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## Heartland

**Barrister Pir Majeed-ul-Haq Expands Educational Network, Boosting Learning Opportunities**



## Money

**Gold Prices Soar in Pakistan Amid Global Turbulence**



## NATIONAL

**CM Maryam Nawaz Leads Glowing Tributes to Allama Iqbal on His 148th Birth Anniversary**



## SPORTS

**Pakistan Crush Kuwait to Clinch Hong Kong Sixes 2025 Glory**



**CM Murad Grieves Death of Anchor Jameel Farooqui's Brother**

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## Joint Parliamentary Committee Clears Path for 27th Constitutional Amendment Draft

ISLAMABAD: The joint committee comprising legislators from the Senate and National Assembly's standing committees on law and justice has approved the complete draft of the proposed 27th constitutional amendment, sources told on Sunday.

The joint committee began its session earlier today, chaired by Senator Farooq H Naek and MNA Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk.

However, Opposition parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), and Majlis-e-Wahdatul-Muslimeen (MWM), boycotted the session as their members did not turn up for the meeting.

In fresh development, the committee granted clause-by-clause approval to 49 proposed amendments.

The draft of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, al-



ready approved by the cabinet, will be presented in the house tomorrow (Monday), the sources confirmed.

The tweaks proposed by the coalition parties will be considered in a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, the sources said.

The Awami National Party (ANP) raised objections to the 27th Constitutional Amendment and declined to attend the prime minister's dinner, it was learnt.

However, the federal government contacted the ANP

leadership and assured to address its reservations besides requesting the party's legislators to attend the PM-hosted dinner.

The sources said that ANP Senators Arbab Umar Farooq and Haji Hidayatullah will attend the event.

Prior to this development, approval for Article 243 was granted after detailed consultations by the joint parliamentary committee, the sources said, marking a key step in advancing the constitutional tweaks.

Currently, Article 243 of

the majority of the clauses of the draft, including Article 243, which was approved after extensive review," sources familiar with the proceedings revealed.

The government has requested extra time to review proposals regarding renaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and increasing provincial assembly seats in Balochistan.

"Both proposals will undergo further consideration, and final decisions are expected tomorrow," the sources added. The consultations are a pre-requisite step, needed to be taken before finally presenting the 27th Amendment's draft for approval in the Parliament.

After the conclusion of the session, Senator Naek confirmed that the committee gave approval to the basic draft of the constitutional amendment, adding that he and the law minister have been given powers by the members for some tweaks.—RT/Agency

## KP CM Sohail Afridi Booked Under PECA for Anti-State Remarks in Explosive Case

ISLAMABAD: A case has been registered against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi under the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) after his videos circulated on social media allegedly tarnishing the reputation of state and national security institutions.

The First Information Report (FIR), a copy of which is available to

media with the intention to incite violence, create racial hatred, panic, fear, and disorder among the general public, along with promoting anti-state sentiments, which are detrimental to the security, integrity, and stability of Pakistan."

It further stated that after the registration of the case, the investigation was entrusted to NCCIA's SI Waseem Khan.

On Friday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned KP CM Afridi's recent criticism of the security forces, saying he had crossed all limits of ingratitude in a province where the highest number of soldiers had embraced martyrdom.

In his forceful response, the interior minister asserted



that such comments about the "brave sons of Pakistan" were "intolerable, baseless, and factually incorrect."

"No patriotic person can make such a statement about the courageous officers and soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the nation," Naqvi stated.

He said the chief minister's remarks were an attempt to appease the "eternal enemy."

Naqvi highlighted the acknowledged services and sacrifices of the armed forces, noting: "The entire nation and the world recognise the unmatched sacrifices of our security forces. The officers and soldiers of the security forces have nurtured peace with their precious lives."—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Blasts Taliban for Empty Promises, Demands Real Action Against Terror Networks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday castigated the Afghan Taliban regime for using the Istanbul talks to malign Pakistan rather than address Islamabad's core concern of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil.

"Instead of finding solutions to address Pakistan's core concern, the Afghan regime used the opportunity to malign Pakistan through hypothetical accusations and jingoistic rhetoric," Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said in a statement.

The peace talks between the Afghan regime and Pakistan broke down, although a ceasefire continues between the South Asian neighbours.

On November 7, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told Geo News that the negotiations have been suspended, with "no programme for the fourth round of talks." "There is a complete deadlock. The negoti-



ations have entered an indefinite phase."

In his statement, the FO spokesperson noted that anyone following the talks held under the mediation of Turkey and Qatar could easily "discern that the Taliban regime was only interested in prolonging the temporary ceasefire, but without taking concrete and verifiable actions against the terrorist elements present on Afghan soil."

"It prolonged discussions and engaged in futile arguments to stonewall the efforts at

reaching any concrete understanding," the spokesperson added.

The statement recalled a sharp surge in terrorist attacks from Afghanistan since the Taliban took power in August 2021, adding that Pakistan, despite military and civilian casualties, had exercised maximum restraint and avoided retaliation. "Pakistan's expectation was that the Taliban regime would control TTP/FaK and BLA/FaH elements and take concrete actions against them."—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Rejects Move for PM's Immunity, Orders Immediate Withdrawal from Amendment



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the withdrawal of an amendment submitted by some Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senators proposing immunity for the prime minister. The federal government, a day earlier, presented a bill of the 27th Constitutional Amendment — proposing sweeping changes to the country's judicial system as well as the military command structure — in the Senate. The bill was introduced in the upper house and then referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice after the cabinet, chaired by PM Shehbaz, virtually from Azerbaijan, approved the 27th Constitutional Amendment draft. "On my return from Azerbaijan, I have learnt that

some senators belonging to our party have submitted an amendment regarding immunity for the Prime Minister," PM Shehbaz said in a statement on X. He clarified that while he acknowledged the intent behind the proposal as being made in good faith, it was not part of the Cabinet-approved draft. "I have instructed that it be withdrawn immediately," he stated.

"As a matter of principle, an elected Prime Minister must remain fully accountable, both before the court of law and the people," the two-time PM added. The amendment proposes the creation of a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), revises judicial appointments and transfers, and alters the structure of military command.—RT/Agency

## PTI Sounds Alarm in Senate: 27th Amendment Could Kill Pakistan's Constitution



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators on Sunday voiced strong opposition to the proposed changes in the Constitution via the 27th Amendment.

Senate Chairperson Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani presided over today's proceedings, which were held to mull over the proposed constitutional tweaks.

Speaking on the floor of the House, PTI Senator Ali Zafar reaffirmed his party's strong opposition to the proposed amendment, warning that altering the Constitution was akin to "tampering with the foundation of a building."

He likened the nation to a building, saying the government's actions were "weakening its very foundation."

