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-Zafar Moti is Sad!

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Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi Slide Down ICC ODI Rankings After Latest Update

KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 292 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Thursday, November 06, 2025, Jumada Al-Awal 15, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Zardari Pushes Qatari Emir To Expand Defence And Investment Collaboration

DOHA: In a meeting with the Qatari emir on Wednesday, President Asif Ali Zardari offered to expand collaboration with Qatar in defence and defence production, a statement issued by the President's Secretariat said.

According to the statement, Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani assured President Zardari that he would instruct the relevant authorities to begin discussions with Pakistan immediately.

During the meeting, the two leaders also reviewed ways to strengthen cooperation in political, economic and cultural sectors. President Zardari also proposed enhancing cooperation in agriculture and food security.

The Qatari emir said Qatar was proud of Pakistan and its achievements, and deeply valued the contribution of the Pakistani community to Qatar's development. He expressed the desire to see their number increase significantly in the coming years.

The president conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from the government and people of Pakistan, expressing deep admiration for Qatar's remarkable progress and visionary leadership under the emir of Qatar.

The two leaders reaffirmed the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, rooted in faith, mutual trust and shared aspirations for peace, prosperity and the advancement of the Muslim ummah.

The president lauded Qatar's growing global role as a centre of dialogue and humanitarian diplomacy, and paid tribute to his leadership in advocating a ceasefire and humanitarian relief for the people of Gaza.—RT/Agency

Consultations Heating Up On Armed Forces Law, Says Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that consultations were underway for amendments to the law that governs armed forces, as the government considers changes to the Constitution.

"Consultations on amending Article 243 are ongoing [...] defence requirements have changed," the minister told media exclusively on Wednesday in Islamabad.

The Constitution's Article 243 states that "The Federal Government shall have control and command of the Armed Forces" and "the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces shall vest in the President", among other things.

"This entire process will be carried out through mutual consultation," said the defence minister, whose party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), attempts to amend the Constitution for the second time during its ongoing tenure.

Asif noted that consultations were ongoing with all political parties on the proposed amendment.

However, he declined to further comment on the potential tweak, saying that he "would not say anything until the amendment to Article 243 was finalised".

The minister expected clarity on the consensus within the next two or three days, with the 27th Amendment likely to be presented to parliament next week.

His comments came after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reportedly directed National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq to build consensus among political parties for the proposed amendment.

PML-N's efforts to amend the law came to light on November 3, when Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari confirmed that the ruling party had sought their support in introducing the amendment.

Bilawal said that the proposed amendment, in addition to amending Article 243, included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and certain changes to the National Finance Commission Award.—RT/Agency

Dar Confronts Kabul On Militancy After Flurry Of Calls From Afghan FM

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday he received six calls from Afghanistan's acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, and told him one thing: do not allow your soil to be used against us.

"I told the Afghan minister: we only want one thing — that Afghan territory not be used against Pakistan — and added that the situation has put him in a difficult position," DPM Dar said, while speaking on the floor of the Senate.Recalling the fallout after the Taliban took power in 2021, the DPM said that Pakistani envoys told the new Afghan rulers they had come for "a cup of tea," but that small missteps had costly consequences, and such mistakes must not be repeated.He said formal ties between the two countries went quiet for four years after the Taliban takeover, but he travelled to Afghanistan to hold talks and sign agreements. His single demand, he said, was that Afghan soil not be used for attacks on Pakistan."Violent incidents in Afghanistan have risen since the current government came in," Dar said and added, "Islamabad is committed to fighting to the last breath and expressed hope that talks scheduled for November 6 will move forward."—RT/Agency

Mamdani Declares Political Monarchy Dead After Historic Election Win

New York: Zohran Mamdani, the newly elected and first Muslim mayor of New York City, delivered a powerful victory speech on Tuesday night, declaring that his campaign had "overthrown a political monarchy."

The 34-year-old Democratic socialist thanked supporters and vowed to make New York a city for everyone — free from inequality and Islamophobia.

Standing before a cheering crowd, Mamdani said the people of New York had voted for change and a "mandate for a politics that is for everyone." He emphasized that the future of the city now lies in the hands of its residents, marking the end of what he called "traditional politics that benefited the few."

He thanked his opponent Andrew Cuomo, wishing him well in private life, but asserted, "Tonight, I am taking his name for the last time, because we are saying goodbye to a politics that benefits only a few."—RT/Agency

Google Eyeing Pakistan As Next Big Global Export Powerhouse: FinMin Aurangzeb

KARACHI: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday hailed the launch of Google Chromebook assembly line in Pakistan and said that the tech giant intends to make Pakistan an export hub, highlighting the country's growing potential in the technology and maritime sectors.

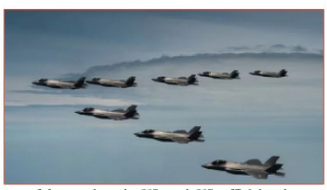
Speaking at the Future Summit in Karachi, the finance minister emphasised the need to equip youth with digital and technical skills to help them capture higher-value opportunities in coding, blockchain, and AI-driven sectors.

Pakistan's first Google Chromebook assembly line was launched on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Khan, who termed it "a defining moment" in the country's digital transformation.

"Google's plan to establish Pakistan as an export hub aligns with our vision for AI-driven growth. There are vast opportunities to expand the blue economy," Aurangzeb said.

Aurangzeb said that Pakistan's economy is moving in the right direction and emphasised that sustainable growth can only be achieved through production-driven development."The private sector plays a vital role in economic progress. Our focus will remain on the IT and maritime sectors to transform Pakistan into an export-oriented economy," he stated.Aurangzeb said that international rating agencies have acknowledged Pakistan's economic improvement, while global institutions have also recognised the country's macroeconomic stability. "Corporate profits have increased by 9%," he added.The minister said the government has expanded the tax net to enhance national revenue, resulting in an additional 900,000 tax filers. "Digitisation will bring transparency to the economy. Egypt has also requested to learn from our FBR reforms," he remarked.—RT/Agency

Saudi Arabia's F-35 Dream Clears Crucial Pentagon Hurdle



US: The Trump administration is considering a Saudi Arabian request to buy as many as 48 F-35 fighter jets, a potential multi-billion-dollar deal that has cleared a key Pentagon hurdle ahead of a visit by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, two sources familiar with the matter said.

A sale would mark a significant policy shift, potentially altering the military balance in the Middle East and testing Washington's definition of maintaining Israel's "qualitative military edge."

Saudi Arabia made a direct appeal earlier this year to US President Donald Trump and has long been interested in Lockheed Martin's fighter, one of the people and a US official said.

The Pentagon is now weighing a potential sale of 48 of the advanced aircraft, the US official and the person familiar with the talks told Reuters. The size of the request and its status have not been previously reported.

The US official and a second US official, who acknowledged the weapons deal was moving through the system, said no final decision has been made and several more steps are needed before the ultimate nod, including further approvals at the Cabinet level, sign-off from Trump and notification of Congress.—RT/Agency

Trump And Modi Keep Hotline Buzzing As Trade Talks Gain Momentum

US: US President Donald Trump often speaks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and trade teams from both countries continue to hold talks, the White House said on Tuesday.

"The president and his trade team continue to be in very serious discussions with India," White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told reporters. "I know the president has great respect for Prime Minister Modi, and they speak pretty frequently."

Trump said last week in South Korea that he wanted to reach a trade deal with India - signalling a thaw in relations that soured to their lowest point in decades after the US president doubled tariffs on Indian imports to 50% as punishment for India's purchases of Russian oil.

Indian refiners cut Russian oil imports after Washington imposed sanctions last week on Moscow's top two crude exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil.—RT/Agency

Speaker Gears Up To Rally Parliamentary Leaders For 27th Amendment Backing

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has given task to the Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq to create consensus for the smooth passage of the 27th constitutional amendment from the parliament.

Speaker has summoned a session of all parliamentary leaders today at 4:00 PM.

The 27th constitutional amendment's bill will be tabled in the Senate on Friday and will be sent to the Senate Committee for review on the same day.

The PTI and the JUI-F have also been invited for the session.

The allied parties' chief whips and parliamentary leaders have been invited in the meeting.

The session will discuss and devise the strategy for the passage of the constitutional amendment's bill.

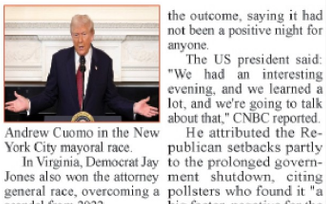
The features of the proposed amendment bill will be shared with the participants, and the speaker will request all political parties to support the amendment, sources said.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq will also hold separate meetings with parliamentary leaders. "If the consensus not reached, the government would rely over its parliamentary strength," according to sources.

Ruling PML-N has asked its and coalition parties' members to reach Islamabad immediately.

Sources said that the ruling coalition enjoying 224 members support needed for the passage of the constitutional amendment bill.—RT/Agency

Trump Blames GOP Election Losses On 'Record-Breaking' Government Shutdown



US: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday acknowledged that Democrats' sweeping electoral gains signalled mounting trouble for Republicans, calling the results "not good" and linking the setbacks to the record-long federal government shutdown, now stretching into its sixth week.

His remarks came hours after Democratic candidates Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill scored commanding gubernatorial wins in Virginia and New Jersey, while Zohran Mamdani easily defeated Trump-backed Andrew Cuomo in the New York City mayoral race.

In Virginia, Democrat Jay Jones also won the attorney general race, overcoming a scandal from 2022.

Trump made the statement while addressing GOP senators at a White House breakfast on Wednesday morning. Trump reflected on the outcome, saying it had not been a positive night for anyone.

The US president said: "We had an interesting evening, and we learned a lot, and we're going to talk about that," CNBC reported.

He attributed the Republican setbacks partly to the prolonged government shutdown, citing pollsters who found it "a big factor, negative for the Republicans". Trump added that some analysts viewed his absence from the ballot as the biggest factor.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Court Issues Non-Bailable Arrest Warrants For Imaan Mazari And Husband

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for human rights activist and lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Advocate Hadi Ali Chattha, in a case concerning controversial social media posts.

The National Cybercrime Investigation Agency registered the case, alleging the couple attempted to incite linguistic divisions and create the impression that the armed forces were engaged in terrorism within the country.

The hearing was presided over by Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Muhammad Afzal Majoka, who had indicted both Mazari and Chattha last week.—RT/Agency

Pakistan, China Reaffirm 'Ironclad' Resolve To Deepen Strategic Partnership

DOHA: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday held a bilateral meeting with Vice President of China Han Zheng wherein they reaffirmed their resolve to further deepen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership based on mutual trust, respect, and a shared vision for regional peace and prosperity.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development here, they also agreed to continue close cooperation on issues of mutual interest at regional and international fora.

Recalling his recent visit to China, President Zardari said that Pakistan and China were iron brothers and all-weather strategic cooperative partners.He thanked China for its consistent and unwavering support to Pakistan through all challenges, reaffirming that friendship with China remained the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.The president commended China's continued partnership in the successful implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had entered its second phase of high-quality development.Vice President Han Zheng conveyed warm greetings from President Xi Jinping and reaffirmed the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China friendship.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Sukkur Pushes Family Planning Drive with High-Level Policy Meeting

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: A high-level meeting chaired by Secretary Population Welfare Sindh, Hafizullah Abbasi, was held at the District Population Welfare Office Sukkur to review and improve family planning services. The session focused on service delivery, inter-departmental coordination, and monitoring mechanisms. Attendees included DG Health Sindh Dr. Waqar Memon, district officers, and representatives from PPHI and Sindh Healthcare Commission. Secretary Abbasi stressed the importance of family planning for public health and development. Joint field visits and enhanced monitoring were agreed upon to ensure transparency, accountability, and improved service quality.

