the whole world is aware of the attacks on Pakistan and the support terrorist groups were receiving against the country. He expressed the hope that normalcy will return in the coming days.

The Federal Minister emphasized that the agreement validates Pakistan's position and represents a victory for its narrative.—RT/Agency

US, India Sign 10-Year Defence Pact

DELHI: The United States has signed a 10-year defence framework agreement with India, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday.

The framework is considered a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence, enhancing coordination, information sharing and technological cooperation between the two nations, Hegseth posted on X after a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh.

Hegseth and Singh were meeting for the first time since the United States imposed tariffs of 50% on Indian goods in August as punishment for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

The tariffs prompted India to pause purchases of US defence equipment, with the two sides expected to discuss on Friday a review of India's plans to buy the military hardware.

"We have held telephonic conversations thrice. I am delighted to be meeting you in person on the sidelines of ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus: ADMM-Plus). On this occasion, I feel a new chapter will begin today with the signing of the Defence Framework...I am confident that under your leadership, India-US relations will further strengthen," the ANI quoted Indian defence minister as saying.—RT/Agency

Trump's Nuclear Testing Plan Sparks Fear And Confusion In Washington

US: If US Navy Vice Admiral Richard Correll thought he was going to have an easy confirmation hearing on Thursday to become the commander of America's nuclear forces, those hopes surely vanished at 9:04pm the night before he was to testify.

That was when President Donald Trump shocked the world by announcing on social media that he had asked the US military to "start testing our Nuclear Weapons", saying the United States could not fall behind Russia and China."Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years," Trump said.During a roughly 90-minute hearing on Thursday morning at the Senate Armed Services Committee, Correll faced repeated questions about Trump's comments from puzzled US lawmakers, embodying the confusion that the Republican president unleashed in Washington and beyond.The top Democrat on the committee, Senator Jack Reed, asked Correll whether a resumption of US nuclear explosive testing would be destabilising, triggering a global nuclear arms race.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Students' Welfare Council Takes Oath at Girls Degree College Kotri

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The Government Girls Degree College Kotri organized an oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected Students' Welfare and Discipline Council (SWDC). The Head Girl, Class Representatives (CRs), Patrols, and Stall In-Charges took the oath for the current academic session. Principal Professor Raheela Anwar Baloch graced the ceremony as chief guest, receiving a traditional Ajrak and bouquet from council members. Badges were distributed to all council members, and the Principal advised students to perform their duties with discipline, dedication, and sincerity. The event was attended by faculty members and staff, and was compered by Lecturer Nazish Nazir. The ceremony concluded with a cake-cutting, marking the formal start of council responsibilities.

Creative Minds School Hosts Seminar on Road Safety

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Creative Minds School Sakrand organized a one-day seminar on "Road Safety and Traffic Rules" for 8th-grade students under the supervision of Kashif Zain. During the seminar, students delivered presentations raising awareness about traffic rules and educating the public. Students Afia Chandio, Saeqa Gul Lakho, Fiza Keerio, Rubab Gujar, and Hareen Basheer highlighted traffic regulations in detail. Special guest Kandar Asad Rajput provided guidance on First Aid, emphasizing its importance during accidents. At the conclusion, Principal Tauseef Rehmani congratulated students for their efforts, encouraging them to continue participating in activities that enhance awareness and personality development.

Pir Yasir Rashdi Urges Sindh Govt to Provide Relief to Farmers

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: PML-F's Central Vice President Pir Yasir Shah Rashdi said that November and December are crucial months for the country as the nation faces a tense situation. Speaking to the media at Babli House after offering condolences to SAFWCO Chief Suleman G. Abro's wife and Sajjad Abro's mother, he stated that the Sindh government must provide relief to farmers who are suffering from low crop prices and losses due to climate change and rains. On the occasion, Director Safco Basheer Gul Abro, Pir Syed Zain Baba, Makhdoom Hasnain, Naimatullah Kandhro, Coordinator Faqir Ali Jan Dahri, Irfan Chang, and others were present.

Pakistani Scientist Dr. Manzoor Soomro Honored in Beijing

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Renowned Pakistani scientist Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered a keynote address at the 2025 World Science and Technology Development Forum (WSTDF) in Beijing, China. Speaking on "AI-Driven Industrial Transformation in the Developing World," he urged developing nations to use artificial intelligence and digital innovation to meet UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. His ideas were widely appreciated by international experts at the event. Dr. Soomro, former Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation and Founder President of the ECO Science Foundation, continues to inspire globally though he has yet to receive a national civil award from Pakistan.

DC Larkana Inspects Dengue Ward at Teaching Hospital

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, accompanied by Niaz Hussain Dahar, Medical Superintendent of Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), visited the Dengue Ward at the Teaching Hospital Larkana. During the visit, Dr. Channa reviewed medical facilities, medicine availability, and patient care arrangements. He instructed hospital authorities to ensure strict monitoring of dengue cases, maintain cleanliness, and conduct effective fumigation in nearby areas to curb the spread of dengue. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the dedication of medical staff and emphasized the need for public awareness and preventive measures to combat dengue in the district.

Crackdown on Afghan Refugees in Keti Bandar: Seven Held

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: Acting on special directives from the Sindh Inspector General of Police, a joint operation was carried out by Keti Bandar and Garho police under the supervision of DSP Garho, Abdul Rauf Nohrio. The raid, led by SHO Keti Bandar Sain Dino Buriro and SHO Garho Najam-ud-Din Bilo, resulted in the arrest of seven Afghan refugees from Keti Bandar town.

According to police, the detainees Saleh Rehman, Israr, Suleman, Abrar, Abu Bakar, Zubair, and Adeel failed to present valid identification or residence documents. Authorities confirmed the suspects will be transferred to Karachi for further investigation and deportation after legal procedures.

18-Year-Old Girl Shot Dead in Marriage Dispute

By Muhammed Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: An 18-year-old girl, Rabia Rind, was shot dead in Village Dur Muhammad Rind, under the Saddar Police Station jurisdiction, due to a family dispute over her marriage. According to police, her uncle and cousins opened fire after disagreements over a proposed match arranged by the family. The incident sparked fear in the area. Police took the body to the Civil Hospital for postmortem. Investigations are ongoing, but no arrests have been made, and a case has yet to be registered.

5-Year-Old Boy Drowns in Sita Road

By Zain-ul-Abideen Samo

SITA ROAD: In village Nizamabad near Sita Road, a five-year-old boy, Sarfraz, son of Mehmood Rind, tragically drowned after falling into a bucket of water while playing at home. The family had planned his circumcision ceremony the same day, which turned into mourning after the incident. The child's mother fainted repeatedly as grief and sorrow spread throughout the village.

Mayor Hyderabad Inaugurates Drug Rehabilitation and Prevention Program

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A Drug Rehabilitation and Prevention Program was inaugurated under the supervision of the Social Welfare Department, Taluka Latifabad, in collaboration with the CJ Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. The ceremony's chief guest was Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Ali Shoro, with Faisal Abdul Jabbar Khan also in attendance. Speakers highlighted the importance of a collective fight against drug abuse and engaging youth in productive and healthy activities. The event was organized by Shiza Fatima, Assistant Director of the Social Welfare Department, Taluka Latifabad.

DC Badin Chairs Meeting to Combat Dengue Virus

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A high-level meeting on dengue prevention was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office under the leadership of DC Badin Yasir Bhatti, following directions from the Chief Secretary Sindh. Officials, including Addl. DC Kashif Raza Mangi, District Health Officer Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Abbasi, malaria focal person, CMOs, and town officers participated. DC Bhatti announced a 24/7 dengue control room (0297920022) for immediate case reporting. He instructed regular fumigation in urban and rural areas, establishment of dengue wards, and close coordination between departments. Public awareness campaigns were emphasized, urging citizens to wear full-sleeve clothing, eliminate stagnant water, and use mosquito repellents to prevent dengue spread.

Farmers Protest Low Paddy Prices in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Leaders of JSQM, including Waseem Qureshi and Liaquat Sarki, led a protest and sit-in at Rahbar Chowk against low paddy prices. Farmers said they purchased seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides at high costs but are now exploited by middlemen due to poor government arrangements. They demanded government procurement centers and that paddy prices be fixed at Rs. 3,500-4,000 per maund to protect farmers' livelihoods.

UC Lakhi-Mirwah Chairman Defends Development Record

TALHAR: Union Council Lakh8 at Mirwah Chairman Haji Gul Hassan Laghari, along with Vice Chairman Hussain Mallah and councilors, held a joint press conference highlighting past and ongoing development works in the area. He stated that UC accounts currently hold Rs 10 crore, which will soon be utilized for new schemes under fresh NITs in various villages. Laghari criticized baseless protests, saying some individuals are attempting to blackmail authorities, but the public is aware of the development efforts and those genuinely serving the community.—RT

10th Anniversary of Daraza Sharif Tragedy Observed in Sanghar

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The 10th death anniversary of 11 martyrs of the Daraza Sharif tragedy, including former advisor Faqir Noor Hassan Khaskheli, who were martyred during local government elections in Khairpur district, was observed simply at Wariamani House in Sinjhuro. Former MPA Waryam Faqir Khaskheli, addressing the gathering, expressed pride in the martyrs, stating that every member of their family is ready to sacrifice themselves for Pir Sahib Pagara's cause. She emphasized that the family continues to follow Pir Sahib Pagara's teachings and expects justice soon. The ceremony was attended by leaders from political, social, religious, business, literary, and journalistic organizations, as well as members of civil society and the public. Quran recitations were held, charity meals were distributed, and the lives and sacrifices of Faqir Noor Hassan and other martyrs were highlighted.