The PTI leader expressed dismay over the pace at which the government was pushing for the proposed amendment, saying that constitutional amendments took a long time even when the country was "under dictatorship."

Senator Zafar rejected the proposed amendment, which, according to him, was introduced by a parliament with no "genuine public support." "This so-called parliament does not have the authority to amend the Constitution," he said. The PTI leader criticised the proposed judicial reforms, warning they would reduce Supreme Court judges to the level of Supreme District and Sessions Court judges.—RT/Agency

## 18th death anniversary of RT's Kazi Jawad to be observed today

KARACHI: The 18th death anniversary of journalist and publisher, Late Kazi Jawad Akbar is being observed today. The young journalist who hailed from the Kazi family of Hyderabad had passed away eighteen years ago in Los Angeles, California. He was 42 and had died from diabetic related complications. In his brief life, he had continued in the family business by having been associated with various English publications and had completed his higher education in the United States in the field of Journalism. Besides his journalistic contributions, he was also known as a philanthropic individual who cared greatly for bettering the lives of people less



fortunate than him. He was the son of RT founder Kazi Saeed Akbar with whom he co-founded Daily RT. He was also the brother of RT publisher Kazi Sajjad Akbar and the nephew of veteran publisher and former MNA Kazi Asad Abid, Chairman of the Ibrat Group. With his sister and political commentator, Shazia Akbar Abbasi, he had revived monthly Mirror magazine. In observation of his death anniversary, family members have requested all well wishers to please recite dua for the departed soul.—RT

fortunate than him. He was the son of RT founder Kazi Saeed Akbar with whom he co-founded Daily RT. He was also the brother of RT publisher Kazi Sajjad Akbar and the nephew of veteran publisher and former MNA Kazi Asad Abid, Chairman of the Ibrat Group. With his sister and political commentator, Shazia Akbar Abbasi, he had revived monthly Mirror magazine. In observation of his death anniversary, family members have requested all well wishers to please recite dua for the departed soul.—RT

## Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Deepen Strategic Ties with New Defence Partnership Pledge



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen defence cooperation and deepen bilateral ties, the military's media wing said on Sunday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the understanding was reached during a meeting between Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili in Saudi Arabia.

Both sides discussed the regional and global security situation and explored ways

to boost defence collaboration. The two military leaders expressed their resolve to build on the long-standing brotherly relationship and expand the enduring defence partnership between the two countries. In recognition of his services in promoting strong Pakistan-Saudi Arabia military relations, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza was awarded the "King Abdulaziz Medal of Honour of the Excellent Class." The Saudi military leadership also praised the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.—RT/Agency

## TTAP Launches National Movement to Block 27th Amendment in Parliament Showdown

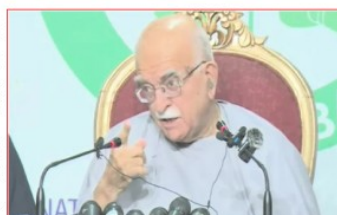
ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayeeen-Pakistan Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Sunday announced the launch of a movement and declared that parliament would not be allowed to function.

"The movement begins from 8:30 tonight, we will raise our slogan — 'Aise dastoor ko hum nahi mante' (we do not accept such a constitution)," Achakzai said in a presser in Islamabad.

He said that a group has "taken control" of Pakistan without holding elections, adding that the movement — the PTI was seeking — would begin today.

"An attack has been carried out on the very foundations of Pakistan — this too is a 9/11," the TTAP chief added. Achakzai said that their struggle is not based on personal enmity with anyone, but for the "protection" of the constitution and democratic values.

Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Awaam Pakistan and TTAP leader, said the 27th Constitutional Amend-



ment was drafted considering the "interests and disadvantages" of certain individuals. "The constitution has nothing to do with personalities; the elite are amending it to protect their own interests," Khokhar added.

For his part, Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen and TTAP leader Raja Nasir Abbas said the parliament and judiciary have been "destroyed," accusing the rulers of driving the country toward destruction. He said that the opposition alliance would go to any extent to block the amendment, saying, "We will raise this slogan across the world today."

## PPP Pushes Lifetime Immunity for President and NAB's Abolition in 27th Amendment Proposal

ISLAMABAD: During the recent discussions between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, the PPP had come up with the demand for lifetime immunity for the president and abolition of the National Accountability Bureau Article 248 of the Constitution pro-

vides the president with immunity from criminal proceedings during the term of office, stipulating that "no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the president or a governor or any court during his term of office." The PPP, however, had sought to extend this protection beyond the term, proposing lifetime immunity. It

means if parliament approves it, no criminal proceedings, old or new, can continue against the president even after he leaves the office and during his lifetime. The bill had also demanded the abolition of NAB, an issue that was part of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) during the PPP and PML-N in 2006. —RT/Agency



REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## PPP Leaders Hail 27th Constitutional Amendment as a Defining Democratic Leap

By Khadim Hussain Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) district spokesperson Imran Dhonehr and Tando Adam Deputy Information Secretary Muhammad Achhar Sand hailed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, calling it proof of PPP's commitment to democracy and constitutional integrity. In a joint statement, they said Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari discussed every point of the amendment in the Central Executive



Committee before finalizing the party's stance, reflecting the party's democratic culture and collective decision-making process. They added that PPP remains the only party demonstrating political maturity and integrity in safeguarding national democracy.

## MPA Rashid Khan Hails Iqbal as the Torchbearer Who Awakened Muslim Youth



By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: MPA Muhammad Rashid Khan Advocate said Dr. Allama Iqbal's poetry inspired the youth of the subcontinent,

playing a vital role in the creation of Pakistan. He expressed these views at an Iqbal Day event organized by Bhai Khan Welfare Association, Deputy Director of Social Welfare

Shafiqat Ali Solangi, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Abdul Ghaffar Sherani, Abdul Latif Sheikh, Haji Muhammad Yasin Arain, and other notable figures also attended the ceremony.

## Public Fury Mounts as Protesters Demand Justice for Murdered Hafiz Muazzam

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Residents staged a protest and sit-in at Rahbar Chowk, demanding the arrest of culprits involved in the killing of Hafiz Muazzam Noonari during a robbery two years ago near Barrage Bridge. The demonstrators, including Muhammad Rahim Noonari and Faiz Muhammad Noonari, accused the police of negligence and said that despite arrests, the accused were granted bail, and no progress had been



made in the case. They also alleged harassment by the accused, who are pressuring them to withdraw the case. Protesters demanded justice and warned that their demonstrations would continue until the perpetrators are arrested.