Commissioner Hyderabad Urges Overhaul for Quality Education Revival

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Commissioner Hyderabad Division Fayaz Hussain Abbasi visited Government Boys High School, Qasimabad, accompanied by Director of Education Hyderabad, ADC-I Gada Hussain Soomro, and AC Qasimabad Hataf Siyal. During the visit, he attended the morning assembly, praised students for their enthusiasm, and urged teachers to provide quality education and serve as role models. The Commissioner also interacted with students, presented an appreciation token to Mubeen for his performance of "King Bruce and the Spider," and emphasized resilience, hard work, and goal-setting. The visit aimed to motivate students and strengthen education standards in Hyderabad.

WAPDA Hydro Union Roars in Matiari Against Privatization Move

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Workers Union, HESCO Division, organized a protest rally in Matiari against the privatization of WAPDA and to demand recognition of their legitimate demands. The rally started from the XEN WAPDA office and passed through various routes, culminating at the City Press Club Matiari, where employees staged a demonstration. Union leaders, including Division Chairman Moula Bux Khaskheli, General Secretary Iqbal Rajput, and others, demanded job security for employees' children, pensions for widows, regularization of contract and daily-wage staff, timely payment of dues, new appointments, removal of the eight-year hiring freeze, and provision of housing and security facilities. They warned of expanding the protest if demands were not met.

Latifabad Seminar Sounds Alarm on Rising Drug Abuse

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: UC Chairman Anwar Abbas of Sachal Sarmast Town, Taluka Latifabad UC 89, emphasized that drug addiction destroys personal relationships and families during an awareness seminar organized by Bhai Khan Welfare in Gujarati Para. The event was attended by prominent social figures, including Haji Muhammad Yasin Arain, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Haji Abdul Hameed, Khan Aftab Ahmed Khan, and others. Speakers urged parents to monitor their children, advocated rehabilitation for addicts, and encouraged engagement in sports. They stressed the role of social organizations in raising awareness and supporting government efforts to combat drug abuse in the community.

Badin Education Officer Faces Heat Over Surplus School Staff

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department Sindh, has issued a notice to District Education Officer (Secondary & High Schools) Badin, Ahmed Khan Zaunr, over the appointment of 18 teachers for only 90 students at Government Girls Lower Secondary School Ahmed Nooh Soomro. The department termed it a clear violation of the Student-Teacher Ratio (STR) policy. The officer has been directed to submit a written explanation within three days, or face action under E&D Rules. Reports reveal similar irregularities in other Badin schools, including the Government Boys Lower Secondary School Barrage Colony, highlighting growing concerns of corruption, nepotism, and mismanagement in the district's education system.

SBCA Revives Hajj Balloting Scheme After Two-Year Hiatus

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Through the efforts of People's Unity CBA, the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has successfully resumed its Hajj balloting scheme, which had been suspended for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The draw for 18 employees was held today at the Karachi Head Office. People's Unity leaders, including Central Chairman Hussain Ibrahim Kaka, Vice Chairman Guddu Qambrani, and President Hafiz Abdul Hayee Malghani, expressed gratitude to the Director General SBCA for restarting the initiative and congratulated the selected employees.

Neglected Wahdat Colony Park in Ruins as Hyderabad Residents Cry Out for Action

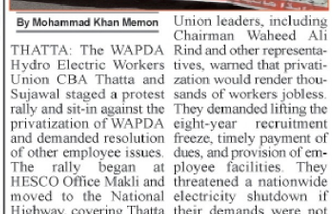
By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: The public park in New Wahdat Colony, UC 127 Hussainabad, has fallen into complete disrepair over the past ten years. Benches, trees, and other facilities are destroyed, garbage litters the area, and boundary walls and walkways are damaged. The Arroz water filter plant, inaugurated five years ago, has been non-functional, depriving residents of clean drinking water. Leaders of the New Wahdat Colony Action Committee, including Shahid Soomro and Mehboob Abro, urged Hyderabad District Mayor Kashif Shoro to immediately renovate the park and reactivate the water filter plant to provide recreation and essential facilities to residents.

MPA Nawab Burhan Khan Chandio Meets Qambar Shahdadkot Bar, Discusses Legal Reforms

SHAHDADKOT: PPP leader and MPA Nawab Burhan Khan Chandio visited the Qambar-Shahdadkot Bar Association, where he was warmly welcomed by Bar President Advocate Shafi Muhammad Khoso, General Secretary Advocate Sahendar Kumar, and senior lawyers. Speaking to the gathering, he praised lawyers' role in protecting public rights and assured early resolution of their issues. Bar representatives requested a separate Sindh Bar Council seat and additional facilities. The visit concluded with a lunch reception.—RT

WAPDA Workers Warn of Nationwide Blackout in Privatization Showdown



By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: The WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union CBA Thatta and Sujawal staged a protest rally and sit-in against the privatization of WAPDA and demanded resolution of other employee issues. The rally began at HESCO Office Makli and moved to the National Highway, covering Thatta and Sujawal districts. Union leaders, including Chairman Waheed Ali Rind and other representatives, warned that privatization would render thousands of workers jobless. They demanded lifting the eight-year recruitment freeze, timely payment of dues, and provision of employee facilities. They threatened a nationwide electricity shutdown if their demands were not met.

Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro Reviews Hyderabad's Fast-Tracking Development Projects

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Ali Shoro, visited several ongoing development projects under the Municipal Department, accompanied by local elected representatives and project officials. During the inspection, Mayor Shoro directed authorities to ensure timely completion of all projects with high-quality standards. He emphasized that providing basic facilities to citizens is the administration's top priority. The Mayor added that municipal institutions are actively addressing public issues, with regular monitoring being conducted to maintain transparency and efficiency in all development works.

Massive Fire Ravages Nooriabad Glucose Factory, Goods Worth Millions Lost

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: A sudden fire broke out in the warehouse of ACT Polyols Factory, located in the industrial area, engulfing the entire storage facility within minutes. The blaze put millions of rupees worth of goods inside the factory at risk. Upon receiving the alert, Nooriabad Fire Brigade and Rescue teams rushed to the scene and began efforts to control the fire, but it was not fully contained. According to the management, the fire is suspected to have been caused by an electrical short circuit, though confirmation is still pending.

SEPCO Employees Rise in Dadu, Reject Privatization Drive

By Javed Laghari

DADU: SEPCO employees, led by Aftab Panhwar, Altaf Palh, Syed Asif Ali Shah, and others, staged a protest at Dadu Press Club against WAPDA privatization, staff shortages, and other demands. Holding banners and chanting slogans, they demanded immediate hiring, promotions, upgrades, and cessation of privatization and contract systems. Leaders warned that if their demands were ignored, the protest would escalate nationwide, urging the government to abolish the privatization commission.

University of Sindh, SIEHS Forge Partnership to Strengthen Emergency Response

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The University of Sindh (SU), Jamshoro, and Sindh Integrated Emergency & Health Services (SIEHS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen emergency response, public health, and community resilience. The partnership includes establishing a 1122 Emergency Take-Off Point on campus, Basic Life Support training for students and faculty, and internships for anthropology and archaeology students. SU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri and SIEHS CEO Brigadier (Retd) Tarique Qadir Lakher highlighted the collaboration's role in linking academic research with practical emergency services.

WAPDA Union Gears Up for Countrywide Protest Escalation Over Privatization

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Abdul Latif Nizamani, Central President of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA), vowed to continue protests against the privatization of electricity distribution companies until the government halts the process. Addressing a massive rally from Labour Hall to the Press Club, Nizamani warned that privatization would lead to expensive electricity, unemployment, and public hardship. The union demanded job security, timely payment of benefits, promotions, workplace safety, and reforms instead of privatization. Leaders emphasized employee unity, condemned corruption, and highlighted ongoing efforts to issue pending grants, ensuring welfare for WAPDA workers across Sindh.

ECP, UNDP, EU Empower Journalists on Ethical and Gender-Sensitive Reporting

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in collaboration with UNDP and the European Union, organized a one-day workshop for local journalists on ethical, safe, gender-sensitive, and human rights based reporting. Senior trainers Zahra Mazhar, Nisar Khokhar, and Janjua Sahib, along with District Election Commissioner Naeem-ur-Rehman Jilbani, guided sessions emphasizing fact-based reporting, media accountability, and positive social values. Over 2.6 million voters in Khairpur benefit from new CNIC and voter registration centers. Participants, including women journalists, received certificates, praising the initiative as a vital step toward professional journalism and strengthening democratic practices in Pakistan.

PPP Distributes Solar Panels to Light Up Allahabad's Schools and Mosques

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: In UC Allahabad, Chairman Sain Abdul Rahman Panhwar, along with PPP District President and MPA Dadu Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq and MPA Johi Syed Saleh Shah Jilani, distributed solar panels, batteries, and plates to all government schools and mosques. Guests were honored with caps and Ajraks. The ceremony highlighted UC Allahabad's development efforts, and local issues, including road repairs and infrastructure needs, were raised. MPA Jilani assured prompt resolution of these problems. The event emphasized PPP's commitment to public service, education, youth employment, and ensuring basic rights for the local community. Local leaders and dignitaries also attended.

Mehar Labor Union Joins Chorus Against WAPDA Privatization

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: The Hydro Labor Union held a strong protest against WAPDA privatization in Mithi, with employees gathering from Mehar Division Office to Beto Road. Leaders including Division Chairman Haji Hussain Bux Jatoi, Zonal Joint Secretary Faheem Aslam Shaikh, Divisional General Secretary Niaz Bhutto, and others addressed the rally. They stated that privatization is unacceptable and vowed to continue protests at both national and divisional levels. The union demanded an immediate halt to privatization, warning that employees would take to the roads if the government ignored their concerns.

Sindh Govt Launches Free Medical Camps to Combat Dengue and Malaria Outbreaks

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: MPA and Sindh Chief Minister's Rehabilitation Advisor, Gianchand Israni, has launched free medical camps across Sindh to combat dengue, malaria, and other diseases. Camps were established in districts including Tharparkar, Dadu, Thatta, Badin, Jamshoro, Shikarpur, Sujawal, Umerkot, Sanghar, Larkana, and Jacobabad. Mobile medical units also served remote areas like Kohistan, Thano Bula Khan, Sari, and Nooriabad, offering free tests, treatment, and medicines. Esrani highlighted the PPP's commitment to public welfare, pledging continued service to citizens following the party's manifesto.

Car Dealer Jailed in Badin Over Bounced Cheque Scam

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A local court sentenced car dealer Kamal Khaskheli to 30 months imprisonment and a Rs. 45,000 fine for issuing a fake cheque worth Rs. 2 million. The verdict was announced by Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate Waqar Ahmed Panhwar in FIR No. 85/2025 filed by Muhammad Akbar Turk. The convicted dealer was shifted to District Jail Badin after sentencing.

REGIONAL TIMES
NATIONAL

PTI Senator Azam Swati Cleared in High-Profile Military Tweets Case

Islamabad: A district and sessions court in the capital delivered a significant verdict on Wednesday, exonerating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Senator Azam Swati in two high-profile cases concerning contentious tweets purportedly aimed at the military leadership.

Announcing the decision, Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka dismissed the legal actions registered under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), thereby clearing the PTI senator of all charges.

The legal proceedings originated in November 2022 when the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing filed the lawsuits. Swati was accused of posting offensive remarks against senior military officials from his official account on X, the platform previously known as Twitter.—RT/Agency

Sheikh Rasheed Barred from Umrah Despite Court-Ordered Clearance

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed was stopped at Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday from travelling to Saudi Arabia for Umrah, despite having received permission from the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench.

The immigration officials stopped Sheikh Rasheed as he was about to board his flight to Saudi Arabia.

His lawyer, Sardar Shehbaz, said that the LHC Rawalpindi Bench had issued a written order a day earlier, allowing Sheikh Rasheed to perform Umrah. The court had also directed the relevant authorities to ensure that no obstacles were created in his travel.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Kidnapped Shopkeeper Returns Home After Two-Month Ordeal

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Akram Zahrani, a shopkeeper kidnapped from Ghaghar, has returned home after two months and 18 days. He revealed that dacoits drugged him, bound him in chains, and demanded two crore rupees, two motorcycles, and two iPhones from his family. After Quranic assurances were given, the dacoits blindfolded and released him. He eventually reached his uncle's house in Larkana before returning home. His brother criticized police for inaction, while local leaders and residents held massive protests demanding his recovery.