Home Minister Lanjar Pledges Development, Supports Lawyers in Moro

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: Provincial Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar addressed a large gathering of lawyers at Al-Amin Hotel, promising continued support for the legal fraternity and development of Moro city. He emphasized that his panel would win the Sindh Bar Council elections with a strong majority, highlighting past efforts for lawyers' welfare and bar improvements. Speaking on the recent attack on MNA Zulfiqar Ali Behan, he said a special committee led by SSP Nawabshah and intelligence agencies is investigating the incident to apprehend the culprits. Minister Lanjar also outlined initiatives for hospital improvements, staff recruitment, and full activation of the Cultural Center and library. Lawyers warmly welcomed him and pledged electoral support.

Officials Told to Enforce Child Protection Act in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Noor Mustafa Laghari, a meeting was held today at the ADC-I office, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Chand Meghwar, focusing on implementing the Child Protection Act and preventing human trafficking. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Child Protection Authority, Social Welfare, Education, Labor, Police, Women Development departments, and various NGOs. ADC-I instructed officials to identify cases of child labor, particularly in brick kilns, raise public awareness about child protection, conduct school sessions, and take immediate legal action against violators of the Act.

Sehwan Student Protests Delay in Motorcycle, Mobile Recovery

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: A poor 8th-grade student, Ahsan Ali, from Karbala Mohalla, Sehwan, protested at the National Press Club after his motorcycle and mobile phone were stolen two weeks ago by armed thieves while returning from a computer center. Despite repeated complaints, police have taken no action. The student and supporters demanded immediate recovery of stolen items and arrest of the culprits. The incident has raised public concern over growing criminal activities in Sehwan.

Asad Ali Bhurgari Wins Best Performance Award in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Young journalist and Rahmdani Cricket Academy captain, Asad Ali Bhurgari, received the "Hassan Performance Award 2025/26" for his exceptional contributions in journalism and sports. The award was presented by District Information Officer Muhammad Aslam Bhatti and Press Club Umerkot Chairman Rasool Bux Rahmdani in the presence of Senior Special Secretary Sindh Assembly, Mian Muhammad Hassan Shah. Leaders praised Bhargari's dedication to social service, journalism, and sports. Community members, including Mohabbat Soomro, Ramesh Kumar Kalal, and Minhal Bhatti, attended the ceremony.

Rickshaw-Truck Collision Kills One, Injures Several

By Imtiaz Ali Laskani

NAUABAD: Near Berani Road, a rickshaw overturned after a tire burst, and a speeding truck collided with it, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Bhart Kumar, resident of Village Haji Ghulam Qadir Junejo, Tando Adam. Several others were injured, including 28-year-old Ramesh Kumar, 10-year-old Manisha, 6-year-old Rani, 16-year-old Leela, and 13-year-old Leelan. The injured were initially taken to Taluka Hospital and later referred to LUMHS Hyderabad due to serious injuries. The deceased's body was handed to relatives after formalities. Authorities continue investigation into the incident.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Punjab's First Mobile Police Station Rolled Out in Sheikhupura

LAHORE: Sheikhupura has become the first city in Punjab to host a mobile police station, inaugurated to bring policing and administrative services directly to citizens' doorsteps.

The initiative aims to simplify access to essential police services without the need for residents to visit physical stations.

According to the District Police Officer (DPO) of Sheikhupura, the mobile police station provides a complete range of facilities – from the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) and issuance of character certificates to driving licence renewals and lost item reports.

The DPO added that the service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ensuring continuous support for the public. Citizens can conveniently register complaints, renew licences, and obtain police-related documents through the mobile unit, significantly reducing processing time and travel.—RT/Agency

Faisalabad Tops Pakistan's Pollution Chart as Smog Chokes Punjab

LAHORE: The air pollution and smog situation in Punjab continues to deteriorate, with Faisalabad ranking as the most polluted city in the province today.

According to data from the global air quality monitoring organization IQAir, Faisalabad currently tops the list for air pollution, followed by Gujranwala and Multan. Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 471 this morning.

IQAir reported AQI levels of 554 in Faisalabad, 546 in Gujranwala, 478 in Multan, 471 in Lahore, and 389 in Bahawalpur. —RT/Agency

ATC Issues Non-Bailable Arrest Warrants for PTI Leader Zain Qureshi in Sangjani Rally Case

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Islamabad on Friday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PTI leader Zain Qureshi in the Sangjani rally case.

The case was heard by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, who also initiated proceedings to declare PTI leaders Omar Ayub and Zartaj Gul as proclaimed offenders. During the hearing, the court approved the exemption application of PTI leader Ali Bukhari from personal appearance.—RT/Agency

Talal Chaudhry Declares: 'Pakistan's Principled Stance Has Prevailed'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry has said that Pakistan's principled stance has triumphed, expressing hope that matters with Afghanistan will now progress in a positive direction.

Reacting to the joint statement issued after Pakistan-Afghanistan talks, Chaudhry said that peace in Afghanistan is directly linked to peace in Pakistan. He emphasized that Pakistan desires that no country's soil be used against it under any circumstances.

The Minister of State cautioned that if Afghanistan becomes a proxy for India, it could risk losing its sovereignty. "Afghanistan must realize that India cannot guarantee its security or independence," he said, urging Kabul to act in its own national interest and maintain friendly relations with neighboring Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Lahore High Court Permits Sheikh Rashid to Travel Abroad

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench has approved former federal minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's request to travel abroad. Sheikh Rashid appeared in court along with his counsel, Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan.

Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan granted permission for the former minister to leave the country. During the hearing, Sheikh Rashid's lawyer argued that his client's name had been placed on the PNIL and Passport Control List.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) representative informed the court that Sheikh Rashid's name was included in the passport control list on the orders of an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC).

Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan, while approving the petition, remarked humorously that Sheikh Rashid should be allowed to go for Umrah, saying, "Let him pray there — maybe the country's situation will improve."—RT/Agency

Freedom Network Reports 60% Surge in Attacks on Journalists Across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Freedom Network has released its annual Impunity Report 2025, revealing a 60 percent increase in attacks and crimes against journalists across Pakistan.

According to the report, between November 2024 and September 2025, a total of 142 incidents of violence against journalists were recorded, with most cases reported from Punjab and Islamabad.

The report stated that during the federal government's first year in office, 36 cases were officially registered — 22 under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) and 14 under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Freedom Network warned that the rising number of attacks poses a serious threat to freedom of expression and press independence in the country. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Railways to Outsource Trains via Open Auction to Ensure Transparency

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has decided to outsource several passenger trains under a new procedure aimed at ensuring greater transparency in the process.

According to media reports, instead of accepting closed bids, the department will conduct open auctions for the outsourcing of trains. Advertisements have already been issued for the open auction of 11 passenger trains. The trains included in the auction list are among the popular services such as Fareed Express, Mianwali Express, and Faiz Ahmed Faiz Passenger Train. Pakistan Railways officials confirmed that the open auction will take place on November 20, adding that this transparent model is intended to attract more competition, improve service standards, and generate additional revenue for the department.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Assistive Devices Handed Over to Differently-Abled Persons in Korangi

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The Pakistan Down Syndrome Association (PDSA) Karachi, in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Sindh, distributed wheelchairs, tricycles, and tri-motorbikes to persons with disabilities in Korangi District. Taha Ahmed Farooqui, Secretary DEPD, said Sindh increased funding from Rs 40 crore to 80 crore this year to support persons with disabilities. Deputy Commissioner Masood Ahmed Bhutto and Korangi Town Chairman Naeem Ahmed Shaikh praised the initiative and announced plans for a wheelchair-friendly office and a dedicated park with a rehabilitation center for children with intellectual disabilities. PDSA CEO Abid Lashari thanked the government and reaffirmed continued support for rehabilitation services.

Karachi Lawyers Forum Hosts Power-Packed Reception for Bar Council Candidates

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

Karachi Lawyers Forum and Friends of Khalid Mumtaz Advocate organized a grand dinner at Marriage Garden, Sakhi Hassan, honoring Sindh Bar Council candidates. Distinguished lawyers from across Karachi attended the event. Senior lawyer Khalid Mumtaz, thrice elected General Secretary of Karachi Bar Association, announced his group's support for several candidates. Syed Tariq Ali Shah of Jilani Lawyers Forum also pledged full backing. The ceremony was attended by human rights lawyer Zia Awan, President Tariq Shad from the USA, General Secretary Mirza Sarfraz Baig, and other prominent advocates, highlighting strong professional solidarity.

Pedestrian Killed in Hit-and-Run on Super Highway Near Chakwal Pump

KARACHI: A 40-year-old man was killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle near Chakwal Pump on the Super Highway, within the limits of Gadap City Police Station.

According to media reports, rescue officials said the victim's identity has not yet been established, adding that he appeared to be a pedestrian. The incident was reported to the Edhi emergency helpline by local residents.

Rescue personnel further stated that it seemed the man may have been struck by multiple vehicles during the night. Police have shifted the body to a morgue after completing legal formalities.—RT/Agency

Motorcyclist Crushed to Death by Water Tanker in Clifton Block 2

KARACHI: A motorcyclist was killed after being hit by a water tanker in Clifton Block 2 area of Karachi.

According to Express News, rescue officials said the collision occurred when the water tanker struck the motorcycle, resulting in the rider's instant death.

The deceased was identified as 30-year-old Hafiz-ur-Rehman. His body was shifted to Jinnah Hospital for medico-legal formalities.—RT/Agency

Tremors Jolt Karachi as Mild Earthquake Shakes the City

KARACHI: Mild tremors were felt in parts of Karachi on Friday afternoon, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

The earthquake was recorded at 3:39pm (PST), with a magnitude of 2.2 on the Richter scale and a depth of 10 kilometres, the PMD said in its report.

The department added that the epicentre was located 24 kilometres north of Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area, at coordinates latitude 24.90°N and longitude 67.62°E.