## Nawab Wali Muhammad Leads Citywide Shutdown Over Spiraling Crime Wave

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A complete shut-down strike was observed in Nawab Wali Muhammad town on the call of the Sindh United Party to protest the worsening law and order situation. Business activities remained suspended as citizens voluntarily closed shops. SUP leaders Bhai Khan Umrani, Imran Chandio, Khameeso Khan Bhund, and Zohaib Sindhi, while speaking to reporters, said street crimes, robberies, and thefts have become rou-



tine over the past six months. They accused local police of complete failure and urged the IG Sindh, DIG Shaheed Be-

nazirabad, and SSP Shaheed Benazirabad to replace the current police force and recover stolen motorcycles and goods to restore peace.

## Frustration Boils Over as IBA Test-Passed PST, JST Candidates Protest Appointment Delays

HINGORJA: Candidates who passed the IBA-conducted PST and JST recruitment tests (scoring 40 marks and above) staged a sit-in outside the Hingorja Press Club against the Sindh government's failure to issue their appointment orders. The protest was led by Shahbaz Malik, Rizwan Mirani, Gulzar Otho, Azhar Otho, Shakeel Malik, Adnan Mughal, Iqbal Ali, Fida Hussain, and Mehdi Dino.



Protesters alleged that despite passing the test through a credible institution like IBA, the government has not issued their job orders, while

some candidates with just 33 marks were appointed in special areas. They termed this discrimination a violation of merit and warned that if their demands were not met soon, they would hold a massive protest outside CM House Karachi on November 18.—RT

## Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq Expands Educational Network, Boosting Learning Opportunities



By Javed Laghari

DADU: PPP District President and MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq has expanded the educational network in Dadu, establishing schools and public parks for

women, children, and youth. He frequently visits educational institutions to assess performance and has launched several projects to promote quality education, benefiting the local population.

## Pir Asif Ali Shah Gilani Receives Warm Felicitations After Performing Umrah



By Sajid Ali Anar

QAZI AHMED: Journalists of Qazi Ahmed Press Club congratulated PPP leader Pir

Asif Ali Shah Gilani on performing Umrah. They presented floral garlands and expressed good wishes during their visit to Gilani House.

## PPP Grieves as Veteran Leader Haji Ali Nawaz Rind Passes Away at 65



By Akhtar Mari

KHADRO: Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and respected figure of the Rind community, Rais Haji Ali Nawaz Rind, passed away at the age of 65 after a prolonged illness. His funeral

prayers were held in his native village, Sahib Khan Rind, attended by political, social, and literary figures as well as hundreds from the Rind community. A somber atmosphere prevailed as condolences poured in for the bereaved family.

## Massive Land Scam Unearthed Billions Made by Illegally Selling Fake Jamshoro Plots

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: A massive land scam involving thousands of acres has come to light, exposing a nexus between land mafias, brokers, and corrupt revenue officials who allegedly altered official records to show Thatta's land as part of Jamshoro district and sold it to industrial buyers for billions.

The fraudulent transfers covered vast areas of Deh Kulokohar and Deh Dikhari, where bound-

aries were deliberately changed in official documents.

Despite the magnitude of the fraud, elected representatives and anti-corruption bodies have failed to act, raising suspicions of collusion.

Civil society and local residents have demanded an urgent boundary demarcation between Thatta and Jamshoro and strict legal action against all those involved in manipulating records and selling public land.

## Sindh Graduates Association Hosts Awareness Drive on Dengue Prevention



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: The Sindh Graduates Association, in collaboration with Principal Madam Afshan Bano Kandhro of Government Girls Degree College Moro, organized an awareness lecture on dengue fever prevention and treatment.

Renowned writer and social activist Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Bughio said dengue spreads during September to November each year and affects around 40 million people worldwide. He explained that dengue mosquitoes breed in stagnant fresh water, urging the community to maintain cleanliness and of hygiene.

cover water containers. Principal Madam Afshan Bano Kandhro, Professor Shamshad Ahmed Soomro, and others also spoke. A large number of professors and students attended the event, which aimed to educate participants about preventive measures and the importance of hygiene.

## Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Marks Iqbal Day with Patriotic Zeal



By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University observed Iqbal Day with great reverence. A seminar titled "The Historic Personality of

Allama Iqbal" was held under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Madad Ali Shah. Registrar Mushtaq Soomro presided over the event, while Dr. Liaquat Zardari, Dr. Salman Bashir Memon, Dr. Muhammad

Afzal Kambhoj, Engineer Tunder the guidance of Vice fail Memon, and Khalid Kerio highlighted Iqbal's role as a philosopher and reformer who awakened self-realization and freedom among Muslims through his poetry.

## Home Minister Visits Dahri Family to Offer Condolences in Shaheed Benazirabad

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar visited Dahri House in Sardar Raza Muhammad Dahri village, Daultpur, to offer condolences to former MPA Sardar Khan Muhammad Dahri over his mother's death and to MPA Dr. Bahadur Khan Dahri over his aunt's demise.

SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Shabbir Ahmed Sethar accompanied the minister during the visit.



## Hyderabad's Historic Babban Shah Graveyard Turns into Dumping Ground for Waste and Stray Dogs

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: The historic Babban Shah graveyard in Latifabad lies in deplorable condition, with piles of garbage, broken tombs, and stray dogs roaming freely. Despite repeated appeals, the Latifabad Municipal Committee has failed to initiate a cleanup or dog control drive. Residents said the boundary wall has collapsed, and nearby residents are dumping waste inside the graveyard. Activists criticized the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board for re-



stricting cleaning to the main shrine area while leaving the inner graveyard in total neglect.

## Umerkot's Kolhi Community Rises in Protest Over Brutal Land Dispute

By Dr. Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Members of the Kolhi community held a protest and press conference at the Umerkot Press Club, demanding a peaceful and lawful resolution to a long-running land dispute with the Kumbhar community in Village Vehro Sharif.

Leaders including Chetan Kumar Goel, Advocate Om Prakash Kolhi, Bhagat Bhomaram Kolhi, Hot Chand Kolhi, and Krishan Kolhi said they had purchased the land twelve years ago from landlord Abdul Razzaq Babar.

They alleged that five



months ago, armed men from the Kumbhar community attacked their homes, set their huts on fire, and assaulted women and children to forcibly occupy the land. The Kolhi leaders ap-

pealed to the Sindh government and law enforcement authorities to take strict action against the attackers and ensure justice through legal means.



REGIONAL TIMES

## NATIONAL



## CM Maryam Nawaz Leads Glowing Tributes to Allama Iqbal on His 148th Birth Anniversary

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz pays heartfelt tribute to the "Poet of the East" and "Father of Pakistan," Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 148th birth anniversary (Today).

In her message, Maryam Nawaz said, "The lesson of self-respect for the nation is one of Allama Iqbal's greatest gifts. By following his thoughts and teachings, Pakistan can evolve into a welfare-oriented state."

The CM noted that



Iqbal was not only a poet but also a reformer and guide who instilled the spirit of freedom and consciousness among Muslims of the subcontinent. "Allama Iqbal charted the direction for the nation and guided Quaid-e-Azam's

struggling mission towards its destination. His poetry continues to provide inspiring messages for the youth," she added.