Maryam Nawaz Extends Warm Welcome to Sikh Pilgrims Visiting Pakistan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif extended a heartfelt welcome to the Sikh community arriving in Pakistan from across the globe to participate in the celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

In her message, the Chief Minister said, "I warmly welcome the Sikh community on this memorable occasion of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary. Pakistan's borders are open for Sikhs, and we are delighted to host them in Punjab." She conveyed her best wishes to Sikhs worldwide, saying that Baba Guru Nanak's teachings of humanity, love and compassion continue to inspire people of all faiths.—RT/Agency

Shaikh Welfare Hospital Hosts Blood Donation Drive in Gulshan-e-Hadeed

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A blood donation camp was organized at Shaikh Welfare Hospital in Gulshan-e-Hadeed, collecting blood for emergency relief and thalassemia patients. Deputy Information Secretary of PPP Malir, Agha Tariq Pathan, UC Gulshan-e-Hadeed Chairman Rao Safdar Hayat, and social leader Sadruddin Shaikh visited the camp and met the staff. Project Director Yousif Dalia, Syed Zahid Kazmi, and Syed Mehdi Sani provided a detailed briefing. Agha Tariq Pathan praised party workers for participating in this charitable initiative, started as a tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto by party activists for her needy across all communities. The leaders appealed to philanthropists to support the organization financially to further its humanitarian mission and continue providing assistance to the underprivileged.

FBR Extends Manual Filing Deadline in Final Push Toward Full Digital Tax Transition

Islamabad: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has extended the deadline to November 30, 2025, for manual income tax filers, offering a critical reprieve as the authority moves to completely eliminate paper-based returns from Tax Year 2024 onwards.

In a major policy shift aimed at full digitization, the revenue authority has officially discontinued the manual filing of income tax returns. Acknowledging the challenges some individuals may face with this transition to an online platform, the board has introduced special support measures.

To ensure a smooth changeover, the FBR has established dedicated facilitation cells in all its tax offices throughout the country. These specialized units are tasked with providing both technical and legal guidance to citizens who previously submitted their returns on paper.—RT/Agency

Lashari Baloch Human Rights Welfare Organization's New Leaders Warmly Welcomed

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In Malir, the newly elected leaders of the Lashari Baloch Human Rights Welfare Organization were felicitated with traditional Ajrak and garlands by political and social leaders. President Dr. Anwar Lashari and Vice President Rais Maqbool Lashari stated that the organization's mission is to serve the poor and

Karachi Builders Unite Against Unsafe Shops — Launch "Zero Tolerance" Safety Campaign

KARACHI: At the 15th Fire Safety & Security Convention 2025, Karachi's top builders and business leaders united to demand a social boycott of shops illegally operating in residential buildings that flout fire safety laws. KCCI President Rehan Hanif launched new fire prevention guidelines, while ABAD's Syed Afzal Hameed vowed to expose violators—even fellow builders. Industry heads from SITE and KATI pledged safety training drives. Experts urged strict enforcement of fire codes, professional maintenance of high-rises, and nationwide fire safety education.—RT

SHC Bar Chief Felicitates SCBA's New President Haroon Rasheed on Victory

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Barrister Muhammad Sarfraz Ali Metlo, President of the Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA), congratulated Haroon Rasheed on his election as President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBA). Praising Rasheed's commitment to justice, legal profession, and the rule of law, Metlo called his election a reflection of the confidence and unity of the legal community. Leaders from Sindh Bar Council, Pakistan Lawyers Forum, National Democratic Lawyers Forum, Human Rights Foundation of Pakistan, Karachi Bar Association, and other legal bodies also extended their congratulations, emphasizing the need for lawyers to remain united to uphold the dignity of the profession and the supremacy of law.

CM Murad Calls on Nation to 'Redefine the Future' Through Innovation and Inclusion

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, addressing The Future Summit 2025, urged Pakistan to shift toward innovation-driven, inclusive, and sustainable growth. He highlighted Sindh's transformation through IT parks, green energy, and urban renewal, calling human capital the nation's most vital infrastructure. Shah reaffirmed commitments to digital reforms, inclusivity, and global governance standards. Praising public-private collaboration, he said, "Let Sindh be the launchpad of a new narrative — one of innovation, integrity, and inclusion."

Sindh High Court Orders Courier Firm to Pay Up After Six-Year Legal Battle

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has dismissed an appeal filed by a private courier company against the Consumer Court's decision and directed the firm to compensate a customer six years after his mobile phone was lost during delivery.

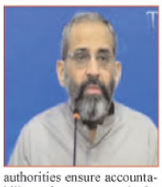
During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel informed the court that the Consumer Court had earlier imposed a fine of Rs45,000 on the courier company for losing the customer's mobile phone, which was sent from Karachi to Lahore but never reached its destination. —RT/Agency

Nationwide Internet Slowdown Hits Businesses and Frustrates Users

KARACHI: Internet users across Pakistan are facing significant slowdowns during peak hours, with both individuals and businesses reporting connectivity issues nationwide.

According to media reports, the problem stems from disruptions in two undersea cable routes and increased data traffic on the remaining submarine cables linking Pakistan to the global internet network. The slowdown is most noticeable between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m., severely affecting users of various ISPs and mobile networks.—RT/Agency

Jamaat-e-Islami Takes Karachi's E-Challan System Battle to Court



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has filed a petition challenging Karachi's e-challan system, alleging that it is being misused to extort money from citizens.

JI Karachi Ameer Munim Zafar stated that the system, introduced to improve traffic management, has instead become a source of harassment and financial exploitation for the public. He argued that citizens are being issued unfair fines without proper verification or transparency.

Zafar demanded that the Sindh government and traffic authorities ensure accountability and transparency in the system, calling for a fair mechanism that serves public welfare rather than burdening the people of Karachi. —RT/Agency

Tortured Body Found Dumped Near Karachi's Raxer Bridge

KARACHI: A tortured body was recovered near Raxer Bridge in Karachi, rescue officials confirmed on Wednesday.

According to initial reports, the body was found inside an under-construction building with visible signs of torture. The victim's hands and feet were tied, and a rope was found around the neck, suggesting possible strangulation.

Rescue teams shifted the body to Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal procedures. Officials said the victim appears to be around 35 years old, but his identity has not yet been established.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Toba Tek Singh DC Warns Hoarders and Price Manipulators of Swift Action

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela stated that those overcharging the public will face strict action. Addressing a meeting of Price Control Magistrates, he emphasized that essential commodities must be sold at officially fixed rates, in line with CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's relief vision. Assistant Director Zahid Sharif reported over 65,000 inspections last week, resulting in fines exceeding Rs. 365,000. Flour, sugar, tomatoes, and bread prices were closely monitored. Shopkeepers were directed to prominently display official price lists to avoid penalties.

Narowal Police Record Major Gains in Month-Long Crackdown Operations

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Narowal Police, under the supervision of DPO Narowal, showcased remarkable performance in October 2025, conducting extensive operations under the National Action Plan. During the month, 103 proclaimed offenders, 54 court absconders, and 406 other suspects were arrested. Two criminal gangs were busted, with four members arrested and stolen property worth Rs 2.65 million recovered. Crackdowns on drug and arms traffickers led to the seizure of 29 kg hashish, 2.14 kg heroin, 147 grams ice, 280 liters liquor, and numerous firearms. Overall, stolen property worth Rs 44.25 million was recovered. DPO emphasized zero tolerance for crime and a safe, drug-free environment for youth.

Public Grievances Heard Directly in Zafarwal's Open Katchery Initiative

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Following directions from the Provincial Ombudsman Punjab, an open katchery was conducted at the Assistant Commissioner Office ZAFARWAL, chaired by Advisor to the Ombudsman Punjab, Nadeem Sarwar. Over 30 public complaints concerning various government departments were addressed, with immediate instructions issued to the relevant officials for resolution. AC ZAFARWAL Imran Ranjha, DSP Syed Asif Gilani, Coordinator Sabir Kabir, Tehsildar Muhammad Bilal, and SHO Hafiz Muhammad Asim also attended. Nadeem Sarwar emphasized that open courts and awareness sessions are held regularly, with free complaint filing, SMS updates, and a future mobile van service planned for union council–level grievance redressal.

Toba Tek Singh's Tahafuz Markaz and Misaq Center Win Praise for Public Service Efforts

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under DPO Ibadat Nisar, the Police Tahafuz Markaz and Misaq Center actively assisted citizens in October 2025. The Tahafuz Markaz helped 214 individuals, providing FIR copies, missing person reports, police verifications, tenant registrations, and legal guidance. Over 20 women and transgender persons were registered under the Benazir Income Support Programme, and 4 children of destitute women received free school admission. Meanwhile, the Misaq Center served 147 minority citizens with police verifications, character certificates, and other support services. DPO Nisar stressed timely service for all.

Accidental Firing at Narowal School Leaves Three Students Injured

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Panic erupted in a private school in Ali Abad, Narowal, when a student accidentally fired a pistol, injuring three classmates. Police quickly arrived and arrested the student. The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment. Authorities revealed the weapon was brought from the student's home. A case has been registered against two students and the school principal, and further investigations are ongoing. The incident sparked concern among parents and the local community.

Gujranwala Court Hands Down Sentences in 2023 Libyan Boat Tragedy Case

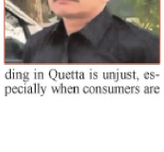
By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Following DG Raja Riffat Mukhtar's instructions, the Special Judge Central Gujranwala, Muhammad Naeem Shaikh, sentenced Nadeem Aslam and Muhammad Aslam to 20 years imprisonment with hard labor and a fine of Rs 14 lac each in connection with the 2023 Libyan boat accident. The convicts attempted to illegally send a citizen, Allah Dutta, from Libya to Italy for Rs 25 lac. The incident caused the citizen to go missing. Co-accused Muhammad Mumtaz had previously received a similar sentence. The case was handled by FIA's Asst. Director Legal Isfahan Akram King.

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

BNP (Awami) Slams Gas Shortages Crippling Balochistan's Winter Supply

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai



BOLAN/BHAG: With the arrival of winter, severe gas shortages and low pressure have made life miserable for citizens in Balochistan. Dr. Nashnas Lehri, Central Secretary Information of BNP (Awami), said gas load-shedding in Quetta is unjust, especially when consumers are regularly billed without proper supply. He added that low gas pressure has caused household accidents, claiming lives. Dr. Lehri urged the government and SSGC to restore uninterrupted gas supply or face a province-wide BNP (Awami) protest movement.

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EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, November 06, 2025

America Turns the Page: A Brighter Political Dawn Beyond Trump's Shadow

The results of the 2025 off-year elections have signaled nothing short of a seismic shift in American politics — one that promises to move the nation beyond the chaos, division, and personality-driven politics of the Trump era. From New York to California, and across Virginia and New Jersey, voters resoundingly chose pragmatism, progress, and renewal over polarization and fatigue.

In New York City, Zohran Mamdani's stunning victory over Andrew Cuomo and Curtis Sliwa was more than a local upset — it was a cultural and generational reckoning. The 34-year-old progressive's message of affordability, equity, and bold reform resonated in a metropolis weary of elitist politics. His triumph embodies the rebirth of grassroots activism — a rejection of cynicism and complacency that once paralyzed the Democratic Party.

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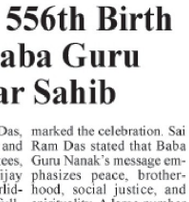
Meanwhile, California's Gavin Newsom celebrated a defining win with Proposition 50, a redistricting measure designed to counter Republican gerrymandering. His move underscored a new Democratic assertiveness — one that refuses to play defense in the face of Trump's relentless manipulation of the political map.