No damage or casualties were reported from any part of the city following the minor tremors.—RT/Agency

Sindh Human Rights Dept Turns 'Pinktober' Into Human Rights Cause

KARACHI: The Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh, observed Pinktober in collaboration with CBNC Club and Saving Lives Welfare to raise breast cancer awareness as both a health and human rights issue. Chief Guest Rajvir Singh Sodha and Secretary Khalid A.K. Chachar emphasized women's right to health, early screening, and dignified care. Experts revealed one in nine Pakistani women faces breast cancer risk. Survivors' stories, panel talks, and awareness sessions urged collective action for prevention and equality.—RT

TDAP Eyes $70 Billion Global Hospitality Boom — Basmati and Spices to Lead Pakistan's HORECA Push

KARACHI: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has launched a dedicated HORECA Section within its Agro & Food Division, led by Ms. Kashmala Umar, to integrate Pakistan's basmati rice and spices into global hotel, restaurant, and catering markets—starting with Saudi Arabia's $70 billion sector by 2030. The initiative aims to secure $1 billion in exports through direct partnerships with global hospitality chains. The Section will debut at the 3rd FoodAg Exhibition (Nov 25–27) with live chef showcases.—RT

China's Economic Model Inspires Pakistan — EDF Hosts Landmark Forum on Economic Diplomacy

KARACHI: The Economic Diplomacy Forum (EDF), in collaboration with the Chinese Consulate in Karachi, held its first seminar titled "Economic Diplomacy in a Changing World Order: Insights from China's Success." Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong highlighted China's GDP growth from $7.6 trillion to $19 trillion (2012–2024) and its role in lifting 100 million people out of poverty. Dr. Muhammad Farooq Afzal emphasized economic diplomacy as key to Pakistan's prosperity. Experts including Dr. Huma Baqai and Zubair Motiwala also shared insights.—RT

Central Punjab

DC Toba Tek Singh Inspects Schools and Health Facilities

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela conducted inspections of rural schools and health centers to enhance public services. He visited Basic Health Center 269 GB, Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic 264 GB, and Government High Schools 269 GB and 264 GB, reviewing cleanliness, staff attendance, medicine availability, and teaching quality. DC Mela emphasized courteous patient care and improved education standards, stating that education and health are Punjab Government's top priorities.

Bar Association Seeks Change of Presiding Officer Ahead of Polls

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Tensions have risen between the Tehsil Bar Association Pirmahal and local judges. The association has demanded the replacement of Additional Sessions Judge Jamshed Mubarak Bhatti, the Presiding Officer for the Punjab Bar Council elections, scheduled for November 1, warning of a possible boycott if their demand is not met. The Bar had already boycotted courts in protest against alleged misconduct by Civil Judge Mudassar Maqsood. Officials have expressed concerns that an unpleasant incident could occur during the elections if the current Presiding Officer remains in charge.

Children Fall Sick After Eating Substandard Papar in Alipur Chatha

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In Alipur Chatha, Wazirabad, two children fell seriously ill after consuming substandard papar, resulting in the death of one child, Kazim, before reaching the hospital. The other child is now stable. DG Food Authority Asim Javed took immediate notice, and Deputy Director Operations Umair Arshad met the family and doctors. Food safety teams have sealed the outlet and collected samples. Authorities vowed strict legal action against those responsible after investigation.

FIA Nabs 9 Suspects Over Illegal Sea Route to Iran

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Composite Circle Gwadar has arrested nine suspects involved in illegally traveling to Iran by sea. Six of the suspects are from Mandi Bahauddin, two from Gujranwala, and one from Sheikhupura. They were apprehended from Jiwani. Initial investigations reveal that the accused planned to travel from Iran to other countries illegally. A case has been registered, and investigations are ongoing with all resources deployed to apprehend any remaining suspects.

Gujranwala Students Learn Voting Rights in Mock Election Exercise

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Election Commission of Pakistan organized a mock voting exercise at Government Graduate College for Women, Wazirabad, under its voter education campaign. Assistant Election Commissioner Aftab Ahmed emphasized that voting is not only a political right but also a tool for social justice. Students were trained on the roles of presiding and polling officers. Program Officer Khuram Shahzad Ahmad said, "Vote is your power to decide your future." College Principal Ayesha Ishrat appreciated the initiative.

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EDITORIAL

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Saturday, November 01, 2025

A Predator in Velvet: King Charles Ends Arrogant Prince Andrew's Fall from Grace

In a move as historic as it is righteous, King Charles has finally brought the hammer down on his disgraced brother, Prince Andrew — stripping him of all royal titles, evicting him from Windsor, and excommunicating him from the House of Windsor. It is not merely a royal rebuke; it is a moral reckoning long overdue.

Prince Andrew's downfall — tainted by sordid ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and allegations of sexual abuse — stands as one of the most humiliating collapses in royal history. What makes his case particularly vile is not only the accusations themselves but his shocking absence of remorse, his smug entitlement, and his delusional belief that privilege could buy him immunity. For years, he hid behind palace walls, thinking himself untouchable. No longer.

King Charles' decision, taken even as he battles cancer, shows moral courage and a clear message that the British monarchy must no longer shield predators in velvet. The King's words — that his sympathies "remain with victims and survivors of abuse" — restore a measure of dignity to the institution and resonate far beyond Britain's borders.Andrew's public exile mirrors the spectacular implosion of America's once-powerful figures like P. Diddy — men who mistook excess and influence for invincibility. Their stories, though oceans apart, share the same moral: when power becomes a weapon for exploitation, downfall is inevitable.This decisive act by King Charles signals a new era of accountability — one where bloodlines no longer guarantee protection from the consequences of disgraceful deeds. Andrew's banishment should echo across all corridors of privilege: no crown, no title, and no amount of arrogance can shield the corrupt forever.

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THE HEARTLAND

Hyderabad Police Arrest 8 Suspects in Raids

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police carried out targeted operations across the city, resulting in the arrest of eight suspects and registration of multiple cases. At Qasimabad, Jibran Shah Pathan was arrested with 1.2 kg hashish, Shahbaz Ali Shoro with a 30-bore pistol, and Rashid Solangi with six liquor bottles. Makki Shah police arrested Waleed Khokhar with 1,005 g hashish. Sakhi Pir police arrested Jan Muhammad with 315 packets of mainpuri and three others linked to illegal gambling. Further investigation is underway as Hyderabad Police continue operations against criminal elements.

2,274 Widows to Receive Aid from Benevolent Fund in Benazirabad

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: A meeting of the District Benevolent Fund Committee Shaheed Benazirabad was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Syed Abrar Ali Shah at his office. The ADC said financial assistance is being provided to widows of government employees in various departments. For the year 2024, Rs 27.3 million has been allocated, with 2,274 widows approved to receive Rs 24,000 each. The meeting was attended by District Accounts Officer Habibur Rehman Arain, DHO Dr. Mudassar Hussain, DEO Humaira Mir, Information Officer Aijaz Ali Teewno, and other committee members.

TEO Krishna Das Sharma Conducts Surprise School Visits

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Tehsil Education Officer (Primary) Krishna Das Sharma carried out surprise inspections of various schools in Khangarh Male to review teaching practices and overall school performance. During the visits, TEO interacted with students, conducted Q&A sessions, and assessed their understanding of the curriculum. He also inspected cleanliness and hygiene standards in the schools. Addressing the teachers, Krishna Das Sharma, an MBA graduate, emphasized dedication, merit-based appointments, and innovative teaching methods. He warned that strict administrative action would be taken against teachers who fail to attend schools on time or remain absent without permission.

JSQM Demands Release of Missing Student Leaders

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: Supporters of JSQM held a rally and protest at Phulji Press Club demanding the release of missing student leader Ghani Aman Chandio, Sarmad Mirani, and other abducted activists. Leaders from political and social organizations condemned the enforced disappearances, calling them violations of law and human rights. Protesters warned that demonstrations would continue until the missing leaders are freed.

Larkana Press Club Celebrates Journalist Ashiq Pathan's Birthday

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Larkana Press Club organized a grand ceremony to celebrate the birthday of senior journalist Muhammad Ashiq Pathan. Press Club officials and senior journalists praised his remarkable career, highlighting his interviews with prominent leaders, including former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and his efforts to give a voice to the underprivileged. Pathan, also a successful businessman, received shields, flowers, Sindhi cap, Ajrak, and warm felicitations from colleagues. His sons, Shehzad and Zain, continue his journalistic legacy.

Free Medical Camp Treats 300 Patients in Bangal Khan Chandio Village

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: A one-day free medical camp was organized in Bangal Khan Chandio village, providing healthcare services to over 300 patients. The camp was conducted under the supervision of site administrator Syed Baqir Ali Shah, with support from the Azadar Imam Community Outreach Society (US). Patients suffering from skin-related diseases received free check-ups and medicines. Renowned district doctor Syed Hashim Ali Shah of Khairpur Mir's personally treated patients at the camp. Villagers appreciated the services of the Azadar Imam Community US team and offered prayers for their continued efforts.

Floods, Mosquitoes Threaten Livestock in Phulji Station

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: After recent rains and floods, livestock in Phulji Station are succumbing to various diseases caused by toxic mosquitoes, leaving pastures deserted. Farmers, including Ghulam Qadir Panhwar, Abdullah Khan Shahani, Sikandar Panhwar, and others, said the livestock department remains inactive, forcing them to spend heavily on private veterinary treatment. Farmers urged livestock authorities and DC Dadu to immediately form teams, provide vaccinations, and prevent further deaths, as valuable cattle and milk-producing animals are dying rapidly due to negligence.

Farewell, Welcome Ceremony Held for Dadu Assistant Commissioners

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A formal ceremony was organized at Dadu Gymkhana under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah to bid farewell to outgoing Assistant Commissioner Khairpur Nathan Shah, Mohsin Raza Dasti, and welcome newly appointed Assistant Commissioner Syeda Isha Tuz Zahra. SSP Dadu Captain (Retd) Ameer Saud Magsi, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, local officials, and doctors attended. The Deputy Commissioner praised Mohsin Raza Dasti's dedicated service and advised the new AC to serve the public with commitment. Both officers were presented with traditional Sindhi gifts, including Ajrak and Sindhi caps.