Maryam Nawaz highlighted that embracing the philosophy of self-respect is the best way to honor Iqbal. She remarked, "Only by implementing Iqbal's ideas can Pakistan become a balanced and welfare-focused state. Following his poetry and philosophy is the truest form of paying tribute to him."—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Railways Unveils Cutting-Edge AI Security System at Rawalpindi Station

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Railways has installed its first-ever Artificial Intelligence (AI) security system at the Rawalpindi Railway Station to enhance passenger safety and surveillance. The advanced system comprises over 180 high-definition cameras that will monitor every corner of the station—including railway tracks, parking areas, ticket counters, and platforms—round the clock.



According to officials, the integrated system includes a centralized database capable of facial recognition and real-time tracking. Every individual entering the station will be scanned, and their facial data cross-checked with the central database to identify potential threats or suspicious activity.—RT/Agency

## PIA Flight Lands on Wrong Runway as Crew and ATC Face Serious Lapses

LAHORE: The Bureau of Aircraft Safety Investigation has released its final report on the January 17, 2025 incident involving a PIA flight from Dammam to Multan, which mistakenly landed on the wrong runway in Lahore.

The report holds the Lahore Control Tower, flight captain, first officer, Pakistan Airports Authority, and PIA management responsible. According to the findings, the captain had asked his co-pilot to feed the flight path, who entered

incorrect coordinates. Both pilots failed to cross-check the route, and despite realizing the error, Lahore ATC remained silent. The tower also failed to instruct the pilot to circle and attempt a proper landing.—RT/Agency

## Punjab Chokes Under Relentless Smog as Lahore Battles Toxic Air Crisis

LAHORE: The smog crisis in Punjab shows no sign of easing, as the air quality in Lahore remains dangerously polluted.

The "City of Gardens" is once again blanketed in a thick haze, with air quality indices reaching alarming levels across multiple areas.

According to the latest data, Lahore's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) has been recorded at 275, placing it firmly in the "hazardous"

category. Several neighborhoods reported even higher readings, including Ravi Road (302), Lower Mall (515), Iqbal Town (517), Sanda Road (497), FC College (466), and Saddar Cantonment (437). Other major cities in Punjab are also struggling—Faisalabad recorded an AQI of 410, while Multan reached 367.

Environmental experts have warned that the continuously rising pollution levels

pose serious health risks to residents. They have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel, wear protective masks outdoors, and refrain from outdoor activities, especially in the early morning hours.

Meanwhile, a grand anti-smog operation is underway across Punjab to curb air pollution. The Transport and Mass Transit Department remains active around the clock, targeting smoke-emitting vehicles.—RT/Agency

## Opposition Bloc TTAP Rips Into Person-Specific Tweaks to Article 243

ISLAMABAD: Opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) on Saturday rejected the proposed changes to Article 243 of the Constitution under the 27th Amendment, calling them "person-specific".

These remarks came a day after the controversial bill was tabled in the Senate and the subsequent announce-

ment of TTAP to launch a nationwide protest campaign.

TTAP leaders—including the alliance head Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Vice Chairman Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, and MWM Chairman Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas—held a joint press conference in Islamabad to raise their objections.

Khokhar said the amendments violated the principle of separation of powers and the idea of a social contract. He criticised the proposed lifetime immunity for the president, terming it "person-specific" and disconnected from public concerns at a time when half of Pakistan is below the poverty line.—RT/Agency

## Saudi Arabia and Pakistan Seal Landmark Deal for Hajj 2026 Operations

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have concluded a formal agreement concerning arrangements and facilities for Hajj 2026.

According to details, the accord was signed in

Jeddah by Saudi Deputy Minister of Hajj, Umrah, Dr AbdulFattah Bin Sulaiman Mashat, and Pakistan's Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs, Dr Syed Atta-ur-Rehman.

The signing ceremony

was attended by the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malik, Director-General of Hajj, Jeddah, Abdul Wahab Soomro; and officials of the Pakistan Hajj Organisers Association (HOPE).—RT/Agency

## Gold Prices Soar in Pakistan Amid Global Turbulence

ISLAMABAD: Gold rates in Pakistan hit Rs. 421,900 per tola and Rs. 36,170 per gram, reflecting sharp global price swings and rupee fluctuations. The yellow metal's allure as a safe-haven asset strengthens as investors seek protection from global economic and political in-

stability. With rates up-dated every few hours to track volatile markets, both institutions and individuals are turning to gold and ETFs as shields against uncertainty. Pakistan's gold market remains on edge as global trends continue to drive price surges.—RT

## Nation Pays Glowing Homage to Allama Iqbal on His 148th Anniversary



LAHORE: The 148th birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, was observed with great reverence. A nationwide ceremony was held Born on November 21, 1877, in Sialkot, where Iqbal's philosophy of "Khudi" inspired Muslims of the sub-continent and led to

the dream of Pakistan. His poetry infused faith and self-realization among the masses. A change-of-guard ceremony was held on November 21, 1877, in Sialkot, where Iqbal's philosophy of "Khudi" inspired Muslims of the sub-continent and led to

## FIA Peshawar Foils Bold Bid by Afghan Nationals to Obtain Fake Citizenship

PESHAWAR: FIA's Peshawar Zone thwarted an attempt by Afghan nationals to obtain Pakistani citizenship using forged documents. Afghan citizens Sadiqullah and Yousif Khan, along with their son, Sadiqullah, were arrested. The suspects are under investigation.—RT/Agency

Sadiqullah tried to get citizenship fraudulently with Yousif posing as his father to assist in the citizenship using forged documents. Afghan citizens Sadiqullah and Yousif Khan, along with their son, Sadiqullah, were arrested. The suspects are under investigation.—RT/Agency

## Punjab Extends Section 144 Amid Worsening Pollution and Public Health Concerns

LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department has extended the enforcement of Section 144 across the province for another seven days, keeping restrictions in place until November 15. The official notification has been issued accordingly.

According to a spokesperson for the Home Department, all kinds of public gatherings, protests, rallies, sit-ins, and similar activities will remain banned during this period. Under Section 144, the assembly of four or more people in public places will not be allowed.

The spokesperson added that displaying weapons,

using loudspeakers (except for Azaan and Friday sermons), and spreading hate or sectarian material are strictly prohibited across the province. The extension has been made to maintain law and order and to protect lives and property.

The Punjab government took the decision in view of potential threats to public peace and the possibility of terrorist activities. However, the restrictions will not apply to weddings, funerals, or official duties performed by government officers and court proceedings.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Metropolitan Corporation Slum Rehabilitation Department Public Notice

Under the Slum Regularization Scheme (New Town) of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), the layout plan and resolution have been approved through Resolution No. 655 dated 08-06-2005 by the KMC Council, and it has been further endorsed through letter No. DO/Rev/KA/CDGK/806/2006 dated 08-11-2006 by the Director General, Karachi Development Authority (KDA).