Equally significant were the double-digit victories of moderates Abigail Spanberger in Virginia and Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey. Their campaigns, grounded in economic realism and a commitment to lower costs for working families, revealed a Democratic Party capable of uniting its progressive and centrist wings.

Together, these wins mark a turning point: Americans are rejecting division and demanding leadership that heals, not inflames. The electorate's message is clear — the Trump era's politics of grievance have run their course. In their place emerges a new American center-left coalition — bold yet pragmatic, idealistic yet grounded — ready to reclaim the nation's promise and restore sanity to its democracy.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Matiari Villagers Block Highway in Furious Protest Against Evictions

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Villagers of Bacho Jaffarani in Matiari staged a strong protest on the national highway after irrigation officials and AC Matiari attempted to remove alleged illegal encroachments on government land. Residents, including women, resisted demolition, claiming their homes are 164 feet away from irrigation land and that they have electricity, water, and voter cards. The protest, led by the Khosa community, blocked the highway, causing long traffic queues and hardship for travelers. SHO Matiari Karam Umrani tried to negotiate, but villagers refused to disperse, demanding a fresh land survey and protection of innocent residents' homes.

Sindh Govt Grants Rs 20 Lakhs Relief to Families of Drowning Victims

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The Sindh government has issued cheques of Rs 20 lac each to the families of five people who drowned in different areas of Thul. A distribution ceremony was held at the office of Assistant Commissioner Thar, Abbas Sadhayo, who presided over the event. Special guests included MPA Dr. Sohrab Khan Sarki and District Council Chairman Tahir Hussain Khoso. The deceased included 8-year-old Asma, 10-year-old Zahidan, 9-year-old Abubakar, 20-year-old Umair Lashari, and another victim. Dr. Sohrab Sarki said the compensation expresses the government's moral and financial support, though it cannot replace lost lives. AC Abbas Sadhayo emphasized that the administration is committed to supporting families during disasters. Families thanked the government and officials for their assistance.

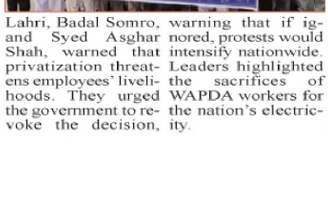
Tributes Pour In for Late Sardar Haji Arz Muhammad Khan Banglani

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Condolences continue following the death of renowned social and political figure Sardar Haji Arz Muhammad Khan Banglani. Prominent personalities, including Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Khan Talpur's grandchildren, MPA Nawabzada Tamoor Khan Talpur's sons, Nawabzada Shamir Khan Talpur, and Sardar Raja Khasikhail from Sanjar Khan Banglani village, visited the family to offer sympathy. Guests praised the late leader's lifelong contributions to public welfare, offered special prayers in his memory, and stated that his services to the community will always be remembered.

Jacobabad WAPDA Workers Rally Against Power Sector Privatization

By Muhammad Ali Surhio



JACOBABAD: WAPDA employees staged a protest against potential privatization in Jacobabad, organized by the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro-Electric Workers Union. Dozens of SEPCO staff rallied from the office to hold a sit-in outside the WAPDA office. Union leaders, including Adnan Lashari, Ahmed Nawaz Lashari, Niaz Abro, Rahim Dad Lahri, Badal Somro, and Syed Asghar Shah, warned that privatization threatens employees' livelihoods. They urged the government to revoke the decision, warning that if ignored, protests would intensify nationwide. Leaders highlighted the sacrifices of WAPDA workers for the nation's electricity.

Tando Allahyar Resident Fights Back Against Land Mafia Encroachment

By Afaque Khanzada

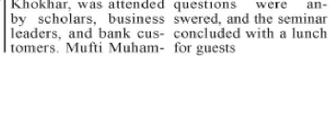
TANDO ALLAHYAR: Residents of Koro Daidano village staged a protest against the alleged harassment by an influential individual. Village resident Wazir Dawodani claimed he leased agricultural land to Dost Muhammad alias Khudadad Pathan for five years, but the man now demands excessive payments and occupies 52 acres. Dawodani alleged threats to his life, illegal Afghan settlements, ID card fraud, and usurious business practices. He appealed to IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, SSP Tando Allahyar, and the Pakistan Army to take legal action and restore his land.

Jamshoro DC Orders Tough Security Crackdown on Crime and Illicit Trade

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, chaired a high-level District Coordination Apex Committee meeting at Darbar Hall, issuing strict orders to enforce law and order across the district. Officials were instructed to tighten security at sensitive areas, enhance university gate checks, and conduct crackdowns on illegal petrol pumps, human trafficking, narcotics, and unregistered madrassas. Joint coordination among departments, including police, FIA, NADRA, and social welfare, was emphasized to ensure peace and zero tolerance for lawbreakers.

Meezan Bank Promotes Faith-Based Finance in Islamic Banking Seminar



By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Meezan Bank Nawabshah Area organized a seminar on Islamic banking at Al-Madina Marriage Hall in Mehar, led by Senior Area Manager Saeed Ahmed Jatoi. The event, hosted by Mehar Branch Manager Amjad Ali Khokhar, was attended by scholars, business leaders, and bank customers. Mufti Muhammad Naveed, Meezan Bank's Shariah scholar, explained that Islam permits halal trade but forbids interest-based business. He highlighted the principles of Islamic banking, its impact on the economy, and how it avoids interest, focusing on real trade-based contracts. Participants' questions were answered, and the seminar concluded with a lunch for guests

Devotees Celebrate 556th Birth Anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak at Darbar Sahib

By Hasnain Shahid Channa

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: The 556th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak was celebrated with great devotion at Darbar Sahib Baba Jamnadas Udasi in Naushehro Feroze. The presiding leader, Sai Ram Das, cut the ceremonial cake and carried the palki. Devotees, including Bhagat Vijay Kumar and Bhagat Murlidhar, participated in full-music satsang. Kirtans, aarti, and prayers were also performed, and fireworks marked the celebration. Sai Ram Das stated that Baba Guru Nanak's message emphasizes peace, brotherhood, social justice, and spirituality. A large number of devotees attended the ceremony to pay their respects.

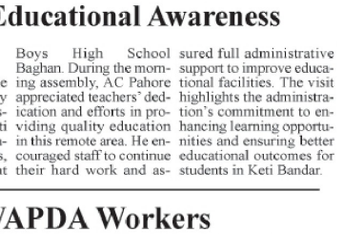
PPP Leaders Extend Condolences on Passing of Sardar Ali Nawaz Mahar's Mother

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: PPP youth leader Sardarzada Jam Changez Khan Unar, Chairman Town Committee Qazi Ahmed, along with PPP leaders visited Khangarh to offer condolence with Sardar Ali Goher Khan Mahar and Sardar Ali Nawaz Khan alias Raja Khan Mahar on the demise of their mother. They offered prayers for the departed soul. The visit was attended by political and social figures, including Raees Mir Ismail Khan Marri, Nadir Ali Memon, and Imtiaz Ali Khaskheli, and also included meetings with local community leaders.

Commissioner Larkana Reviews Strategy for Upcoming Measles-Rubella, OPV Campaign

By Saleem Soomro



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Tahir Hussain Sangi, chaired a meeting on the upcoming Measles-Rubella (MR) and Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) campaign, scheduled from November 17-29. Dr. Shahid H. Khokhar, Divisional Officer EPI, reported 400 measles cases in Larkana Division this year, including three deaths. The 13-day campaign will target 8.4 million children across 1,190 union councils via schools, mobile teams, and health facilities. Commissioner Sangi urged coordination among departments, police, and schools to ensure smooth execution and maximum coverage.

AC Keti Bandar Visits Schools to Ignite Educational Awareness

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Thatta, Assistant Commissioner Keti Bandar, Sajid Hussain Pahore, visited local schools, including Government Boys High School Baghan. During the morning assembly, AC Pahore appreciated teachers' dedication and efforts in providing quality education in this remote area. He encouraged staff to continue their hard work and assured full administrative support to improve educational facilities. The visit highlights the administration's commitment to enhancing learning opportunities and ensuring better educational outcomes for students in Keti Bandar.

WAPDA Workers Demand Job Security Amid Privatization Fears

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro-Electric Workers Labor Union, Subdivision Sewan, held a strike and protest against potential WAPDA privatization. The rally, led by Union Chairman Sohail Parvez Memon, started from the HESCO office and turned into a sit-in on the Indus Highway. Protesters criticized privatization and government economic policies, demanding the decision be revoked, daily wages increased to at least Rs 50,000, 20% of recruitments restored, employees' safety ensured, the contracting system abolished, and closed powerhouses reopened.

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SPORTS

BCB Finally Speaks Out After Jahanara Alam's Explosive Allegations Rock Bangladesh Cricket

DHAKA: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has "strongly refuted" allegations of physical abuse made by fast bowler Jahanara Alam against the current national women's team captain, Nigar Sultana.

Alam, who has not featured in international cricket since December 2024, claimed in an interview with Bangladeshi newspaper Kaler Kantho that Sultana had "beat up" her teammates.

In an official statement, the BCB dismissed the accusations as "baseless, fabricated, and devoid of any truth."

The board expressed disappointment that such "derogatory and scandalous claims" were made at a time when the Bangladesh women's team has been showing "commendable progress and unity on the international stage."

"The BCB categorically and strongly refutes these allegations, which are baseless, fabricated and devoid of any truth," the board said in a statement.

"The Board finds it unfortunate that such derogatory and scandalous claims have been made at a time when the Bangladesh Women's Team is showing commendable progress and unity on the international stage.—Agency

Luis Díaz Dazzles as Bayern Triumphs Over PSG in Red-Card Thriller

PARIS: Luis Díaz's first-half brace helped Bayern Munich maintain their flawless start to the season with a 2-1 win over defending champions Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in the UEFA Champions League at the Parc des Princes.

Vincent Kompany's side have now won 16 consecutive matches across all competitions, including four straight victories in Europe, to finish top of their group.

Díaz struck early in the fourth minute, finishing sharply after Bayern's high press forced an error in the PSG defence. The Colombian doubled their lead in the 32nd minute, dispossessing Marquinhos before finishing calmly.

However, the 28-year-old night ended on a sour note when he was sent off on the stroke of half-time for a dangerous tackle from behind on Achraf Hakimi. The initial yellow card was upgraded to a red following a VAR review.

Hakimi left the pitch in tears and later departed the stadium on crutches, wearing a protective boot, which raised concerns about his availability for the Africa Cup of Nations in December.

PSG captain Marquinhos confirmed that initial medical assessments had been conducted, and further scans were required.—Agency

Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi Slide Down ICC ODI Rankings After Latest Update

Pakistan's newly appointed one-day international (ODI) captain Shaheen Afridi and star batter Babar Azam have fallen in the latest ICC rankings of the 50-over format, while several other national players have made notable advancements.

In the batting rankings, Babar Azam dropped one position to fifth, holding 728 rating points. Meanwhile, wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and opener Fakhar Zaman each gained a spot, now positioned at 23rd and 26th, respectively.

Middle-order batsman Salman Ali Agha jumped nine places to 30th with 569 points after his pivotal performance against South Africa in the series opener.

Left-handed opener Imam-ul-Haq slipped one spot to 42nd, whereas young opener Saim Ayub retained his position at 53rd with 509 points.

India's Rohit Sharma has retained his position as the top-ranked ODI batter, with Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran holding on to second place.

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell moved up two spots to third, pushing India's Shubman Gill down to fourth.

In the bowling charts, Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi slipped one place to 15th with 587 points, while fellow pacer Naseem Shah surged 10 positions to 33rd with 524 points.—Agency

Mohammad Ashraful Returns to Spotlight with Key Role in Bangladesh Cricket Setup

DHAKA: Former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful has been appointed as the national team's new assistant coach, replacing Mohammad Salahuddin.