DC Sara Javed Reviews National Action Plan Progress

By Khuda Dino Kachhai

SANGHAR: Deputy Commissioner Sarah Javed chaired a meeting of the District Coordination Committee to review the implementation of the National Action Plan. She directed departments to take strict action against illegal petrol pumps, drug dealers, electricity theft, and unregistered madrassas. Police and Social Welfare were instructed to establish an anti-begging unit and work with the Child Protection Authority against child labor. The committee will meet monthly to review operations and submit reports to federal and provincial Apex Committees. Officers were advised to stay connected with the administration and respond promptly to false propaganda. The meeting included senior officials from customs, labor, agriculture, and social welfare.

Protest in Daulatpur Safan Over Missing Activists

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: The Shaheed Bashir Khan Qureshi Unit of JSQM held a protest rally demanding the recovery of missing student leader Ghani Aman Chandio, Sarmad Mirani, and other activists allegedly abducted from Karachi. Marching from Shahi Bazaar to the Press Club, protesters condemned the enforced disappearances and called them a violation of human rights. Leaders urged authorities to immediately release the activists, warning that protests would intensify if their demands were ignored.

New SSP Tharparkar Shoaib Memon Meets Journalists

By Ghazi Nohrio

MITHI: Newly appointed SSP Tharparkar, Shoaib Memon, held an introductory meeting with journalists from electronic and print media. Addressing the gathering, he said he feels proud to be posted in Thar, his native region. He directed all DSPs and SHOs to control crime and narcotics within a month, warning that officers showing poor performance will face action. SHOs must dedicate three hours daily to hear public complaints. Shaikh Memon emphasized his commitment to serve the people of Thar so that the community remembers him positively even after his tenure.

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SPORTS

Tottenham's Alfie Whiteman Shocks Fans, Retires at Just 26

LONDON: Former Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Alfie Whiteman has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 26, just weeks after being part of the club's Europa League-winning squad under manager Ange Postecoglou.

Whiteman, who joined Spurs' academy at the age of 10, decided to step away from football during the summer after being released by the club.

The North London-born player made only a handful of senior appearances during his more than 16-year association with Tottenham and spent two loan spells with Degerfors IF in Sweden.

Speaking to an international media outlet, the former shot-stopper revealed that despite fulfilling his childhood dream, he realised early on that football did not bring him true happiness.

"I signed for Spurs at 10 and went full-time at 16, but even at 17 or 18 I thought, 'Is this it?' I realised I wasn't happy here," Whiteman said.

The 26-year-old also reflected on the "golf wash-bag culture" that he believes dominates football, admitting he once embraced the materialistic lifestyle before realising it lacked genuine meaning.—Agency

Nikki Bella's WWE Comeback Fueled by Sister Brie and Husband Bryan

WWE legend Nikki Bella has credited her sister Brie Bella and brother-in-law Bryan Danielson for mentoring her through her latest comeback journey in professional wrestling.

Following her recent in-ring return on WWE Raw against Roxanne Perez, Nikki shared that their guidance and feedback have played a vital role in her evolution as a performer in today's wrestling landscape.

Speaking after her appearance, the 41-year-old said she is determined to keep pushing herself beyond her comfort zone, focusing on both personal and professional growth.

She emphasised that her return is driven by ambition and passion, not nostalgia.

"Every time I step back into the ring, I learn something new about myself," Bella said, reflecting on her progress.

She revealed that she has been reviewing her performances closely and seeking constructive feedback from her inner circle to refine her craft.

Bella expressed pride in her performance on the October 27 episode of Raw, where she received a roaring crowd response and trended on social media after the match.—Agency

Abbas Joins Elite Bowling Club with 50+ Five-Wicket Hauls

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Test seamer Mohammad Abbas continued his remarkable domestic form by taking another five-wicket haul during the 2025-26 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy clash between Lahore Region Whites and Multan Region at the Murghzar Cricket Ground.

Bowling first, Abbas gave Lahore Region Whites a perfect start, dismantling Multan's top order early by removing captain Zain Abbas (0) and opener Waqar Hussain (1), reducing them to 3-2.

Multan never fully recovered from the early blows and were eventually bowled out for 164 in 43.4 overs.

Abbas finished with exceptional figures of 5-32 from 15.4 overs, claiming his final wicket by dismissing No.11 Kashif Ali (1).

Aamir Jamal provided strong support with 3-58, while Arafat Minhas offered brief resistance for Multan with a 51-ball 45 from the lower order.

This was Abbas' second consecutive five-wicket haul, following his 6-78 against Karachi Blues just three days earlier — which marked his 50th career five-for in First-Class cricket. After just one day of play in the fifth round, the 35-year-old seamer has emerged as the joint-second-highest wicket-taker of the season with 18 wickets at an impressive average of 20.94 and an economy rate of 2.79.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Abdul
About Me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!
Location: Karachi

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

Saim Ayub Storms as Pakistan Crush South Africa by 9 Wickets!

LAHORE – Pakistan delivered a commanding performance as they thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in the must-win second T20I at Gaddafi Stadium on Friday, keeping the series alive.

Chasing a modest 111, Pakistan reached the target with ease, losing just one wicket and 41 balls to spare. Openers Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan set the tone with a blistering 54-run opening stand before Farhan fell lbw to Corbin Bosch for 28 off 23 balls, which included three towering sixes.

Ayub, in scintillating form, then anchored the chase alongside star batter Babar Azam. The pair added an untroubled 64 runs, dominated by Ayub's explosive 71 not out off just 38 deliveries, featuring six fours and five sixes. Babar remained unbeaten on 11, ensuring Pakistan crossed the line without further hiccups.

Earlier, captain Salman Ali Agha's decision to field first paid immediate dividends. Pakistan's bowlers dismantled South Africa, restricting them to 110 in 19.2 overs. Young pacer Salman Mirza struck instantly, removing Reeza Hendricks for a duck on the second ball of the innings.

Chaos continued for the Proteas as Naseem Shah and Salman quickly chipped in, reducing the visitors to 15/3. Dewald Brevis attempted a counterattack with 25 off 16 balls, including three sixes, but Pakistan's all-rounder Faheem Ashraf quickly ended his cameo, dismissing key batters including captain Donovan Ferreira and George Linde.

Faheem's fiery spell of 4/23 in just 3.2 overs dominated the innings, while Salman Mirza (3/14), Naseem Shah (2/21), and Abrar Ahmed (1/6) ensured South Africa never recovered. Lower-order contributions from Ottneil Baartman and Nandre Burger added a mere 19 runs, leaving the visitors well short.

With this clinical performance, Pakistan not only leveled the series but also showcased a deadly combination of fearless batting and ruthless bowling. Saim Ayub's sensational innings, combined with a disciplined bowling display . —Agency

ECB Confirms Player Auction, Big Salary Boost for The Hundred 2026

LONDON: The Hundred will replace its current draft system with a player auction for the 2026 season, adopting a model similar to the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that the overall salary budgets for both men's and women's competitions will also see substantial increases — 45% and 100% respectively — following the ECB's recent equity sale, which generated over £550 million.

The inaugural auction is scheduled for March 2026 and forms part of a broader "reset" strategy approved by The Hundred Board on Thursday. This will coincide with the first season in which all eight teams are either partially or fully owned by private investors.

To attract top international talent, the men's team salary cap will rise from £1.2 million to £2.05 million per season, while the women's teams will see their budgets increase from £440,000 to £880,000.

The base salary for the lowest-paid women's players will also grow by 50%, from £10,000 to £15,000.

According to the ECB, both salary caps and minimum spend thresholds (salary collars) will be enforced. Teams will also be able to offer multi-year contracts for the first time.

Additionally, the number of overseas players allowed per squad will increase from three to four — subject to Home Office approval — with each team permitted to sign between 16 and 18 players.

While there will be no "right-to-match" rule, direct signings will be allowed. Each franchise may sign up to two overseas players and two centrally contracted England players between mid-November and mid-January. The Board also confirmed that the popular wildcard system will remain, enabling teams to pick two players from the T20 Blast via a draft in June 2026.

To balance spending, pre-auction deductions will apply based on the number of pre-signed players. For the men's teams, deductions will range from £350,000 for one signing to £950,000 for four, while for the women's competition, they will range from £130,000 to £360,000.

Vikram Banerjee, Managing Director of The Hundred, expressed excitement over the upcoming changes.

"This is a hugely exciting time for The Hundred," Banerjee said. "Moving to an auction will make the competition even better, helping us attract the best players in the world and raise the overall standard of cricket and entertainment. —Agency

West Indies Whitewash Bangladesh with Crushing Third T20I Win

CHATTOGRAM: Pacer Romario Shepherd's hat-trick, followed by half-centuries from stand-in captain Roston Chase and Ackeem Auguste, helped West Indies down Bangladesh by five wickets in the third T20I here at the Bir Sreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium on Friday.

Opting to bat first in the final fixture of the three-match series, already clinched by West Indies 2-0, Bangladesh's batting unit could yield 152 runs before being bowled out in 20 overs despite Tanzid Hasan's gutsy half-century.

The left-handed opener waged a lone battle for the home side, top-scoring with a valiant 89 off 62 deliveries, laced with nine fours and four sixes.

Besides him, Saif Hassan made a notable contribution with a 22-ball 23, featuring two sixes, while the rest of the Bangladesh batters failed to amass double figures against the Shepherd-led West Indies bowling attack.

Shepherd was the standout bowler for West Indies, returning figures of 3/36 in his four overs. He was supported by Jason Holder and Khary Pierre, who bagged two wickets each, while Akeal Hosein and Chase chipped in with one apiece.

Chasing a modest 152-run target, the touring side comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of five wickets and 19 balls to spare, courtesy of half-centuries from Chase and Auguste.