According to this approval, the Director of the Slum Rehabilitation Department, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, and the Director of Town Planning, Karachi Development Authority, have given consent for the lease and implementation of the New Town Slum Regularization Scheme (KMC).

Hence, residents of New Town, Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (KMC) are informed to submit their applications to obtain 99-year leases for their respective plots/houses.

The scheme area falls under UC-34, New Town, KMC.

Residents and stakeholders are further informed that any objections regarding the lease issuance or the scheme should be submitted within 3 days of this notice's publication to the office of the Director, Slum Rehabilitation Department, Civic Center, Karachi, along with supporting documents.

No objections will be entertained after the specified time period.

INF/MM/0097/2025

## NCCIA Officials Accused of Extortion Through Fake Call Center Racket

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has filed a case against 15 officials of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), including two additional directors and three deputy directors, over allegations of extortion through call centers and backing illegal businesses. According to the FIR



registered by FIA's Anti-Com-petition Cell, the accused made secret deals following raids and received huge bribes. Those named include Additional Directors Shehzad Haider and Amir Nazeer, and Deputy Directors Salman Awan, Haider Abbas, and Nadeem Ahmed Khan. Investigations are ongoing.—RT/Agency

## SOUTH PUNJAB

## Neglect at Uch Sharif Shrines by Auqaf Department Adds to Devotees' Misery

By Muhammad Siddique Khan

BAHAWALPUR: Severe negligence and inefficiency of the Auqaf Department at the spiritual center of Uch Sharif have deprived shrines of basic facilities, causing immense difficulties for devotees. The historical shrines of Hazrat Mahboob Subhani, Hazrat Hasan Darya, Hazrat Jalaluddin Surkh Posh Bukhari, Hazrat Makhdoom Jahanian Jahan Gashit, and others are without proper cleanliness, lighting, water, and security. Visitors com-



plain of garbage heaps, broken taps, foul-smelling water, and poor lighting around the shrines. Despite repeated complaints, no action has been taken. Sources revealed that despite heavy income from donations, no development work has been done, indicating gross

mismanagement. Citizens demanded Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the Secretary Auqaf, and Commissioner Bahawalpur to conduct an audit of Uch Sharif shrines and take strict action against negligent officers to restore these holy sites as centers of devotion.

## Central Punjab

## Punjab Home Secretary Inspects Central Jail, Launches Clean Water Project Under Reforms Drive

By Dr. Mirza M.B. Qamar

GUJRANWALA: As part of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz's Jail Reforms Agenda, Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi visited Central Jail Gujranwala and inaugurated a water filtration plant for prisoners and staff, benefiting over 4,500 inmates.

A display center is also being constructed at a cost of



Rs 6 million, where products made by prisoners in Punjab jails will be exhibited and sold to support their rehabilitation.

Dr. Qazi also visited the Gurdwara in Eminabad, meeting Sikh pilgrims from

around the world. He emphasized that these reforms aim to provide better living conditions, skill development, and dignity to prisoners while strengthening the rehabilitation system across Punjab.

## Commissioner Shirazi Hails Ulema and Peace Committee for Advancing Religious Unity

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Shirazi said scholars and Peace Committee members have played a historic role in promoting peace and tolerance. Addressing reli-



gious leaders including Allama Pir Muhammad Khalid Hasan Mujaddidi and Maulana Muhammad Akbar Naqshbandi, he emphasized the need for unity, mutual respect, and spreading the message of brotherhood through the pulpit and mihrab.

## Grand Wedding of Chaudhry Abdul Jabbar Bhullar Jutt's Daughter Draws Local Spotlight in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The wedding of the daughter of Chaudhry Abdul Jabbar Bhullar Jutt, District President of the Milli Labour Federation, was held at Zafar Mar-



quee. Provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, attended as chief guest, alongside other dignitaries and political leaders.

## Press Club Polls Slated for January 2026 as Campaign Season Heats Up

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Press Club Chairman Mian Saeed Hassan announced that the club's elections for 2026 will be held in January. He said the elections



symbolize journalistic unity and will be conducted transparently. The Press Club, he added, continues to uphold freedom of the press and positive media values.

## Business Community Mourns Passing of Prominent Trader's Mother

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BHAG: The mother of prominent grain traders Pir Bakhsh Khan, Muhammad Hanbhi, and Muham-

mad Asif Hanbhi, and the aunt of Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Hanbhi, passed away. She was laid to rest in the local Gulab Shah graveyard. The

President of the National Press Club Bhag, Abdul Rehman Soyem will be held on November 11 (Tuesday) at 8 a.m. at the residence of Rais Allah Ditta Hanbhi. President of the National Press Club Bhag, Abdul Rehman Soyem will be held on November 11 (Tuesday) at 8 a.m. at the residence of Rais Allah Ditta Hanbhi. President of the National Press Club Bhag, Abdul Rehman Soyem will be held on November 11 (Tuesday) at 8 a.m. at the residence of Rais Allah Ditta Hanbhi.

## BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

## Deputy Commissioner Warns Against Opium Cultivation in Tough New Crackdown

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Jamad Khan Mandokhail has issued a public notice warning that poppy cultivation is strictly prohibited by law. He stated that any individual found culti-



ivating opium will face criminal proceedings, against violators. immediate destruction of illegal crops, and confiscation of related land, solar systems, and tube wells. The district administration and police have been directed to maintain strict vigilance and take immediate action against violators.

REGIONAL TIMES

## THE HEARTLAND

## Tragedy in Thar: Three Youths Found Hanging from Tree in Mithi

MITHI: Shock and sorrow gripped the small Tharparkar town of Dano Dhandhal when locals discovered the bodies of three young men hanging from a tree in Kolhi Mohallah over the weekend. The vic-

tims, identified as Dhanji Gautam, and Jeram—aged between 16 and 21—belonged to the same community. Police found no visible signs of violence, suggesting a possible joint suicide. However, SSP

Shoaib Memon said investigations were underway from all angles, and facts would be shared after post-mortem and forensic reports determine the cause and motive behind the tragedy.—RT



# REGIONAL TIMES

## EDITORIAL

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

Monday, November 10, 2025

## Shehbaz Sharif's Bold Rejection of PM Immunity is Very Welcoming

In a rare and refreshing moment for Pakistan's fragile democracy, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decisively rejected any attempt to grant his office immunity under the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. This move, bold in both spirit and symbolism, has significantly elevated his stature as a leader who places principle above privilege.