Ashraful, who remains one of Bangladesh's most iconic cricketers, etched his name into history when he led the Tigers to a stunning upset victory over Australia in 2005 at just 20 years of age.

That memorable century was among the highlights of a career that spanned 177 ODIs, where he scored 3,468 runs, the fifth-highest tally for Bangladesh.

He also featured in 61 Tests, becoming the youngest player to score a Test century, and played 23 T20Is. Ashraful continued to compete in domestic cricket until as recently as two years ago.

Salahuddin, who took up the assistant coach role in November 2024 to support head coach Phil Simmons, had been in charge of the batting unit.

With nearly three decades of coaching experience across various levels in Bangladesh, he was credited with nurturing many of the country's current stars.

However, a difficult 2025 campaign, marked by T20I series losses to the UAE, Pakistan, and West Indies, ODI defeats to Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, and Test losses against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, intensified scrutiny on the team's performance and management.

In July, Salahuddin publicly addressed speculation about player dissatisfaction, saying, "After coaching for 27–28 years, I am hearing there are lots of complaints in the team against me. I would really like to know about those complaints, best if it was given to me in writing."

Ashraful's own journey has seen both triumphs and challenges. In 2013, he was handed a lengthy ban from all Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) related activities for match-fixing in the Bangladesh Premier League.

After serving his suspension, he was reinstated in 2016 and has since transitioned into coaching.

Just last month, Ashraful criticised the lack of consistency among Bangladesh's top-order batters, a concern he will now have the opportunity to address directly in his new role.—Agency

Top Pakistan Test Star Hints at Shocking Retirement After High-Level PCB Talks

Veteran Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah has hinted that his illustrious cricket career may be nearing its end, revealing that he is contemplating retirement following discussions with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

In a recent interview with a local news outlet, the 39-year-old confirmed that he has opted out of domestic cricket this season, suggesting that a formal announcement regarding his future could be imminent.

"I am not playing domestic cricket this year. God willing, I will finalise my decision after meeting with the PCB," Yasir said.

One of Pakistan's most successful Test bowlers of the modern era, Yasir represented the country in 48 Tests, claiming 244 wickets at an average of 31.38.

His dominance in UAE conditions, where Pakistan played their home Tests for nearly a decade, was particularly noteworthy as he claimed 116 wickets at an impressive average of 24.56.

The veteran last represented Pakistan in a Test match in 2022 against Sri Lanka in Galle and made his final ODI appearance in 2019 against England in Southampton.

Yasir also holds the prestigious record of being the fastest bowler to reach 200 Test wickets, achieving the feat in just 33 matches.

Reflecting on the current national team, the seasoned spinner expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's recent performances.

"The Pakistan team is doing well. They have won their last two T20 matches. Our prayers are always with them," he stated.

When asked about Mohammad Rizwan's recent removal from the ODI captaincy and earlier exclusion from the T20 squad, Yasir responded with empathy, relating it to his own experiences of being sidelined despite strong performances.

"Our effort as players is always to perform for Pakistan. Rizwan is doing that as well. Whichever player the selectors choose as captain, the entire team supports him," he remarked.

The veteran further addressed his absence from the national setup, suggesting that his exclusion was not due to poor performance.

"Sometimes these things happen. My performances were good. Earlier, I had a knee injury, and they assumed it had returned. I told them that if fitness was the issue, they should conduct a fitness test. But no such reason was officially given," Yasir explained.—Agency

Shane Bieber Reportedly Staying with Toronto Blue Jays for 2026 Season

TORONTO: Right-handed pitcher Shane Bieber has decided to remain with the Toronto Blue Jays, exercising his $16 million player option for the 2026 season instead of testing free agency, international media reported.

Although Bieber could likely have secured a bigger contract on the open market, he chose to return to Toronto to build on the team's recent success after narrowly missing out on a World Series championship.

The American originally signed a two-year, $26 million deal with the Cleveland Guardians last winter.

While recovering from elbow surgery, he was nearing a return to Cleveland after four Minor League rehab starts when the Guardians traded him to Toronto at the deadline in exchange for pitching prospect Khal Stephen.

The 30-year-old made seven regular-season starts for the Blue Jays in 2025, posting a 3.57 ERA, and added five postseason appearances, including a victory in Game 4 of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Bieber's performance resembled his previous seven seasons with Cleveland, showing a slight increase in fastball velocity, averaging 92.7 mph, nearly back to his 2021 level of 92.9 mph.

Over his career, the two-time All-Star holds a 66–34 record in 141 starts, along with a 3.24 ERA and 995 strikeouts.

He also captured the Cy Young Award during the shortened 2020 season, finishing 8–1 with a 1.63 ERA and an AL-leading 122 strikeouts.

With Max Scherzer and Chris Bassitt both entering free agency after the 2025 campaign, Bieber's return provides much-needed stability for Toronto's rotation.—Agency

Swiatek and Anisimova Set for High-Stakes WTA Finals Clash of Champions

RIYADH: Iga Swiatek and Amanda Anisimova are set for a must-win clash at the WTA Finals on Wednesday, with a semi-final berth at stake following early defeats to Elena Rybakina in the Serena Williams group.

The winner of this high-stakes encounter will join Rybakina in the final four.

Both players enter the match under pressure, as Rybakina's victories over each have left no margin for error in the round-robin stage.

Earlier in the tournament, Rybakina defeated Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the opening round, before dismantling Swiatek 6-3, 1-6, 6-0.

The upcoming contest is expected to be tense, with the opening set likely to play a decisive role in shaping momentum.

Statistically, Swiatek holds a significant edge in such situations — the 24-year-old boasts a 54-2 record this season when winning the first set.

Conversely, Anisimova has found it difficult to mount comebacks, managing just a 3-20 record after losing the opener.

Meanwhile, in the Stefanie Graf group, the semi-final picture remains unclear, though Aryna Sabalenka leads her pool after back-to-back victories.

Rybakina currently tops the Serena Williams group and awaits the winner of Swiatek versus Anisimova in the semi-finals. The victor will then face the second-placed player from the Graf group for a place in the final.—Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sharjeel Rolls Out 14,000-Acre Farmer Aid Plan — Promises Prosperity and Rule of Law

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced a major relief package for farmers on Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's instructions. The provincial government will provide Rs 14,000 per acre for DAP fertilizer and, after wheat verification, an additional Rs 8,000 for urea. Over 419,000 farmers are already benefiting through the "Hari Card." Memon also lauded the new e-challan system, reaffirmed PPP's commitment to the Constitution, and vowed strict action against lawbreakers — declaring all citizens equal before the law.—RT

Pakistan Navy Closely Watching Regional Developments, Says Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz

KARACHI: Chief of Naval Staff (Operations), Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz, has said that the Pakistan Navy is closely monitoring regional developments and maintaining operational readiness to safeguard the nation's maritime interests.

Speaking at the Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference, Vice Admiral Nawaz emphasized the importance of maritime awareness in ensuring national security and stability amid evolving geopolitical challenges.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

ENTERTAINMENT

Charli XCX Admits She Thought 'Brat' Album Was Doomed Before Its Rise

Charli XCX thought her label might drop her over her 2024 highly successful album Brat.

The 32-year-old singer spoke to Gwyneth Paltrow on the actress's Goop podcast about her mindset while making the record.

"I actually made this record being like, 'OK, I'm just going to do this one for me,'" she told Gwyneth.

"Maybe I'm going to get dropped by my label and that's fine'. That was kind of the headspace that I was in," the Speed Drive hitmaker added.

The album, released on 7 June 2024, took the top spot in the UK and reached the top 10 in 14 other countries, earning nine Grammy nominations and winning three.

Following the release of the Brat album, Charli's electronic-pop tracks dominated charts and even inspired a viral Apple dance trend, with fans embracing the "Brat summer" cultural movement.

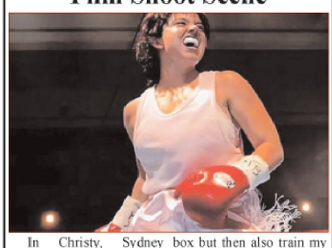
In March she conquered the Brit Awards, winning five categories including songwriter of the year.

She also secured album of the year, artist of the year, dance act and song of the year for her track Guess featuring Billie Eilish.

Her next album, the singer said, will be "inherently" different from Brat.

"I really like to work in contrast. I think whatever I do next will just inherently be different to Brat because that's what feels natural," she said.

Sydney Sweeney Suffers Bloody Nose in Intense Film Shoot Scene



In Christy, Sydney Sweeney has given herself entirely to the role. As she now reveals, she was so committed that the fights in the scene she had were real.

"Christy's so powerful, so all of the girls let me hit them and they hit me," the star shares at the screening of the movie in Los Angeles. "There were some bloody noses. I had some concussions. It was the real deal. It was amazing."

The Anyone But You star, who has previously taken kickboxing, opens up about learning boxing.

"The stance is different from kickboxing, the technique is a little different," says the actress, noting, "I had to retrain my brain to box but then also train my brain to fight like Christy."

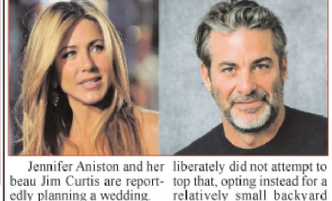
Sydney, in her words, was so committed to the role of Christy Salters that when the real-life character came to the set to watch the fighting scenes, she overwhelmingly liked it.

"She did pretty good," the boxing champion adds. "You have to twist the arm on that left hook, but I think you stuck your tongue out a couple times. So I'm in the back watching, I'm like, 'Oh my goodness,' but I did that."

Meanwhile, David Michôd serves as the director and Mirrah Foulkes pens the script.

Christy opens in theatres on Nov. 7.

Jennifer Aniston and Jim Curtis' Wedding Plans Feel Straight Out of a Romance Novel



Jennifer Aniston and her beau Jim Curtis are reportedly planning a wedding.

Just a day after duo made their relationship Instagram official, insiders have spilled about their growing romance.

Sources told RadarOnline that the Friends alum and Curtis are talking marriage.

They went on to share that while Aniston used to say she already had her dream wedding with now-ex husband Brad Pitt, she wants to do it "right" this time.

The source said, "Jen used to say she already had her dream wedding when she and Brad Pitt married in Malibu 25 years ago."

Adding, "When she married Justin Theroux, she deliberately did not attempt to top that, opting instead for a relatively small backyard affair."

"But Jim has become a ray of sunshine in Jen's life and with him comes the chance to finally do it right," the source noted.

Moreover, the sources also revealed how she wants her wedding to be, saying, "She wants a wedding where they're surrounded by ancient ruins and beautiful natural landscapes."

"It's like something out of a romance novel, but that's where Jen's head is at as this relationship intensifies. She can't help herself," they added. "More than that, she loves the idea of sunrise vows overlooking the Aegean Sea."

Kids' Corner

Name: Sheeraz Sajjad Chandio
Location: Nawabshah
About me: I love my parents up to the Moon and back!

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

15 Injured as Truck and Trawler Collide Near Ansari Sugar Mills

TALHAR: Fifteen people, including women and children, were injured when a truck collided with a trawler near Ansari Sugar Mills on Zardari Road. The injured, reportedly from the Kolhi community, were immediately shifted to a local hospital for treatment. They had traveled from Umarkot, Chhachhro, and Jamesabad to various areas in Badin district for sugarcane harvesting labor and were returning to their villages after completing their work. The injured included individuals named Limon, Uroja, Khemho, Sali, Ravanti, and Miran.—RT

DC Tando Allahyar Conducts Surprise Inspection at District Hospital

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Noor Mustafa Laghari, conducted a surprise visit to the District Headquarters Hospital Tando Allahyar to review the services being provided. During the visit, he inspected various wards, the pharmacy, and the laboratory, checking medicine availability and attendance registers of doctors and paramedical staff. He instructed that all hospital staff ensure 24-hour presence and maintain strict cleanliness to prevent any inconvenience for patients visiting the hospital.