The duo of Chase and Auguste remained the joint top-scorers for West Indies in the run chase, making 50 each. The stand-in captain conceded 29 deliveries and hit five fours and a six, while Auguste smashed five sixes and a four, taking 25 balls.

Chase and Auguste also shared a match-defining 91-run partnership for the fourth wicket after Amir Jangoo (34) was dismissed by Rishad Hossain in the eighth over.

Hossain was the pick of the bowlers for Bangladesh, taking three wickets for 43 runs in his four overs, while Nasum Ahmed and Mahedi Hasan bagged one apiece.—Agency

Faham-ul-Haq's Century Sparks Faisalabad's Fierce Fightback vs Peshawar

RAWALPINDI: Opener Faham-ul-Haq's unbeaten century helped Faisalabad fight back against Peshawar on the second day of their fifth-round Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2025-26 match here at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Faisalabad began their response to Peshawar's 320 all out at the start of the second day's play and went on to accumulate 309/7 in 94 overs before stumps were drawn here.

Leading the way for Faisalabad was their opener Faham, who top-scored with an unbeaten 137 off 264 deliveries, studded with 17 fours.

He was supported by fellow top-order batters Hasan Raza and Asim Ali Nasir, who made 40 and 38, respectively.

The 19-year-old will resume Faisalabad's response on the penultimate day, with an 11-run deficit still to be neutralised.

For Peshawar, Iftikhar Ahmed picked up two wickets, while Niaz Khan, Mohammad Amir Khan, Maaz Sadaqat, Israrullah and skipper Sajid Khan chipped in with one apiece on the second day.

At the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Rohail Nazir's anchoring century, followed by Hunain Shah's four wickets, on the second day, put Islamabad in a commanding position against FATA.—Agency

Australia Dominate India to Take 1-0 Lead in T20I Series

MELBOURNE: Australia defeated India by four wickets in the second T20I of the five-match series to take a 1-0 lead on Friday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Chasing a modest target of 126, the hosts cruised to victory inside 14 overs, thanks to a commanding batting display led by captain Mitchell Marsh and contributions from Travis Head and Josh Inglis.

Openers Head and Marsh gave Australia a flying start, adding 50 runs in quick time. Head was the first to depart after smashing 28 off 15 balls with three fours and a six, dismissed by Varun Chakravarthy with the score at 51-1 in 4.3 overs.

Marsh continued the momentum alongside Inglis, but narrowly missed out on a half-century, falling to Kuldeep Yadav for a brisk 46 off 26 deliveries, featuring two fours and four sixes.

In the next over, Chakravarthy struck again, removing Tim David for just one run, leaving Australia at 90-3 in 8.4 overs.

Inglis and Mitchell Owen steadied the innings with a 22-run stand before Kuldeep dismissed Inglis for a run-a-ball 20, which included one boundary.

With just two runs required, Jasprit Bumrah claimed two quick wickets — Owen (14 off 10) and Matthew Short (0) — momentarily putting Australia under pressure at 124-6 in 12.4 overs.

However, Marcus Stoinis (6 not out) and Xavier Bartlett (0 not out) ensured the hosts sealed the win comfortably in the 14th over.—Agency

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ENTERTAINMENT

Selena Gomez Celebrates Milestone, Shares Sweet Moment with Benny Blanco

Selena Gomez is celebrating a major milestone for her mental health initiative, the Rare Impact Fund.

The singer and actress took to her Instagram account on Thursday to mark five years of her Rare Impact Fund.

In the celebratory post, Selena posted behind-the-scenes snaps of the event for the Rare Impact Fund's 5-year journey, including one sweet picture with her husband, Benny Blanco.

Selena Gomez shares sweet moment with husband Benny Blanco as she marks major milestone

In the heartfelt post, she looked back at how the foundation has grown, writing, "Last night's Rare Impact Fund Benefit reminded us how far we have come. What began five years ago as a dream to make mental health resources more accessible for young people has grown into a global community of organizations, leaders and supporters changing lives every single day."

Selena shared that the Rare Impact Fund now supports 30 nonprofit organizations across the world.

"Today, the Rare Impact Fund proudly supports 30 incredible nonprofit organizations around the world, from crisis centers and school programs to community spaces where young people can connect and grow together,"

Cardi B's Wild Joke About 'Roach Eggs' in Unwashed Hair Goes Viral

Cardi B is revealing surprising insight about her hair routine

In a recent live stream on Instagram, the Hello rapper revealed to her fans that she has not washed her hair for three months.

The doting mom, who is expecting her fourth kid with boyfriend Stefon Diggs, said in a clip posted on X (formerly Twitter), pointing at her hair covered with a wig cap, "I probably got all types of roach eggs, mosquito eggs, everything in this."

Cardi had been vocal about her hair throughout the years, sharing her struggles with her hair journey.

Back in 2021, she shut down online backlash, calling her mixed based on her hair.

"I been posting pics of my hair journey for years and being mixed don't mean your hair is always long and curly, that wasn't my case," she said at the time. "Since I was a child I have problems with managing my hair and couple years ago I find different methods that work for me and look at my length now. They'll try to make us believe our hair won't grow this long it's not true," Cardi continued. "A lot of hair products we used back then wasn't good for our hair but that's all we had to choose from also we couldn't afford to get to the salon regularly, if at all."

NASA Fires Back After Kim Kardashian Calls 1996 Moon Landing 'Fake'

NASA head Sean Duffy called out Kim Kardashian after she called the 1969 moon landing "fake."

In a recent episode of The Kardashians, a viral clip of Kim has been circulating on the internet telling her All's Fair costar, Sarah Paulson, that she believed NASA's Apollo 11 lunar mission "didn't happen."

Hours later the episode was released, NASA's Acting Administrator, Sean, released an official statement on X (formerly Twitter), addressing Kim's doubt.

"Yes, we've been to the Moon before… 6 times!" Sean declared.

NASA claps back after Kim Kardashian calls 1996 moon landing fake

Kim on her Hulu reality series, further said, "I'm sending you a million articles with both Buzz Aldrin and the other one."

She then read out an alleged quote from Buzz's one of the articles, "There was no scary moment because it didn't happen. It could've been scary, but it wasn't because it didn't happen."

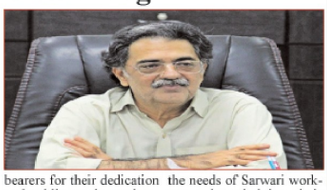
Sean further highlighted the upcoming moon landing projects by the United States of America under the Artemis campaign. "And even better: @NASAArtemis is going back under the leadership of @POTUS," he continued "We won the last space race and we will win this one too," he concluded while also tagging Kim to the post.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Sarwari Jamaat Chief Appeals to Govt, PPP for Workers' Rights

By Javed Samejo



HYDERABAD: Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif," Chairman of the Sarwari Jamaat, urged the government and PPP leadership to resolve issues faced by the workers of the Sarwari Jamaat. He emphasized that serving the Sarwari Organization, a trust of Hazrat Talib-ul-Moula (RA), is a sacred responsibility. He praised office bearers for their dedication and public service and appealed to MNAs, MPAs, and Senators to prioritize the needs of Sarwari workers, acknowledging their loyalty and support to the PPP.

Students Protest Closure of Agriculture University Campus in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Students of the Agriculture University Campus, Umerkot, including Raja Soniki, Asad Bhatti, Ayaz Marri, Aziz Nuhru, and Waseem Mangrio, protested in front of the press club against the campus closure. They said the campus has been locked for over a month, disrupting their education and future. Students demanded that the university administration reopen the campus, release teachers' salaries promptly, and ensure justice for students, as they have already paid fees but face obstacles in continuing their studies.

LUMHS Teachers Observe Black Day Over FIR on Dr. Dahri

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Teachers of Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), led by Dr. Farzana Shaikh, observed a Black Day in protest against an FIR lodged against Medical Superintendent Dr. Ali Akbar Dahri and other doctors. All OPD and office work was suspended, demanding immediate withdrawal of the FIR. Doctors criticized the FIR as unjust, stating the patient was transferred from a private hospital in critical condition. They urged the inquiry be assigned to Supreme Court Judge Justice Salahuddin Panhwar. Protest leaders included Dr. Kashif Shaikh, Prof. Imran Shaikh, Dr. Adeela Mangrio, and others.

Teachers Bid Farewell to Retiring Educator Wazir Khaskheli

By Shaukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: A farewell ceremony was held at Government Primary School Thano Bolakhan No. 1 to honor the retirement of veteran teacher Wazir Ali Khaskheli. The event was attended by ADO Education Elementary Muhammad Mithal Khaskheli, ADO Education Primary Nisar Ali Memon, school headmaster, PTA leaders, and fellow teachers. Wazir Ali Khaskheli was lauded for his 60 years of dedicated service, marked by honesty and commitment. He was presented with shawls and floral garlands in appreciation of his contributions. In his speech, he thanked colleagues and friends for their support and respect throughout his career.

SSP Badin Holds Open Katchery in Kario Ghanwar

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani addressed a large gathering at Kario Ghanwar Police Station's open court, where citizens, social workers, traders, political representatives, and women presented their grievances. He assured prompt resolution of complaints and issued immediate orders on multiple issues, including plot disputes, traffic improvements, and police conduct. SSP Jiskani emphasized a strict crackdown on drug trafficking, instructing daily actions against drug dealers. Additional traffic staff and enhanced patrolling were announced to improve safety. He urged public cooperation, stating that collective efforts can make Badin a drug-free and secure district.

Shikarpur Police Nab Suspect in Motorcycle Theft Case

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur police have arrested a suspect involved in a motorcycle theft ring, recovering several stolen motorcycles and other items. DSP Shikarpur, Paras Bakhrani, stated in a press conference that Younis Lodro, wanted in six cases, was taken into custody. Police are conducting raids to arrest two other suspects, Sajid Rahujo and an unidentified person. Ten motorcycles were recovered, along with a pistol, two mobile phones, and cash from the SEPCO office. Eight more suspects are being pursued. DSP Bakhrani assured strict action against all criminals.