At a time when public confidence in political accountability has been waning, the Prime Minister's decision sends a powerful message: no leader, however high his office, stands above the law. By withdrawing the controversial clause — which some senators had floated in apparent good faith — Shehbaz Sharif has demonstrated the ma-

turity and moral courage that true democratic



leadership demands. His statement that an elected leader "must remain fully accountable before the courts and the people" reaffirms the core democratic value of answerability, which many fear has been eroded in recent years.

This single act of restraint could well mark a turning point. It signals that Pakistan's leadership is ready to strengthen institutions, not shield individuals. In rejecting immunity, Shehbaz Sharif

has distanced himself from the culture of impunity that has too often undermined governance and public trust.

The timing, too, is crucial. With political tensions surrounding the 27th Amendment already high, the Prime Minister's directive injects a sense of integrity and balance into the process. It sets a valuable precedent — that constitutional reform must never become a tool for personal protection.

In essence, Shehbaz Sharif's decision is more than a withdrawal of a controversial proposal; it is a restoration of principle. And in that act, he may well have rekindled a long-lost faith in the democratic promise of accountability.

## THE HEARTLAND



### Free Medical Camp Draws Crowds During Urs of Syed Haji Muhammad Yousuf Shah

By Dr. Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Anjuman Ghulam-e-Qalandar Welfare Pakistan organized a one-day free medical camp during the annual Urs of Dada Sain Syed Haji Muhammad Yousuf Shah (RA) under the guidance of Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari.

In collaboration with PPHI Sindh, the camp provided ambulance and medicine facilities.

Doctors and paramedical staff from the organization's medical wing examined over 1,564 patients, offering free consultations and medicines to pilgrims and nearby residents.

The camp also provided blood screening, vaccination, and emergency services.

Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari appreciated the efforts of the medical



team and urged expansion of such welfare activities.

The team included Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Panhwar, Dr. Mumtaz Qureshi, Dr. Ali Hassan Qambrani, Dr. Hasil

Mastoi, Dr. Ali Lashari, Dr. Saqlain Panhwar, and paramedics Amjad Memon, Riaz Ahmed Chanjini, Hanif Bozdar, and Abu Bakar Hang-

### Literary Circles Honor M.N. Mahzoon's Legacy on His 30th Death Anniversary



By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: The 30th death anniversary of renowned writer, translator, storyteller, artist, and educationist M.N. Mahzoon was commemorated with great reverence by the Sindh Adabi Sangat, Mehar Branch.

The event began with floral tributes at Mahzoon's shrine, followed by a literary gathering held at the Mehar Press Club under the chairmanship of Pir of Mehar, Syed Muhammad Shah.

Distinguished guests included poet Imtiaz Adil Soomro, storyteller Saleem Mugi, Tahir Mahzoon

Bhatti, Azad Anwar Kandhro, and Sarmad Brohi. Speakers described Mahzoon as a visionary translator who introduced world literature to Sindh readers and was known as the Khalil Gibran of Sindh literature.

They emphasized that Mehar has produced many literary giants — Mahzoon, Grammi, Bulbul, Syed Ali Akbar Shah, and Ishraq Rabi — who illuminated Sindh.

Culture Participants urged the Sindh Adabi Board and Department of Culture to republish Mahzoon's works to honor his contribution to Sindh literature and education.

According to the official notification, the Deputy Commissioner has been appointed as chairman, while the SSP, Superintendent Jail, and District Officers of Women Development, Education, Health, and Social Welfare departments are Khadim Hussain Daud and Deepa

Kumari have also been included. The committee will monitor human rights conditions, investigate violations, visit prisons and hospitals, promote awareness in educational institutions, and make recommendations for rehabilitation.

The notification, signed by Secretary Khalid Chachar and issued by Section Officer Saeed Ahmed Shaikh, is being viewed as a major step toward improving human rights awareness and protection in the district. —RT

### Man Demands Justice, Alleges False FIR in Local Dispute

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A resident of Piru Lashari Station village, Mir Muhammad Pathan, in Tando Bago Taluka, staged a protest at Badin Press Club against what he termed a false FIR filed at the behest of influential individuals. Addressing a press conference, Zubair Pathan alleged that Commissioner Income Tax Abdul Hameed Abro had initiated a campaign under the guise of helping small farmers by providing seeds and fertilizer through his organization. However, the yield was

nearly half of what was promised. When Pathan complained, Abro allegedly lodged a false theft case through his accountant Akbar Abro against Pathan's father, Abdul Ghafoor Pathan, and other local landlords. Zubair claimed his father was not even present at the scene and vowed to present witnesses in court. He appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Chief Justice Sindh, FBR Chairman, IG Sindh, and SSP Badin to order an impartial inquiry by a Grade-17 police officer to expose the false case and ensure justice.

### Agriculture Officers Honored for Hitting Wheat Sowing Milestones

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The Agriculture Extension Department organized a seminar to honor officers who achieved the province's wheat sowing and cultivation targets under the Sindh Government's subsidy and support programs. The event, attended by farmers, officers, and local dignitaries, celebrated the successful implementation of the Sindh Wheat Grower Support Program. Shields, certificates, and traditional Ajraks were presented to outstanding officers in recognition of their dedicated fieldwork. Addressing the gathering, speakers highlighted that the provincial government's free fertilizer distribution has brought significant relief to small and medium-scale farmers, enabling them to improve crop yields and reduce input costs. Agriculture



experts also discussed modern farming techniques, pest management, and efficient water use to increase production in upcoming sowing seasons.

The participants lauded the government's continued

focus on farmer welfare and food security. The event concluded with a pledge to further strengthen collaboration between farmers and extension workers for sustainable agricultural growth in Sindh.

### Parkar Meghwar Welfare Association Holds Peaceful and Transparent Elections

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Elections for the Parkar Meghwar Welfare Association were held peacefully in Bhon village, marking a strong display of grassroots democracy and community participation. The polling process, conducted under the supervision of Presiding Officer Krishan Meghwar, began at 8 a.m. and continued till 4 p.m. without any untoward incident. Five panels contested the election, each presenting its agenda for social development, education, and welfare within the Meghwar community. Out of the 327 regis-



tered male voters, a majority turned out enthusiastically, reflecting their commitment to transparent and fair representation. The polling staff and volunteers ensured smooth voting arrangements, while local elders appreciated the discipline and unity among community members. Results are expected to be announced soon after the completion of counting. The peaceful conduct of the election was widely praised by residents, who said such democratic exercises strengthen social harmony and accountability in community affairs.

### Celebrations Continue as Advocate Syed Jaffar Ali Shah's Sindh Bar Council Victory Sparks Jubilation

By: Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Congratulations continue to pour in for Advocate Syed Jaffar Ali Shah, who won the Sindh Bar Council seat from Khairpur.