Terrified Young Couple Seeks Court Protection After Death Threats in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A couple from nearby Chandar Roop Mayo village approached Tando Allahyar Press Club seeking protection after receiving threats from relatives. Kanwal and Muhammad Shakir Mayo, who married according to Islamic law, told journalists that their families and other relatives are threatening to kill them and frame them in false cases. They appealed to IG Sindh Police, DIG Hyderabad Range, SSP Tando Allahyar, and human rights organizations to provide security and safeguard their lives.

Hyderabad Lawyers Rally for Justice in Mahmir Tunio Case

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The family and community of Mahmir Tunio, allegedly killed in a police encounter in Karachi, approached Hyderabad High Court seeking justice. Advocate Ayaz Tunio, a Sindh Bar Council election winner, has taken up the case demanding a judicial inquiry and accountability for involved police officers. Mahmir Tunio, a 46-year-old technician from Naushehro Feroze, was reportedly shot by Gulshan Iqbal Police while carrying funds to buy equipment for his hair transplant center. Community leaders condemned the killing and praised Advocate Ayaz Tunio's legal commitment and recent electoral success.

STP Honors RT's Yousif Rind in Recognition Ceremony

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The Sindh Tarqipasand Party (STP) welcomed senior journalist and RT Correspondent in NWM, Muhammad Yousif Rind, recognized for his excellent reporting on city affairs during a reception hosted in his honor. The ceremony, led by STP local leaders, also saw the inclusion of individuals from diverse schools of thought, including Fateh Muhammad Chandio, Ali Muhammad Chandio, Rajesh Sindhi, Prabhu Sindhi, Zulfiqar Sindhi, and Diwan Sindhi. The inductees took their oath under STP local organizer Qurban Mahar, while Chief Organizer Ali Nawaz Brohi and other senior leaders attended the ceremony.

Haji Ishaq Sangrasi Takes Charge as SHO of Darya Khan Rind Police Station

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: SSP Sanghar, Abid Baloch, has appointed well-reputed police inspector Haji Ishaq Sangrasi as the new SHO of Darya Khan Rind Police Station in Shahdadpur Tehsil. The previous SHO, Jabar Lahori, was directed to submit a line report. Haji Ishaq Sangrasi has assumed charge and stated that maintaining law and order is his top priority, and efforts against criminals and anti-social elements will be intensified.

Larkana DIG Plots Overhaul of City's Traffic System

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: DIG Larkana, Nasir Aftab Pathan, chaired a meeting to improve the traffic system, attended by traffic sergeants from all five districts of Larkana Division. He said violations like one-way disobedience, underage driving, unregistered or unlit vehicles, and dangerous overtaking are serious offenses. Traffic sergeants were instructed to run awareness campaigns, and citizens were urged to follow traffic laws to ensure their own and others' safety.

WAPDA Employees Stage Fresh Protests Over Power Privatization Plan

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Hundreds of WAPDA employees, led by Faisal Hayat, Ghulam Hyder Khaskheli, and Imran Siddique, protested against the privatization of electricity distribution companies. The union warned that privatization could cause massive unemployment and harm the economy. They demanded immediate halt to privatization, timely payment of dues, regularization of contract workers, additional staffing, and protection of employees' rights, threatening nationwide protests if ignored.

Hyderabad Police Crackdown Nabs Nine, Recovers Stolen Cars and Contraband

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police conducted citywide operations, arresting nine accused involved in house burglaries, illicit liquor supply, and illegal chewing tobacco trade. Three members of a house burglary gang were caught in Nasim Nagar with stolen gold and motorcycles. Two stolen cars from Karachi were recovered by the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell. Police also seized 830 packets of Mainpuri and 10 liters of illicit liquor, registering cases under relevant laws. Authorities confirmed ongoing investigations and pledged continued action to ensure public safety.

First Dengue Case Detected in Jhando Marri, Panic Grips Locals

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A dengue virus case has been reported in Jhando Marri, where a local youth tested positive after showing dengue symptoms. The area is now considered at risk, but the district administration and UC chairpersons have yet to start mosquito spraying operations. Locals claim that the Tando Allahyar Health Department lacks mosquito control medicines. Residents and social leaders have urged higher authorities to immediately initiate mosquito spraying in Jhando Marri and surrounding villages to protect public health.

Sukkur IBA University Hosts Integrity Awareness Session to Foster Transparency

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Sukkur IBA University organized an impactful awareness session on "National Integrity" at its Auditorium Hall. Commissioner Sukkur Division, Abid Saleem Qureshi, addressed the students as the chief guest, emphasizing that national unity is the foundation of a strong and prosperous country. He urged the youth to uphold the country's laws, embrace moral responsibility, and counter divisive narratives, calling them both the present and future of Pakistan. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Asif Ahmed Shaikh highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in shaping students' character and instilling patriotism. Both speakers encouraged students to act as ambassadors of integrity, promoting unity, ethical values, and social responsibility for a developed and united Pakistan.

Hingorja Forum Explores Nation's Shifting Political and Social Landscape

By Sajjad Chang

HANGORJA: A thoughtful forum on the prevailing political and social conditions was held in Hingorja. Addressing the gathering, Communist Party of Pakistan Secretary-General Imdad Qazi emphasized the need for unity and organizational structure to raise public awareness. He highlighted issues like corporatization of farming and foreign control over local resources, warning that powerful nations seek to exploit Pakistan's wealth. Professor Mir Munawar Talpur, President of Sindh Hari Committee, criticized major parties for abandoning public politics and warned of growing debt under IMF loans. The forum was attended by lawyers, professors, and local political activists.

Robber Shot and Captured in Kotri Site Police Encounter

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Kotri Site Police foiled a robbery attempt late last night after an exchange of fire with three suspects. One robber, identified as Nadeem, son of Abdul Latif Panhwar, was shot, injured, and arrested. Officers recovered a stolen 2025-model high-speed motorcycle and a pistol from him. The suspect was taken to a local hospital for treatment. Two accomplices escaped, and police have launched a search operation. Investigation is ongoing, and authorities are interrogating the arrested suspect to determine his involvement in prior crimes.

SSP Jamshoro Orders Inquiry After Cop Seen Dragging Woman in Viral Video

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The District Police Jamshoro has launched an immediate inquiry after a police officer was seen dragging a woman, reportedly a SIM card vendor, into a police van near Kotri police station. SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga ordered DSP Kotri Shahnawaz Jokhio to complete the investigation within 24 hours. SSP Chhanga emphasized zero tolerance for misconduct, assuring that anyone found responsible will face strict legal action. The move highlights the police's commitment to accountability and public trust.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

Army Called In as Bloodthirsty Bears Terrorize Villages in String of Deadly Attacks

JAPAN: Japan is in the grip of a terrifying bear crisis – with soldiers now being called in to help tackle an unprecedented wave of fatal attacks.

The latest victim, 79-year-old Kiyo Goto, was found dead in a forested mountain area of Akita Prefecture on Monday morning.

Police believe she was mauled to death while out picking mushrooms – a common pastime in the region.—RT/Agency

Walmart's $620,000 Power Move: CEO Turns Top Managers into 'Owners'

USA: In 2024, Walmart U.S. CEO John Furner launched a bold strategy to strengthen loyalty among top store managers — by paying them up to $620,000 annually. Speaking at a retail conference, Furner said the goal was to make managers "feel like owners" through shareholding incentives tied to company performance. The move, he noted, has transformed how leaders view profits and losses, driving a stronger sense of accountability and connection within one of the world's largest retail workforces.—RT

Australian Man Stuns Internet by Reading the World's Longest Name Without Pause

AUSTRALIA: The Australian man with the world's longest name read out his entire moniker -- featuring more than 2,000 middle names -- and it took him more than an hour to accomplish.Laurence Watkins had his name legally changed in March 1990 to include 2,251 middle names, earning the Guinness World Record for the longest personal name in the process, with 2,253 unique words.Watkins said it took the officiant at his wedding about 20 minutes to read his full name, but he attempted the feat himself for a Guinness World Records video and it took more than an hour.His name begins Laurence Alon Aloys Aloysius Alphege Alun Alured Alwyn Alysander Ambie Ambrose Ambrosius Amias Amiot Amyas Anders Andre Andrea Andreas Andrew Andy Aneirin Anguish Anleifr -- and those aren't even all of the names beginning with "A."—RT/Agency

Children's Book Returned to Maine Library Nearly Half a Century After Checkout

CANADA: A former Maine resident returned to the town she used to call home so she could return a library book that had been due back 46 years earlier.

Diana Edwards, a former resident of Camden, Maine, said she was packing up her books for a move from Massachusetts to New Hampshire when she came across a copy of Bunches and Bunches of Bunnies, written by Louise Mathews and illustrated by Jeni Bassett.

The book had been checked out from the Camden Public Library and had a due date of Aug. 10, 1979.

"My children and I lived on Pearl Street from the mid-1970s to around 1984 when we moved to Vermont. Those bunnies have been traveling with me since then," Edwards told the Midcoast Villager newspaper.

Amy Hand, the library's director of youth services, recounted the story of the book's return in an Instagram video. She said the book will be used for future story time sessions.—RT/Agency

Quick-Thinking Heroes Use Traffic Cone to Save Drowning Raccoon from Ocean Peril

SOUTH CAROLINA: A couple taking a sunrise walk along the shore of the Atlantic Ocean in South Carolina ended up using a traffic cone to rescue a raccoon struggling to swim.

Will DeLeo and Elizabeth Heffron were walking along the shore in Charleston recently when they spotted a raccoon struggling in the water below.

They watched as the exhausted animal tried without success to find an exit from the water, so they decided to step in and help.A video posted to Instagram shows DeLeo bring a nearby traffic cone to the ledge and lower it into the water, allowing the raccoon to grab hold.DeLeo was finally able lift the raccoon back onto dry land after it slipped off the cone multiple times.The raccoon took a moment to rest on the ledge before running away from the scene.—RT/Agency

MaineHealth Issues Apology After Sending Death Notices to Over 500 Living Patients

Officials for Maine's largest healthcare provider have apologized for sending their condolences to hundreds of people who are still alive.

A computer system error caused MaineHealth officials to send letters of condolence to more than 500 living people to inform their next of kin of their reported deaths. MaineHealth, the state's largest provider of medical services, sent the false condolence letters to 531 people on Oct. 20, WCSH reported.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

PPP CEC to Take Final Call on Landmark Constitutional Amendment: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Senior provincial minister Sharjeel Memon on Wednesday said that amendments introduced to improve the constitution.

Talking to media Sindh's minister said that Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto take all decisions in consultation with the party over to support any matter or not.

He said the PML-N leadership has contacted the PPP leaders seeking support for the 27th amendment legislation. "The CEC will decide on which amendment to be supported and which not," minister said.

Sharjeel Memon said that the party will take the stance what the decision will be taken by the party's CEC. The party committee will thoroughly discuss each point of the amendment and will take decision .—RT

Passenger with Suspected Monkeypox Rushed to Karachi Hospital for Treatment

KARACHI: A passenger arriving from Saudi Arabia on a foreign airline flight has shown symptoms consistent with the monkeypox virus, according to a report by Geo News.

Health officials at Karachi airport conducted screening procedures after the passenger complained of fever and developed rashes on the body. The individual reportedly had a continuous fever for the past five days.

Following the detection of symptoms, the Sindh government transferred the passenger to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in NIPA for further medical examination and isolation.

Authorities are monitoring the case closely, while laboratory tests are being carried out to confirm whether the passenger is infected with the monkeypox virus. Preventive measures at airports have been reinforced to ensure public health safety. —RT/Agency

Algeria Invites Pakistan to Become Africa's Gateway for Trade and Investment

KARACHI: Algeria's Ambassador to Pakistan has extended a strong invitation to Pakistan's business community to invest in the rapidly expanding Algerian economy, describing the country as a strategic "gateway to Africa." The announcement came during a reception in Islamabad marking Algeria's 71st National Day, attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, along with diplomats and dignitaries, according to a press release from the Algerian Embassy.