House Gutted in Arnero Lakha Fire Near Chelhar

By Ghazi Nohrio

MITHI: A sudden fire broke out in the village of Arnero Lakha near Chelhar, completely destroying the house of Iaborer Alho Meghwar. Two rooms inside the house and all the belongings stored in them were reduced to ashes. The affected family is now living under the open sky and has appealed to the local administration for help. The cause of the fire is yet unknown, and residents have been warned to exercise caution. Local authorities are ready to provide immediate assistance to the affected family.

Shopkeeper Held for Threatening Encroachment Officer in Qazi Ahmed

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Following an attack and threats against Encroachment Officer Sufi Muhammad Amin Otho, a case was registered against influential shopkeeper Majid Pathan. He was arrested and remanded to police custody for three days by the court. The Qazi Ahmed Bar Association, led by President Advocate Imtiaz Ali Chandio, expressed full support for the officer. Sources said the case arose after resistance and misconduct during a field operation, and police investigation is ongoing.

Tando Allahyar Launches Citywide Mosquito Control Drive

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Municipal Committee has resumed a campaign to control mosquito breeding in the city. Under the special instructions of Chairman Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi, granular mosquito repellent was sprayed across the city. The municipal administration urged citizens to cover water tanks and drums, add a little oil to stagnant water, use sprays or nets at home, and avoid dumping garbage in open areas. The administration stated that with public cooperation, the city will be kept mosquito-free and healthy.

Primary Teachers Protest 8-Month Salary Delay in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Primary teachers of Phase 5 in Dadu district protested in their schools in different areas of Dadu including Johi, Mehar, and KN Shah, expressing anger over unpaid salaries for the past eight months. Led by Rashid Baloch, Amir Ahmed, Tariq Laghari, and Waleed Ahmed, teachers displayed black bands and demanded immediate release of their salaries. They highlighted financial hardships, difficulties in daily life and urged the Education Minister and Secretary to take notice, warning of intensified protests if salaries remain unpaid.

Experts Urge Farmer-Led Institutions to Eliminate Middlemen

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, hosted the "Agri-Business Linkages and Building Mela 2025", promoting farmer empowerment, innovation, and direct market access. Experts emphasized reducing dependency on middlemen and enhancing sustainable agricultural growth. Vice Chancellor Dr. Altaf Ali Siyal highlighted weak agricultural marketing systems and called for a national crop zoning policy. ITC's Shehnaz Kapadia urged farmers to adopt digital platforms and cooperative models. Roshan SAP CEO Syed Saddam Ali Shah announced Pakistan's first farmer-led digital platform for better market integration. The event concluded with awards for innovative exhibitors and contributors.

Talhar Woman Protests Against Drug-Addict Brother

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: A woman, Parveen Lund, protested outside Talhar Press Club with her young son, alleging that her brother, Jalal Lund, addicted to ice, frequently assaults her. She said an FIR was lodged at Tando Allahyar Police Station but no action has been taken. Parveen claimed Jalal sells ice near the railway crossing after bringing it from Badin. She appealed to the IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and SSP Badin to ensure her protection and eliminate drugs from her area.

Syed Zain Shah Demands Accountability, Rights Protection

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: SUP Central President Syed Zain Shah criticized ruling parties for acting above the Constitution and suppressing political rights in Sindh through false cases and intimidation. He said misgovernance in Balochistan, KP, Punjab, and Sindh has fueled violence and fear. He announced a rally on November 14 in Hyderabad with pro-federation parties, demanding transparency, rule of law, and an end to bogus governance. SUP leaders stressed public awareness campaigns on social media and the protection of Sindh's rights and resources.

Rajveer Sodho Stresses Timely Treatment at Cancer Awareness Seminar

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A pancreatic cancer awareness seminar, organized by Justuju and Saving Lives NGO with support from the Human Rights Department, was held at Hotel PC Karachi. Special guest Rajveer Singh Sodho, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister on Human Rights, highlighted the importance of timely diagnosis, awareness, and treatment. He emphasized that access to healthcare is a fundamental human right and the Sindh government is committed to its protection. The seminar was attended by Secretary Human Rights Khalid Chachar, Director Agha Fakhar Hussain, FPCCI representatives, doctors, recovered patients, and officials, who collectively vowed to enhance awareness and preventive measures.

Political Leaders Visit Nawab Jam Hyder Ali Khan at Aga Khan Hospital

By Hakim Ali Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Several provincial ministers including Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Mukesh Chawla, Saeed Ghani, and Mir Tariq Talpar, along with MPAs Ali Hassan Hingorno, Imdad Pitafi, Rana Abdul Sattar Rajput, Qasim Soomro, Dewan Rajesh Kumar, Syed Farrukh Shah, and other political and social figures, visited Aga Khan Hospital to meet Nawab Jam Hyder Ali Khan. Leaders, including former DSP Yar Muhammad Rind and community leaders, inquired about his health, offered prayers, and wished him a speedy recovery and long life. The visit highlighted solidarity and support from the political and social community.

Nawabshah Couple Seeks Protection After Court Marriage

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A young couple from Nawabshah has approached Mehar Press Club seeking protection after marrying in court. According to reports, Bano Dahri, previously married to Sain Bakhsh Dahri, married Nazir Ahmed Dahri in Nawabshah Session Court a month and a half ago of her own free will. Both expressed happiness with their union. However, Bano's former husband, his relatives, and other family members have reportedly threatened the couple with serious harm. They appealed to the DIG Hyderabad and SSP Nawabshah for protection to ensure their safety and a peaceful life.

One Dead, Eight Injured in Benazir Colony Clash

By Hasnain Shahid Channa

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: A violent clash erupted between two factions of the Solangi community over property near Benazir Colony. The confrontation involved firing, sticks, and axes, resulting in the death of 30-year-old Mazhar Ali Solangi and injuries to eight others. DSP Sardar Chando and SHO Naushehro Feroze arrived with police to control the situation and prevent further bloodshed. Dozens gathered at the scene, while several suspects were arrested. The deceased and injured were taken to Civil Hospital Naushehro Feroze for treatment and legal formalities; the case is yet to be formally registered.

Talhar Woman Registers Love Marriage Amid Threats

TALHAR: Resident of Kadhan city, young woman Shumaila Mallah, has legally registered her love marriage with Ayaz Chandio in Badin's Court. Speaking to reporters, Shumaila said the marriage was consensual, without any force. She expressed concerns for her and her husband's safety, alleging threats from her father Hadi Bux Mallah, brother Sajjad Mallah, and uncle Juman Mallah. Shamila urged the Badin Sessions Court, SSP Badin, and Talhar SHO to provide full protection for the couple.--RT

Victory for Sindh Government Employees: Pension Cuts to End Soon, Cabinet Approval Expected

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: At the Board of Revenue Secretariat Hyderabad, leaders of the All Revenue Sindh Employees Association and members of the Sindh Employees Alliance Committee honored Syed Sardar Ali Shah, the association's central president, with floral garlands for his successful struggle against the controversial pension deduction law.He was also praised for his continued efforts to ensure that, like in Balochistan, Group Insurance and Benevolent Funds are paid at the time of retirement, and for securing the Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA) on federal government patterns.

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Pushes Merit and Youth Power as Sharjeel Vows Clean Governance

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has reaffirmed that the provincial government remains fully committed to upholding merit, transparency, and the bright future of youth, stating that there will be no compromise on these principles.

He said the Sindh government is not only opening new employment opportunities for young people but also focusing on equipping them with modern skills. Under the Sindh Job Portal, more than 326,000 candidates have so far been declared eligible for recruitment in various public and private institutions based purely on merit.

Sharjeel Memon emphasized that the Sindh Job Portal operates through a fully automated and modern digital system, ensuring screening based on applicants' qualifications, education, and experience. —RT

Karachi Launches Digital E-Challan Drive to Revolutionize Transport System

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The E-Ticketing Challan System was inaugurated in Karachi, aiming to modernize the city's transport system and enhance public convenience. The event was attended by key provincial leaders, including Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Provincial Ministers Saeed Ghani and Nasir Hussain Shah, and Chairman of All Pakistan Oil Tankers Association, Mir Shams Shahwani. During the ceremony, Mir Shams Shahwani discussed the benefits of integrating modern technology into transport, highlighting that it would improve transparency, efficiency, and passenger convenience. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah assured that the provincial government is committed to upgrading the transport system to provide safe, fast, and user-friendly travel facilities for the citizens. The event marks a significant step toward digitizing traffic management in Sindh.

TMC Saddar Opens Modern Scouts Headquarters to Boost Civic Engagement

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The District Boy Scouts Association headquarters in Town Municipal Corporation, Saddar, was inaugurated in a grand ceremony. The special guest, Chairman Mansoor Ahmed Shaikh, officially opened the new Scouts headquarters at the police headquarter. The event was attended by scouts from various educational institutions, teachers, and distinguished guests. Chairman Shaikh highlighted that Saddar is the only town among 25 with a dedicated Scouts headquarters. He emphasized that the Scouts movement teaches youth discipline, leadership, and community service. Modern facilities, including computers, printers, chairs, and desks, were provided, and scouts were given uniforms. District Scout Secretary Sadiq Jafri will oversee training sessions for up to 50 youth, fostering skill development and civic engagement.

Karachi Braces for Hotter Days Ahead as Temperature Set to Rise, Warns PMD

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast a slight increase in temperature in Karachi over the next three days.