On the ninth consecutive day of celebrations, senior lawyers including Sadaqat Ali Rind and Ghulam Mehdi Burdi visited Syed House, Babaroi, to felicitate him.

Speaking to the media, Syed Jaffar Ali Shah said that change has become inevitable as the public faces hunger, unemployment, and injustice.

He criticized the rulers for pursuing self-interest



and corruption, saying the lawlessness and inflation have made life unbearable for citizens.

He urged the government to restore justice, equality, and merit, warning that if not provided, they would self-immolate in front of Mehar's Ghanta Ghar.

### Pregnant Woman Accuses Husband and In-Laws of Violence in Disturbing Case

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A married pregnant woman, Saqqa Mallah, along with her mother, protested against her husband and in-laws for severe domestic violence.

She alleged that her husband Nabi Baksh Mallah and his brothers assaulted her and expelled her from the house. After filing for khula in court, she claimed her husband bribed police to register a false case against her



uncle. Saqqa and her mother appealed to SSP Dadu for protection and justice,

warning that if not provided, they would self-immolate in front of Mehar's Ghanta Ghar.

### Sardar Burhan Chandio Receives Hero's Welcome at Community Gathering in Masti Khan Village

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A grand community reception was organized in Masti Khan village in honor of PPP MPA Sardar Burhan Khan Chandio, hosted by Muhammad Yaqub Chandio, a prominent local leader. The event drew large attendance from members of the Chandio community, social workers, and local political representatives.

Speaking to reporters, Sardar Chandio highlighted the Chandio tribe's longstanding commitment to peace, unity, and justice. He stated that despite facing numerous challenges, the community has always relied on



legal and democratic means to resolve disputes.

Referring to the Suleman Chandio murder case, he reaffirmed his resolve to continue the fight for justice for the slain youth. "Our struggle is for truth and justice, not revenge," he said, adding that the Chandio family would not bow to pressure or injustice. The event concluded with prayers for unity, harmony, and peace within the Chandio community. Elders also appreciated Sardar Chandio's role in promoting reconciliation and supporting youth empowerment in rural Sindh.



# REGIONAL TIMES

# SPORTS



## ICC narrows race to eight cities as India gears up for 2026 T20 World Cup



The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad and the Eden Gardens in Kolkata have been shortlisted to host the semifinals of the T20 World Cup, scheduled for February-March next year.

According to Indian media, the International Cricket Council (ICC), in collaboration with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), has shortlisted eight venues for the tournament.

In India, matches will be held across five cities—Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata—while Sri Lanka will host games at three venues, including two stadiums in Colombo and one in Kandy.

The venue for the final is yet to be decided and will depend on the teams that reach the title clash, particularly whether Pakistan qualifies. Ahmedabad remains a potential host for the final if Pakistan does not make it to the final.

Regarding the semifinals, if Sri Lanka or Pakistan reaches the last four, that match will be staged in Colombo.

If neither team reaches the semifinals, both matches will take place in India. Should Pakistan reach the final, it will be played in Colombo. The ICC has kept these decisions flexible for now.

According to an ICC release on October 17, the 20-team tournament will follow the same format as the 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies—Agency

## Djokovic pulls shock exit from ATP Finals fresh off 101st career triumph

TURIN: Novak Djokovic, seven-time ATP Finals champion, has withdrawn from the season-ending tournament due to a shoulder injury, just hours after securing his 101st career title at the Hellenic Championship.

Djokovic defeated Lorenzo Musetti in a thrilling three-hour final, winning 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, but the Italian finalist will now take his place in Turin, where the ATP Finals begin on Sunday.

The Serbian star announced his withdrawal on social media, citing the injury.

"I was really looking forward to competing in Turin and giving my best," Djokovic wrote.

"But after today's final in Athens, I'm sad to share that I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury."

The 35-year-old who missed the end of last season due to injury, revealed that he had been managing the shoulder issue throughout the tournament in Athens.

"That's the reason why I decided not to make a call earlier about going to Turin," he said—Agency

## Arsenal's hot streak halted as resilient Sunderland claw back a dramatic draw



SUNDERLAND: Premier League leaders Arsenal saw their impressive winning streak come to an end after a dramatic 2-2 draw with Sunderland at the Stadium of Light.

Leandro Trossard's 74th-minute goal seemed to secure Arsenal's 11th consecutive victory across all competitions, but substitute Brian Brobbey salvaged a last-minute point for the home side with a stoppage-time volley.

Sunderland had taken the lead in the 36th minute through Dan Ballard, marking the first time Arsenal's defence had been breached in nine games.

Arsenal responded after the break, with captain Bukayo Saka leveling in the 54th minute, before Trossard's thunderous strike left goalkeeper Robin Roefs with no chance.

Despite Arsenal's fightback, Brobbey's late finish denied them the win.

Arsenal remain top of the table with 26 points, Chelsea sit second on 20, and Manchester City can all but guarantee the title if they defeat Liverpool on Sunday.

Promoted Sunderland are enjoying a dream start to the season, sitting fourth with 19 points.

After the match, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta expressed his frustration over the goal conceded but also praised Sunderland for their determination. "The game was almost there," Arteta said—Agency

## Higgins demolishes Maguire to storm into International Championship final



NANJING: Scotland's John Higgins produced a vintage display to thrash compatriot Stephen Maguire 9-2 and advance to the final of the International Championship in Nanjing.

The 50-year-old four-time world champion set up a clash with home favourite Wu Yize in Sunday's title match, dominating from start to finish with a masterful all-round performance.

Higgins stormed through the opening session, winning six straight frames to take a commanding lead. Despite dropping the final two frames before the interval, he regained control in the evening session by winning three more frames with breaks



of 93 and 64 to seal the victory.

The world number six also registered impressive century breaks of 101 and 137, underlining his confidence and consistency throughout the encounter.

Higgins, who is bidding for his third ranking title of the season, will now face 22-year-old Wu in what promises to be a thrilling final.

Reflecting on his form and the upcoming challenge, Higgins said he expects Wu to be buoyed by the home crowd but hopes the occasion might bring some nerves for his young opponent.

"Wu is going to be on the crest of a wave, but I'm hoping he finds the nerves tomorrow because it's his first final in China," Higgins said.

Earlier this year, Higgins ended a four-year ranking title drought by winning the World Open in March, followed by victory at the Tour Championship in April. He credited the World Open triumph as a turning point that restored his confidence.

"It was pivotal to win the World Open," Higgins remarked. "It gave me that bit of self-belief in my game. It doesn't matter who you are—when you start losing that, the game becomes so difficult."

With momentum on his side, Higgins now looks to add another major trophy to his illustrious career when he faces Wu in the International Championship final.—Agency

## Rybakina topples Sabalenka to capture her first-ever WTA Finals crown



RIYADH: Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina capped off a flawless week at the WTA Finals with a commanding 6-3, 7-6(7-0) victory over world number one Aryna Sabalenka to claim her maiden season-ending championship and a record prize of \$5.235 million.