The Ambassador emphasized the historic solidarity between the two nations, recalling Pakistan's early support during Algeria's independence struggle. Highlighting Algeria's economic renaissance, he noted a 4.1% growth rate in 2024 and projected GDP of $400 billion by 2027.

Inviting Pakistani investors, he outlined Algeria's new investment law offering equal rights and tax incentives for foreign investors, positioning the country as a vital link between Africa, Europe, and Asia.—RT

PTA Chairman Meets DIG East to Strengthen Law and Order Coordination

KARACHI: Dr. Danish Aman, Chairman of the Pakistan Tanners Association (Southern Zone), called on Dr. Farrukh Ali, PSP, DIG East Zone, at his office to review the prevailing law and order situation in Karachi, particularly within the Korangi Industrial Area.

During the meeting, both officials discussed measures to enhance coordination between the business community and law enforcement agencies to ensure a safer industrial environment.

Dr. Danish Aman also presented the PTA's Crest to DIG East and extended a cordial invitation for a lunch meeting at the Association's office next week to continue dialogue and strengthen cooperation between the two institutions.—RT

FPCCI and ICCD Unite Diplomats in Drive for Sustainable Tourism Growth

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), in collaboration with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) and strategic partner Al Baraka Bank Pakistan, hosted a high-profile "Dialogue with Diplomats" under the Sustainable Tourism Forum (STF) initiative.

Held at the FPCCI Head Office in Karachi, the event focused on "Transforming Tourism for Community Development" and brought together ambassadors, high commissioners, consul generals, industry leaders, and policymakers to discuss innovative strategies for sustainable tourism.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted the potential of bilateral and multilateral partnerships to promote community empowerment, environmental conservation, and economic growth. A resolution was adopted to initiate a Tourism Exchange Program among Islamic countries to enhance business, trade, and cultural linkages.

Speakers, including Al Baraka Bank CEO Atif Hanif and ICCD Director Khawaja Ashraf Hussain, emphasized fostering inclusive and ethical tourism while preserving Pakistan's cultural and natural heritage. Diplomats from over a dozen countries expressed support for sustainable tourism and future collaborations in Pakistan.—RT

PTI Karachi Denounces Proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Secretary Information Fauzia Siddiqui has criticized the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, calling it a direct attack on Pakistan's federal structure and provincial autonomy.

In a statement on Wednesday, Siddiqui said the amendment aims to concentrate powers at the federal level, undermining both parliamentary democracy and the rights of the provinces. She emphasized that PTI, under Imran Khan's leadership, remains committed to defending the Constitution, rule of law, and democratic rights of the people. —RT/Agency

Sindh High Court Slams Delay in Allotting Plots to Victims of Scheme 33

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the failure to allot plots to 650 victims of a private housing society in Scheme 33.

During the hearing, the court remarked that if the victims are not given possession of their plots by the next hearing, the interim bail of the accused would be revoked. The bench noted with regret that the victims' case has been pending for the past seven years. —RT/Agency

Gunfire Erupts in Karachi's Musharraf Colony, One Dead

KARACHI: A man was killed in a firing incident in Musharraf Colony, Hawks Bay area of Karachi, police officials confirmed on Wednesday.

According to police, unidentified assailants opened fire near the container yard in Sector 6-D, 500 Quarters, Musharraf Colony, resulting in the death of one person on the spot.

Initial investigations suggest the incident appears to be a result of personal enmity, as nothing was stolen from the victim — his money and belongings were found intact.

Police have launched an investigation to ascertain the motive and identify those involved in the shooting. —RT/Agency

CM Murad Says Karachi's Transformation Now Reverberates in New York

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that just as New York has elected a young mayor, Karachi too has chosen a young leader, showing that the city's transformation has reached all the way to New York.

Addressing the Future Summit, the Chief Minister emphasized that the Sindh government is actively promoting public-private partnerships to strengthen economic growth and create a business-friendly environment.

He described Karachi as Pakistan's economic hub and stressed that greater connectivity and collaboration are key to unlocking the city's full potential and driving sustainable development across the province.—RT

Chaudhry Umar Hayat Bhatti Dominates Punjab Bar Polls — Hailed as Beacon of Integrity and Justice

KARACHI/LAHORE: Chaudhry Umar Hayat Bhatti Advocate has been elected to the Punjab Bar Council with an overwhelming majority, earning praise from legal and academic circles. Professor Ehsan Ullah Bhatti, Professor Ijaz-ur-Rehman Bhatti, and Dr. Abdul Rehman Bhatti congratulated him, calling his victory proof of his professionalism and integrity.

They lauded his tireless work for justice from lower courts to the Supreme Court and expressed confidence that he will champion lawyers' rights, uphold the Constitution, and fight corruption in legal politics.—RT

Mauritius' Ausaf Group Announces $200 Million Karachi Education City Venture — Eyes Global Finance Hub

KARACHI: The Ausaf Group of Mauritius has proposed a $200 million investment to build an International Financial Center (ECIFC) in Karachi Education City. The project will include convention and corporate centers, luxury hotels, malls, and sports facilities. During the Pakistan Maritime Expo, Country Director Ausaf Group met Sindh Investment Secretary Raja Khurram Shahzad and Project Director Abrar Sheikh, who welcomed the proposal. The group also plans low-cost housing for workers, aiming to transform Education City into a global innovation and business hub.—RT

Sindh Government Appoints Human Rights Crusader to Spearhead Anti-Child Marriage Drive

KARACHI: The Government of Sindh has appointed Mashooque Ali Birhamani, CEO of Sujag Sansar Organization, as the Focal Person for the Child Marriage Prevention Initiative (CMPI) on an honorary basis. Under the guidance of Special Assistant to the CM on Human Rights Rajvir Singh Sodha, Birhamani will coordinate government and civil society efforts to enforce the Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act 2013, promote awareness, and engage communities. Sodha said the move underscores Sindh's moral and legal commitment to ending child marriages and protecting children's futures.—RT

Governor Sindh Extends Heartfelt Greetings on Guru Nanak's Birth Anniversary

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has extended warm greetings to the Sikh community on the occasion of the 556th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

In his message, the Governor highlighted that Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji preached the universal values of unity, love, and service to humanity. He said the essence of Guru Nanak's teachings lies in the belief in the Oneness of Almighty Allah and the promotion of peace and harmony among all people.

Governor Tessori further emphasized that Baba Guru Nanak's message was rooted in mutual respect, tolerance, and devotion, which continue to inspire millions around the world. —RT/Agency

MQM-P Demands Local Governments' Autonomy Be Enshrined in 27th Amendment

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Wednesday demanded that local governments (LGs) be given autonomy in the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment.

After the PPP revealed key features of the proposed amendment for which the government sought its support, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said yesterday that the legislation for the tweaks will soon be tabled in Parliament.

MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar presented his party's demand today while addressing a press conference in Islamabad, alongside party leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sattar asserted that after provincial autonomy had been granted under the 18th Amendment of 2010, the "next step naturally is local autonomy, so it's turn must come". —RT/Agency

Anti-Corruption Court Denies Bail to 13 Accused in Major Construction Scam

KARACHI: The Provincial Anti-Corruption Court has rejected the bail pleas of 13 accused, including an officer of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), in a case related to allowing illegal constructions in Lyari's Nayaabad area.

According to media reports, following the court's decision, Anti-Corruption officials arrested 10 of the accused outside the courtroom, while three others managed to escape as they were not present during the verdict.

Officials said that among those arrested are SBCA Deputy Director Imtiaz Sheikh, Aftab Soomro, Ali Khan, Shakeel Memon, and several others. The arrests come as part of an ongoing crackdown against corruption and unauthorized construction in Karachi's residential areas. —RT/Agency

Governor Sindh Attends PIMEC 2025 Food Gala Showcasing Sindh's Rich Culture

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori attended the PIMEC-2025 Food Gala and Cultural Show as the Chief Guest, following a special invitation from the Chief of Naval Staff.

During the event, the Governor toured various food and cultural stalls, appreciating the creativity and performances of chefs, artists, and craftsmen. He described the initiative as an excellent reflection of Pakistan's rich cultural diversity and hospitality.

Governor Tessori emphasized that Pakistan's culture and cuisine not only define the national identity but also convey messages of love, unity, and harmony. At the conclusion of the event, he presented awards to participants who showcased outstanding talent and performance at PIMEC 2025. —RT/Agency

Dengue Death Toll Climbs to 20 in Sindh as Cases Surge Alarming Health Officials

KARACHI: According to the latest data released by the Sindh Health Department, dengue fever has claimed 20 lives in the province so far, including four deaths reported in the last 24 hours, while over 1,200 new cases emerged in a single day.

Official figures indicate that seven patients have died from dengue in November alone, with five deaths in Hyderabad, one in Tando Allahyar, and one in Karachi's Kemari district.

Sindh Health Secretary Rehan Baloch stated that many of the deceased patients had pre-existing serious medical conditions, which contributed to the deterioration of their health. Authorities continue to urge the public to take preventive measures against dengue to curb further spread. —RT/Agency

Sindh Rangers Nab Three Suspects During Karachi Raids

KARACHI: Sindh Rangers, acting on intelligence reports, carried out operations in various areas of Karachi and arrested three suspects allegedly involved in drug trafficking and multiple robbery cases.

According to a Rangers spokesperson, the arrested suspects have been identified as Abid Sajjad, Shaukat, and Ahmed Shah alias Battery. The officials recovered a pistol, 500 grams of hashish, 105 bags of betel nut, 60 bags of mawa, 55 kilograms of copper, and Rs382,140 in cash from their possession.

The spokesperson said that Abid Sajjad was involved in several motorcycle theft incidents and is a close associate of street criminal Asad alias Torture. Ahmed Shah alias Battery, along with an accomplice named Sakhi Rehman in Wahid Colony, Nazimabad, was reportedly involved in drug dealing, stolen mobile trade, and multiple robberies. —RT/Agency

Deadly Gas Cylinder Blast in Korangi Leaves One Dead, One Injured

KARACHI: One person was killed and another injured after an explosion occurred at a gas cylinder shop near Coast Guard Chowrangi in Korangi on Tuesday.

According to rescue officials, the deceased and injured were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Police said that upon receiving information, a team reached the site and cordoned off the area.

Initial investigations suggest that the explosion was caused by a gas leak or a cylinder blast. Further inquiries are underway to determine the exact cause of the incident. —RT/Agency

FIA Refutes Reports of Travel Ban at Karachi Airport

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration on Wednesday denied reports of a travel ban at Karachi airport, clarifying that passengers from all provinces were travelling without hindrance.

The agency "rejects such claims as no such ban is in place," said a spokesperson in Karachi, rejecting claims of discrimination against passengers from Punjab and other provinces.

The spokesperson explained that immigration checks and profiling had been made more effective only in specific cases. "This step has been taken purely to protect innocent citizens from the agent mafia," the official stated.

The officials detailed that agent mafia used to misguide people to travel to a foreign country and then board them on ships. —RT/Agency

PPP Leader Visits Grieving Family of Dumper Accident Victim

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Karachi Division General Secretary Rauf Nagori visited the home of a young man killed in a recent dumper accident, describing the incident as more than just an accident.

He said the tragedy reflects the growing lack of traffic discipline and negligence of heavy vehicles in Karachi, calling such incidents "intolerable." —RT/Agency

Two Caught Red-Handed Stealing Cooking Oil at Port Qasim

KARACHI: Ban Qasim police arrested two suspects involved in cooking oil theft near Port Qasim, while a third suspect managed to escape, officials confirmed on Wednesday.—RT/Agency

It always seems impossible until it's done."

—Nelson Mandela

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PPP Raises Red Flags Over 27th Amendment's NFC And Autonomy Clauses

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has raised serious objections to several clauses of the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, particularly those concerning the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and provincial autonomy, sources said on Wednesday.