According to the PMD, the depression currently present over the Arabian Sea has moved northeastward during the past 24 hours. The system is now located approximately 712 kilometers from Karachi and about 330 kilometers from India's Gujarat coast. However, the department confirmed that no coastal area of Pakistan is under any threat from the system. The Met Office added that the system is likely to weaken within the next 24 hours, resulting in a further decrease in wind intensity along Sindh's coastal belt, including Karachi. Northeasterly winds are expected to blow at speeds of 10 to 15 kilometers per hour. The PMD further predicted a slight rise in daytime temperatures across Karachi during the coming three days.—RT/Agency

Nasir Shah Endorses Aston Energy's Mavericks 2.0 — Step Toward Ending Pakistan's Power Woes

KARACHI: At the grand launch of Aston Energy's Mavericks 2.0 in Karachi, Sindh Senior Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah hailed the company's vision to offer sustainable solutions to Pakistan's energy crisis. Attended by Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, actor Javed Shaikh, diplomats, and business leaders, the event showcased Aston Energy's new lithium battery, designed for efficient, reliable solar systems. CEO Abdul Rehman said the firm is leading Pakistan's solar revolution, providing clean, affordable energy across industries, institutions, and homes nationwide.—RT

Murad Unveils World Culture Festival 2025 — Karachi Emerges as Global Arts Hub

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the week-long World Culture Festival 2025 at the Arts Council, Karachi, celebrating the city as Pakistan's vibrant cultural heart. The festival features artists from 142 countries, over 1,000 performers, and showcases film, theatre, music, and visual arts. Shah highlighted art's power to unite and heal, honored Sindh's heritage, and praised organizers for creating a global platform. International guests attended, reaffirming Karachi's status as a welcoming hub for creativity and cultural exchange.—RT

EU Lawmakers Witness Pakistan's Fight Against Climate Disasters

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: A high-profile delegation of European MEPs from Austria, Poland, Germany, Czechia, and Spain visited Sindh to inspect ECHO-funded Disaster Risk Reduction projects. Touring Mirpurkhas and Jhuddo, they engaged with local communities, PDMA officials, and disaster committees, witnessing improved early warning systems, resilience programs, and women's active roles. Lukas Mandl praised community spirit and stressed systemic reforms in agriculture, housing, and education. The visit reinforced Europe's commitment to bolstering Pakistan's disaster preparedness and climate resilience initiatives.

Pipeline Burst at Maskan Chowrangi Halts Water Supply to Gulshan-e-Iqbal

KARACHI: Water supply to several areas of Block 7, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, has been disrupted after a major water line was damaged near Maskan Chowrangi on Thursday.

According to officials, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) teams have been dispatched to the site to assess the situation and begin repair work. The damage has caused a temporary suspension of water supply to nearby residential and commercial blocks.—RT/Agency

Ex-Mayor Waseem Akhtar Decries Karachi's Collapse, Says City Has Become Hell

KARACHI: Former Karachi Mayor Waseem Akhtar has strongly criticized the current state of the city, saying that "the entire nation is crying over Karachi's condition" and that "Karachiites are living in hell."

In an interview with a private TV channel, Akhtar said that if the creation of a new province is controversial, the government should at least establish administrative units at the district level to provide relief to citizens. He added that forming such units would help improve governance and service delivery.—RT/Agency

IG Sindh Orders Provincewide Expansion of 'Faceless' E-Ticketing System

KARACHI: Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon chaired the first review meeting on the performance of the "Faceless E-Ticketing System."

During the session, the IG directed officials to extend the e-challan system to other cities across Sindh to improve traffic regulation and enforcement. He emphasized the importance of installing CCTV cameras along busy highways in various districts to ensure better monitoring and transparency.

IG Memon also instructed that Traffic Facilitation Centers be established in every district of the province to provide citizens with easy access to traffic-related services. He said the Sindh Police is committed to modernizing its traffic management system through technology-driven initiatives that enhance efficiency, reduce human interaction, and promote road safety.—RT/Agency

Call for Gender-Segregated Swimming Nationals to Empower Female Athletes

KARACHI: Concerns have been raised over the growing discomfort faced by female swimmers during national swimming championships due to the unchecked presence of male participants and spectators. In a letter to the Federation, stakeholders urged gender-segregated events to ensure inclusivity and respect for cultural and religious values. They emphasized that many passionate girls abandon the sport due to a lack of female coaches and privacy concerns, calling for immediate reforms to support women swimmers nationwide.—RT

Gunfire Near Nagan Chowrangi Leaves One Dead, Another Critically Injured

KARACHI: One person was killed and another injured in a firing incident near Nagan Chowrangi on Thursday, when unidentified motorcycle riders opened fire and fled the scene.

According to ARY News, the deceased was an online delivery rider, while the injured youth was a passerby. The victim sustained two bullet wounds to the abdomen and was rushed to a nearby hospital along with the injured person.

Police said initial investigations are underway to determine whether the shooting occurred during a robbery attempt or was the result of some other motive. Authorities have collected evidence from the scene and launched a search operation to trace the culprits.—RT/Agency

FIA Karachi Nabs Key Suspect in Illegal Hawala and Currency Trade Network

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Karachi Zone conducted a successful raid in the posh Clifton area, arresting a suspect involved in illegal currency exchange and hawala-hundi transactions.

According to the FIA spokesperson, the suspect was found operating an unlicensed currency exchange business. During the operation, officials recovered $55,000 in cash, multiple mobile phones, and other evidence linked to the hawala-hundi network.

The FIA stated that the raid was part of its ongoing crackdown against illegal financial activities and money laundering operations in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Gold Prices Skyrocket by Rs5,300 per Tola Nationwide

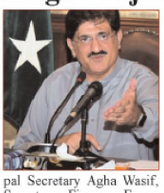
KARACHI: The price of gold in Pakistan surged by Rs5,300 per tola on Thursday, according to the All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association.

Following the latest increase, the price of gold reached Rs424,162 per tola. Similarly, the rate for 10 grams of gold rose by Rs4,544, bringing it to Rs363,650.

The association also reported that the international gold market saw a sharp rise of $53 per ounce, pushing the global price to $4,018.—RT/Agency

CM Murad Reviews Fast-Track Work on Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge Project

By Rahib Gaho



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge project — one of Sindh's most important infrastructure initiatives that will connect the provinces of Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Special Assistant to CM Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Works Nawaz Sohoo, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, Professor Dr. Sarosh Lodhi, and other senior officials.

The Chief Minister stated that he had convened five meetings so far on the project and was personally monitoring its progress. "Technically, the working window for construction spans from November to June, when the river water remains low," he said, stressing that work must continue at full speed during this period.

"I want to see accelerated progress from November to June so that by November–December 2026, the bridge is substantially completed," the CM directed.

MQM Chief Felicitates PM Shehbaz as Punjab Passes Local Government Resolution

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Chairman Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, who congratulated him on the Punjab Assembly's recently passed resolution supporting constitutional protection for local governments.

Dr. Siddiqui hailed the move as a "significant milestone" in strengthening the foundations of democracy, stating that the resolution would help deliver the true benefits of democracy to ordinary Pakistanis. He said the entire nation was grateful to the Punjab Assembly for taking this important step.

The Prime Minister thanked the MQM chief for his kind words and expressed his appreciation for the party's support.—RT/Agency

Truck Driver, Owner Ordered to Pay Rs42.6 Million Compensation in Fatal Crash

KARACHI: A court in Karachi has ordered a truck owner and driver to pay more than Rs42.6 million in compensation to the family of a man who died while his friend was injured after their motorcycle was hit by a truck in 2017.

The accident occurred in North Karachi in November 2017 when the truck ran over two pillion riders, Umar and his friend Ghayas. Umar died on the spot while Ghayas sustained injuries.

After nearly eight years of proceedings, the Senior Civil Judge South announced the verdict, directing that the compensation amount be paid to the victim's heirs within one month.

The lawsuit had filed against the truck owner, driver, and the Clifton Cantonment Board. However, the court acquitted all other defendants, holding only the truck owner and driver responsible.

During the hearing, the defence argued that no such accident had occurred involving their vehicle, pointing out that they had already been acquitted in a related criminal case by another court. —RT/Agency

CM Murad Orders Swift Release of Wheat Support Funds to Struggling Farmers

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a high-level meeting on the 2025 Wheat Growers' Support Programme, directed the Agriculture Department to begin immediate disbursement of funds to small farmers to enable them to purchase Urea and DAP fertilisers for timely wheat sowing across the province.

Wheat sowing in Sindh typically begins in late October and continues until late December, varying by region and irrigation availability. In upper Sindh districts such as Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, and Ghotki, sowing starts in late October, while in lower Sindh — including Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Badin, and Thatta — the process begins around mid-November and extends through December. The season depends heavily on canal water availability after the Kharif harvest and subsequent maintenance schedules. The province's wheat harvest usually occurs between late March and early May.

Journalists and Lawyers Unite to Strengthen Legal-Media Collaboration

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Fawad Mahmood, President of Karachi Union of Journalists Workers (KUJ), attended a dinner hosted by Sindh High Court Bar President Sarfaraz Ahmed Mehtlo. The event aimed to strengthen cooperation between the legal community and media, and support Sindh Bar Council 2026–30 candidates Amir Bakhsh Mehtlo and Muneer Malik. KUJ leaders, including Baghi Sagar, Syed Bisharat Hussain Shah, and Javed Abdali, participated. Mahmood stressed the media's role in legal affairs, while Mehtlo highlighted the importance of unity and urged participants to vote actively for the candidates.

Locals Resist Demolition Operation, Halt Bulldozers in Noor Muhammad Goth

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: A planned demolition in Noor Muhammad Goth, Scheme 33, was halted due to strong public resistance. Authorities, including Assistant Commissioner Irfan Nizamani, SP Sohrab Goth Abdul Baqi Rind, DSP Aurangzeb Khattak, and anti-encroachment teams, arrived with heavy machinery for the operation. However, residents, including men, women, and children, protested fiercely. Local leaders claimed the demolition was backed by Aligarh Builders. Due to public opposition and security concerns, the administration postponed the operation, pending the next court hearing on November 11, 2025.

Kakar Slams Fayyaz Chohan for 'Disgraceful' Remarks Against Achakzai's Daughter

KARACHI: Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar, President of the All Kakar Tribes Federation and Secretary General of the Balochistan Youth Front, strongly condemned fugitive Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan's inappropriate remarks about veteran politician Mahmood Khan Achakzai's daughter. Calling Chohan a "coward and shameless betrayer," Kakar warned that if he does not retract his offensive words, the Pashtun community will surround him and make him an example of public disgrace.—RT

It always seems impossible until it's done."

—Nelson Mandela

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Defence Minister: Pak-Afghan Ties Can't Normalize Until Kabul Reins In TTP

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday said that relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan can never be returned to normal unless Kabul ends its support for the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Speaking to Media, the defence minister said those sheltering the TTP militants in Afghanistan must stop the terrorists' infiltration into Pakistan.

"Peaceful relations with our neighbour are only possible if all support for the TTP is completely ended," he said, adding that it is difficult to trust the Afghan side without firm guarantees against cross-border attacks.

He said that the infiltration from Afghanistan is still going on in some form, adding that as long as the same situation continues, the agreement cannot take effect," Asif said.

"Pakistan's biggest demand is that infiltration into Pakistan from Afghan soil should stop," he added.

The defence minister said that he would not blame the entire Afghan government, but many within its ranks are providing support to these groups.

He said that the Afghan regime is still violating the ceasefire agreement, to which Pakistan is responding in a befitting manner.

Asif also confirmed that an interim ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan was reached last night (Thursday) under the mediation of Qatar and Turkiye.

He said that the next round of talks is scheduled for November 6 in Istanbul, where he said the modalities of the agreement will be finalised. He added that monitoring and verification mechanisms have been agreed upon to ensure full compliance, particularly by the Afghan side.

Following six days of talks, Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban regime agreed to uphold the ceasefire, Turkiye's foreign ministry said late Thursday.

"Further modalities of the implementation will be discussed and decided in a principal level meeting in Istanbul on 6 November 2025," read a joint statement on the talks through the mediation of Turkiye and Qatar.It further said that the meetings were held in Istanbul from October 25-30 aimed at solidifying the ceasefire which was agreed by Afghanistan and Pakistan in Doha on October 18-19.—RT/Agency

No Talks Underway With Govt Or Establishment: PTI's Gohar

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Friday said that there are currently no negotiations or talks between the party and the federal government or the military establishment.

Last year, talks between the government and the PTI commenced in the last week of December to bring down political temperatures, but despite weeks of negotiations, the dialogue process hardly moved forward on major issues — the formation of a judicial commission and the release of PTI prisoners.

From December into January, the PML-N-led coalition and the PTI accused each other of derailing the negotiations and lacking seriousness. A highly demanded meeting of the PTI team with party founder and ex-premier Imran Khan in Adiala Jail on January 12 paved the way for a third round of talks. However, the PTI decided to boycott the fourth round of talks with the government, a day after it announced that Imran issued directions to call off negotiations due to a delay over the formation of judicial commissions.

Speaking on Media programme 'Doosra Rukh', the PTI chairman denied that talks were taking place and said it was "unfortunate" that political issues were not being resolved with political solutions. He also recalled the history of talks between the PTI and the government, which did not bear fruit.—RT/Agency

India Gets Six-Month US Sanctions Waiver To Operate Iran's Chabahar Port

DELHI: The US has granted India a six-month sanctions waiver to operatethe Iranian port of Chabahar, India said on Thursday, boosting New Delhi's effort to enhance trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries bypassing its rival Pakistan.

India signed a 10-year contract with Iran last year to develop and operate the port and this month stepped up its ties with Taliban-run Afghanistan by reopening its embassy in Kabul that was shut after the Islamist group seized power in 2021 following the withdrawal of US-led NATO forces.

The port on Iran's southeastern Gulf of Oman coast was initially planned with a rail link to Afghanistan for building the landlocked country's economy through trade and reducing Kabul's dependence on the Pakistani port of Karachi.

The waiver move followed word by US President Donald Trump this week that he wanted to reach a trade deal with India - signalling a thaw in relations that soured to their lowest point in decades after he doubled tariffs on Indian imports to 50% as punishment for Indian purchases of Russian oil.

Indian refiners are now cutting Russian oil imports following Washington's imposition last week of sanctions on Moscow's top two crude exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil.

"I can confirm that we have been granted an exemption for a six-month period," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a weekly news briefing, referring to the port.

He also said India was continuing talks with the Trump administration on a bilateral trade deal.

Washington had last month revoked the sanctions waiver for Chabahar, initially granted in 2018, as part of its effort to put "maximum pressure" on Iran to counter what it called the Islamic Republic's destabilising activities in support of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.—RT/Agency

IHC To Hear Challenge To Judge Nasir Javed's Appointment In £190m Case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed that the petition challenging the appointment of District and Sessions Judge Nasir Javed Rana, who sentenced PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in the £190 million NAB case, be fixed for hearing in the second week of November.

Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar of the IHC heard a miscellaneous petition filed by Usama Riaz, seeking an early hearing of the case challenging the judge's appointment.

During the proceedings, the chief justice asked the petitioner's counsel, Advocate Riaz Hanif Rahi, about the nature of the case and whether it was related to a 2004 order. The lawyer replied that, according to the Supreme Court's (SC) October 19, 2004 verdict, Nasir Javed Rana was declared unfit for judicial service, therefore, his appointment as a judge is illegal.

Advocate Rahi added that the matter relates to the case of the late Wahab Al-Khairi, noting that had he been alive, he would have defended the decision himself — hence the petition was filed in his stead.

Chief Justice Dogar remarked that the case would be heard in the second week of November, adding that he was not feeling well today. The court subsequently adjourned the hearing and directed that the case be scheduled for the specified date.—RT/Agency

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban Agree to Maintain Ceasefire: Turkiye

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban regime have agreed to uphold ceasefire following a fresh round of talks in Istanbul, confirmed Turkiye's foreign ministry.

"Further modalities of the implementation will be discussed and decided in a principal level meeting in Istanbul on 6 November 2025," read a joint statement on the talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan through the mediation of Turkiye and Qatar.

It further said that the meetings were held in Istanbul from October 25-30 aimed at solidifying the ceasefire which was agreed by Afghanistan and Pakistan in Doha on October 18-19.

"All parties have agreed to put in place a monitoring and verification mechanism that will ensure maintenance of peace and imposing penalty on the violating party," it added.

The mediators — Turkiye and Qatar — express their appreciation for the active contribution of both parties and stand ready to continue cooperation with both sides for lasting peace and stability, read the statement.

Reacting to the development, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said: "[We] hope terrorist actions will no longer take place." He said that the Taliban regime must ensure its territory is not used against Pakistan.The minister said that penalties would be determined for any violation of the ceasefire. The ceasefire agreement includes Taliban operations against "Fitna al-Khawarij", Tarar added.—RT/Agency

Govt Mulls Rs10 Cut In Solar Net Metering Buyback Rate

ISLAMABAD: The government is considering slashing the buyback rate for solar net metering from Rs22 per unit to around Rs11.30 per unit, after estimates showed the scheme has begun imposing a heavy financial burden, up to Rs2 per unit, on the conventional grid consumers.According to the official data, the rapid expansion of rooftop solar systems has led to a 3.2 billion units drop in grid electricity sales in FY2024, costing the distribution companies nearly Rs101 billion in lost revenue and prompting an average tariff increase of Rs0.9 per kWh for other users.

Projections by the Power Division warn that by FY2034, this figure could swell to 18.8 billion units, translating into Rs545 billion impact and a possible tariff hike of Rs5-6 per unit of grid electricity consumers. Officials say the issue has become serious enough to draw the prime minister's direct intervention.

In a meeting on October 22, the prime minister instructed the Power Division and Nepra to "review and verify" the buyback tariff and its ripple effects before finalising reforms to the net metering regime. "The system is effectively being used as battery storage for solar consumers," an energy official told this reporter.

"They sell excess electricity at high buyback rates — around Rs22 per unit — while avoiding fixed charges, which leaves other consumers bearing the system costs."—RT/Agency

Israeli Strikes Kill Three Palestinians, Threatening Fragile Gaza Truce

TEL AVIV: The Israeli military attacked the Gaza Strip for a fourth day on Friday, killing three people, Palestinian health authorities said, in another test of a fragile ceasefire agreement.

Residents reported Israeli shelling and gunfire in northern Gaza on Friday, as Israel continued to bombard areas of the enclave despite saying that it remains committed to a ceasefire brokered by United States President Donald Trump.The Israeli military did not immediately reply to a Reuters request for comment.Another Palestinian died of wounds sustained from previous Israeli shelling, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reported.The US-brokered ceasefire, which left thorny issues like the disarmament of Hamas and a timeline for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip unresolved, has been tested by periodic outbreaks of violence since it came into place three weeks ago.Between Tuesday and Wednesday, Israel retaliated for the death of an Israeli soldier with bombardments that Gaza health authorities said killed 104 people.More bodies handed overGaza's health ministry said the Red Cross had delivered to it 30 bodies of Palestinians killed by Israel during the fighting, a day after Hamas handed over two bodies of captives.—RT/Agency

PA Speaker Urges 27th Amendment To Strengthen Local Governments

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly has urged the federal government to immediately introduce the 27th Amendment to the Constitution if necessary, to ensure the empowerment of local governments across the country.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmed Khan said on Friday that the issue of local governance must be discussed openly.

He noted that while the National and Provincial Assemblies enjoy five-year terms, citizens lose faith in democracy when they do not experience its benefits directly.

The Punjab Assembly unanimously passed a resolution demanding a constitutional amendment introducing a new chapter to make it mandatory to hold local government elections within a stipulated timeframe.

The resolution also proposed that no political party should have the authority to shorten the tenure of a local body.

The speaker added that the caucus within the Punjab Assembly, comprising 80 members, including 35 from the opposition, is actively playing its role in strengthening local governance.—RT/Agency

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