According to party insiders, the PPP has begun internal consultations, with its constitutional experts reviewing the proposed amendment in detail.

The party has expressed strong reservations over provisions related to the NFC Award, education, and population planning—subjects it considers core provincial domains protected under the 18th Amendment.

Sources said the PPP has decided to take a firm stance on any move perceived as an attempt to roll back or dilute the 18th Amendment, which devolved major administrative and financial powers to the provinces.

Constitutional experts have advised the party leadership to adopt a clear and principled position against clauses that could undermine provincial rights. The leadership is also seeking input from parliamentarians on proposed changes affecting provincial authority and fiscal independence.

Sources confirm that PPP has categorically decided not to compromise on any clause that could weaken or reverse the 18th Amendment. However, the party may support other clauses of the 27th Amendment deemed to be in the national interest.

Sources added that the federal government aims to revise frameworks related to financial distribution, education, and population planning, which directly overlap with areas devolved to the provinces under the 18th Amendment.

The PPP plans to oppose any attempt to reclaim these subjects, especially in the domains of health, education, and resource allocation.

Final approval of the PPP's stance will be taken from the Central Executive Committee (CEC) after the constitutional committee finalizes its draft response. The party leadership will then present its formal position in Parliament and discuss it with coalition partners.

Earlier discussions on the 27th Amendment reportedly included proposals for establishing a Constitutional Court, reinstating executive magistrates, and granting new judicial transfer authorities. The PPP has already cautioned that any reduction in provincial autonomy or alteration of the NFC Award formula would be unacceptable.—RT/Agency

Defence Minister Confirms Delegation's Departure For Istanbul Talks With Afghan Taliban

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday confirmed that Pakistan's delegation had departed for tomorrow's talks with the Afghan Taliban in Istanbul to find a solution to the current tensions between the two neighbours.

A second round of discussions between Pakistani and Afghan Taliban delegations had begun in Istanbul on October 25, following days of border hostilities, but Islamabad's long-standing concern over terror attacks emanating from Kabul remained a major point of contention, resulting in a stalemate. A breakthrough came after Turkiye and Qatar salvaged the dialogue process for the second time in less than a week, following Pakistan's announcement on Oct 29 that the talks had "failed" and that its negotiators were preparing to return home.

The talks produced a three-point understanding — the continuation of the ceasefire, the establishment of a monitoring and verification mechanism to ensure peace, and penalties for violations. The operational details of that mechanism are expected to be finalised when the "principals", senior representatives from both sides, meet again in Istanbul on November 6.

Talking to the media outside Parliament today, Asif said: "The delegation has gone today and the negotiations will begin tomorrow morning. Let's hope Afghanistan makes use of wisdom and peace is restored in the region."

He said Pakistan had a single-point agenda, Afghanistan clampdowns on attacks on the former from the latter's soil.

Questioned on whether there was hope of a positive development, Asif said talks were only engaged in if there was a possibility of progress; otherwise, it was a waste of time.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Halts Ministers' Foreign Trips To Build Consensus On 27th Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has cancelled all official visits of ministers and members of parliament in light of the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment.

According to sources, the prime minister has directed all ministers and lawmakers to remain in Islamabad. He has also assigned National Assembly speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, a key task of building consensus among all political parties on the amendment.

Sources further revealed that the Speaker has convened a meeting of all parliamentary leaders today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. in the Speaker's Lounge. Parliamentary leaders from major parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), along with chief whips of allied parties, have been invited to attend.

During the meeting, a briefing on the features of the constitutional amendment will be given, and the government's strategy for its approval will be finalized. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq is expected to urge all political parties to support the amendment and will also hold separate meetings with parliamentary leaders in his chamber.

Sources added that if consensus is not achieved, the government will rely on its own numerical strength in the National Assembly. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has instructed all its members and those of allied parties to reach Islamabad immediately.—RT/Agency

Finance Minister Unveils Bold Plan To Privatize 24 State-Owned Enterprises

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has announced that the government has decided to privatize 24 state-owned enterprises, with the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) expected to be completed before the end of this year.

Addressing the Future Summit in Karachi, the finance minister emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in driving economic growth, stating that Pakistan's economy is moving in the right direction. He noted that corporate profits in the country have increased by 9 percent, reflecting growing economic stability.

Aurangzeb added that the government will continue to create a strong ecosystem to capitalize on global diplomatic successes. He further revealed that Google plans to develop Pakistan into an export hub, while the government's focus will remain on the IT and maritime sectors to boost sustainable economic growth.—RT/Agency

PTI Vows To Fight 27th Amendment, Calls It A 'Provincial Power Grab'

KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said on Wednesday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would strongly oppose the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, terming it an attempt to undermine provincial autonomy guaranteed under the 18th Amendment.

"Any move weakening the democratic mandate of the provinces will be resisted," the provincial chief executive said while speaking to journalists outside Parliament House after attending a parliamentary party meeting.

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is now seeking a broad political agreement on the proposed constitutional tweaks for establishing a Constitutional Court, and making certain changes to the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

This tweak also sought to amend Article 243 — which pertains to the supreme command of the armed forces — as well as several other key constitutional adjustments, according to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Other proposals included the introduction of executive magistrates, provisions for the transfer of judges, and the removal of protections related to provincial shares in the NFC Award.

Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that the government was currently in discussion with its major coalition partner, the PPP, and would also take other allied parties — including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), the Awami National Party (ANP), and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — into confidence before finalising the draft.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Unveils Drone-Jamming Gun To Counter Cross-Border Terror Threats

KARACHI: Pakistan has developed a countermeasure to cross-border suicide drones: the Sufra drone jamming gun, which officials say can disable kamikaze drones and their controllers at 1.5 kilometres.

"The gun can be installed along national borders and deployed at major public events in cities," Hamza Khalid said at the Maritime Expo in Karachi on Wednesday.

The device, produced at the National Electronics Complex, was displayed on the opening day of the Karachi Maritime Expo, where demonstrators said it successfully began neutralising so-called kamikaze drones.

Khalid, manager of the company that manufactures the anti-drone jammer, described the system's operational parameters.

He said the gun operates effectively within a 30-degree angle and a range of 1.5 kilometres, with the angle adjustable to suit tactical requirements.

Within that envelope, the Sufra gun can either seize control of an incoming drone and force it to land, or render both the drone and its remote control inoperable, he added.

Asked about saturation attacks, Khalid told reporters the system had been designed to cope with multiple incoming drones. "No matter how many hostile drones arrive, the gun has the capability to neutralise them."

Officials suggested the system could be installed along border areas to counter cross-border threats and deployed at large urban gatherings where security risks are elevated.—RT/Agency

Trump Heads To Miami To Unveil Economic Vision On Election Anniversary

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is heading to Miami on Wednesday — the anniversary of his reelection to a second term — to speak to a forum of business leaders and global athletes about what he sees as his economic achievements.

The Republican president's speech to the American Business Forum will be a broad look at his economic agenda and how investments he has secured abroad help U.S. communities, according to a senior White House official. It's a significant effort from Trump to put a positive spin on the economy at a time when Americans remain uneasy about the state of their finances and the cost of living — and when major campaigns in Tuesday's election were centered on affordability and the economy.

The AP Voter Poll survey, which included more than 17,000 voters in New Jersey, Virginia, California and New York City, suggested the public was troubled by higher prices and fewer job opportunities despite Trump's promises to tame inflation and unleash growth.

In his speech, Trump will touch on deregulation, energy independence and oil prices, and affordability, said the White House official, who insisted on anonymity to preview the president's address. Trump spent five days in Asia last week with stops in Malaysia, Japan and South Korea. He worked to ease trade tensions with Beijing in a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. In Tokyo, he promoted several major energy and tech projects for the U.S. that will be funded by Japan.

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said he thinks Trump's recent travels "have been transformational in his presidency" and said his speech will be a highlight of the forum, which organizers have described as a more accessible version of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, or the Milken Institute Global Conference, which gathers the world's elite for discussions on the economy.—RT/Agency

Zohran Mamdani Makes History As New York City's First Muslim Mayor After Meteoric Rise

NEW YORK: Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist, won the New York City mayoral race on Tuesday, capping a meteoric rise from a little-known state lawmaker to one of the country's most visible Democratic figures.

Mamdani will become the first Muslim mayor of the largest US city. He defeated Democratic former Governor Andrew Cuomo, 67, who ran as an independent after losing the nomination to Mamdani in the primary election.

The campaign served as an ideological and generational contest that could have national implications for the Democratic Party.

In Virginia, Democrat Abigail Spanberger easily won the election for governor, becoming the first woman elected to serve in that role. And in New Jersey, Democrat Mikie Sherrill won the governor's race.

The trio of races offered the beleaguered Democratic Party a test of differing campaign playbooks a year ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, when control of Congress will be at stake. Since President Donald Trump's win last year, Democrats have found themselves locked out of power in Washington and struggling to find the best path out of the political wilderness.—RT/Agency

Dar Slams 'Cup Of Tea' Policy, Says It Cost Pakistan Dearly At The Border

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister-cum-Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that a "cup of tea" cost Pakistan immensely when the then-government opened the border to Afghanistan.

Addressing the Senate session, the DPM said that under the guise of that "cup of tea," the previous government had opened Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

Ishaq Dar continued to criticize the former PTI government without naming it, stating that as many as 100 hardened criminals were also released.

He informed the house that he had received six telephone calls from his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi. Dar registered Pakistan's complaint, demanding one thing: "no terrorist activities be launched from their soil."

He expressed that, as a person who supports the Islamic country, he has been disappointed by this act (terrorism) originating from Afghanistan.

On a positive note, he expressed optimism that the process will move forward when the two sides meet again in Istanbul on November 6.

He said recent dialogues with Afghanistan's interim government, held in Türkiye and Qatar, focused on engaging Afghan authorities to curb cross-border militancy. He noted that militant groups such as Fitna al-Khawarij, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and Fitna al-Hindustan BLA are operating from Afghan soil and conducting terrorist activities against Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Putin Orders Blueprint For Potential Russian Nuclear Test

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his top officials on Wednesday to draft proposals for a possible test of nuclear weapons, something Moscow has not done since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

The order — responding to President Donald Trump's announcement last week that the United States would resume testing — was a further signal that the two countries with the world's largest nuclear arsenals are rapidly nearing a step that could sharply escalate geopolitical tensions.

"I am instructing the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry … the special services and relevant civilian agencies to do everything possible to collect additional information on the issue, analyse it at the Security Council and make agreed proposals on the possible start of work on the preparation of nuclear weapons tests," Putin said in televised remarks.

Russia-US relations have deteriorated sharply in the past few weeks as Trump, frustrated with a lack of progress towards ending the war in Ukraine, has cancelled a planned summit with Putin and imposed sanctions on Russia for the first time since returning to the White House in January.

Putin issued his instruction at a meeting of his Security Council, where parliamentary speaker Vyacheslav Volodin departed from the official agenda of transport safety to ask how Moscow would respond to Trump's plans to carry out US nuclear testing for the first time in 33 years.—RT/Agency

PIA Chaos Deepens As Engineers' Protest Grounds Flights For Second Day

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft engineers' protest has entered its second day, as dozens of flights in Karachi were delayed on Tuesday, with several cancelled outright, leaving scores of passengers stranded.

A dispute between Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) management and its aircraft engineers has brought flight operations to a near standstill, as engineers stopped issuing safety clearances, leaving several aircraft parked on the ground and passengers stranded across major airports.

Sources said the protest has thrown the schedule into disarray. After about 8pm on Monday, none of PIA's international flights managed to take off, and dozens of domestic and outbound services have since been delayed or cancelled.

The airline's management has begun taking disciplinary action against the engineers, according to Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan (SAEP) sources.

Six aircraft engineers posted at Peshawar airport have been transferred to Karachi, the sources said. They insisted the engineers are not on strike — they're reporting for duty and clearing only the aircraft they believe are fit to fly.—RT/Agency

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