The WTA Finals featured four Grand Slam champions this year, but it was Rybakina, who had not advanced past a Grand Slam quarterfinal in 2025, who emerged as the surprise champion.

Her qualification came on the back of strong performances, including a title win in Ningbo and a semi-final run in Tokyo.

Rybakina's triumph also carried symbolic weight, as she earned 1,500 ranking points, her highest total to date.

This comes after she was denied points for her 2022 Wimbledon victory due to the ATP and WTA's sanctions against the tour-

nament for banning Russian and Belarusian players following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Reflecting on her success, Rybakina described her week as "incredible" and credited her focus and resilience for the achievement.

"It's been an incredible week. I honestly didn't expect to go so far—it's just amazing," said Rybakina after lifting the Billie Jean King Trophy, her third title of the season.

She also praised Sabalenka for maintaining her position as the world's top-ranked player.

"Congratulations to Aryna for finishing the year as world number one for the second season in a row—what an amazing achievement. Today was such a tough battle; there were moments I didn't like, but that's tennis. I hope we'll play many more finals in big tournaments together," she added—Agency

## PCB unveils elite match officials lineup for Pakistan-Sri Lanka ODI showdown



RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the match officials for the upcoming three-match ODI series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, scheduled to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from November 11 to 15.

Pakistan's Ali Naqvi will serve as the match referee for the series.

In the first ODI on November 11, England's Alexander Wharf, a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will stand as an on-field umpire alongside Pakistan's Asif Yaqoob from the ICC Emerging Panel.

Bangladesh's Saikat Sharfuddola (ICC Elite Panel) will serve as the third umpire, while Rashid Riaz (ICC International Panel) will act as the fourth umpire.

For the second ODI on November 13, Saikat Shar-



fuddola will officiate on-field alongside Faisal Afridi (ICC International Panel). Alexander Wharf will assume third umpire duties, with Asif Yaqoob as the fourth umpire.

In the third and final ODI on November 15, Alexander Wharf and Rashid Riaz will be the on-field umpires, while Saikat Sharfuddola and Faisal Afridi will serve

as third and fourth umpires, respectively.

The series follows Pakistan's successful home campaign against South Africa, where the hosts won both the T20I and ODI series — clinching the latter 2-1 — while the Test series concluded in a 1-1 draw.

Overall, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have met 157 times in ODIs, with Pakistan winning

93 matches, Sri Lanka 59, four ending with no result, and one tied encounter.

After the ODI series, Zimbabwe will join Pakistan and Sri Lanka for a T20I tri-series, beginning on November 17.

The opening two matches will be played in Rawalpindi, before the action shifts to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium for the remaining fixtures, including the final on November 29.

Pakistan ODI squad: Shaheen Shah Afridi (c), Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Hussain Talat, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jr, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub and Salman Ali Agha.—Agency

## Pakistan Crush Kuwait to Clinch Hong Kong Sixes 2025 Glory

HONG KONG: Pakistan produced a commanding display, beating Kuwait by 44 runs to lift the Hong Kong Sixes 2025 trophy at Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok on Sunday.

Batting first, Pakistan got off to a quick start. Opener Abdul Samad launched Yasin Patel's second ball of the match for six, while the bowler, under pressure, also sent down three wickets.

Khawaja Nafay then kept the onslaught going by clearing the ropes with his first delivery, propelling Pakistan to an eye-catching 26 runs from the opening over.

Kuwait fought back in the second over as Meet Bhavsar dismissed Khawaja Nafay for 22 off six balls, which included two fours and two sixes, leaving Pakistan at 33-



1 in 1.4 overs.

Skipper Abbas Afridi then came to the crease and hit back-to-back sixes, taking Pakistan to 45-1.

Abdul Samad continued to show his aggressive form in the third over with a boundary and a six, pushing Pakistan past the 50-run mark in just 2.2 overs.

By the end of four overs, Pakistan were in a commanding position at 95-1, thanks to

Samad's three consecutive sixes in the fourth over and contributions from Afridi.

Kuwait tried to strike back as Bhavsar dismissed Samad for 42 off 13 balls, which included two fours and five sixes. Shahid Aziz was also dismissed for a duck, leaving Pakistan at 95-3 in 13.6 overs.

Maaz Sadaqat joined Afridi and hit a boundary to push Pakistan past

100, taking the total to 107-3.

The final over turned into a fireworks display as Afridi scored a blazing 52 off 11 deliveries, including two fours and seven sixes, finishing Pakistan's innings at 136.

Chasing 136, Kuwait got off to a strong start as Adnan Idrees launched a six off Shahid Aziz's second delivery and added another off a wide. Aziz conceded 32 runs in the first over alone, putting Pakistan under early pressure. Mohammad Shahzad struck back in the second over, dismissing Idrees for 30 off eight balls, including five sixes, leaving Kuwait at 33-1 in 1.3 overs.—Agency

## Norwich City axes Liam Manning after nightmare run of seven straight home losses



NORWICH: Norwich City have sacked head coach Liam Manning following seven straight home defeats that have left the club second-bottom of the Championship, the club announced.

Alongside Manning, assistant head coach Chris Hogg and first-team coach analyst James Krause have also left the club.

Sporting director Ben Knapper confirmed the decision, citing poor results and performances as the main reasons behind the move.

"We have tried absolutely everything possible to work through this incredibly challenging period, but unfortunately, given the recent run of results and performances, we have been left with no choice other than to make a change at this stage," Knapper said.

He added that despite the disappointing outcomes, Manning and his staff had

shown full dedication during their time at Carrow Road.

"Liam and his staff worked tirelessly to move our football club forward. They are all fundamentally good people, and we wish them the very best in whatever comes next," he said.

The club acknowledged the frustration among supporters and expressed a desire to rebuild trust and deliver better performances.

"We very much understand the frustration and criticism from our supporters at this stage. So far, results and performances on the pitch haven't been good enough," Norwich stated.

We accept that responsibility, but it's now imperative that we start to repair the relationship with our supporters and do everything we can to give them something to get behind.—Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Sydney Sweeney breaks down in tears as long-awaited Christy finally hits theatres



Sydney Sweeney celebrates the release of drama, Christy with an emotional post.

Taking to Instagram on Saturday, the actress penned an emotional note as she reflected on her toughest role yet in Christy.

Acknowledging the movie's successful theatrical debut a day earlier, Sydney wrote in the caption, "filming Christy movie will stay in my heart forever. I walked onto set everyday surrounded by a crew that poured their hearts and souls into this story."

She went on to write, "I fought alongside a group of women who became my family. We trained harder than we ever thought we could then would end up singing our hearts out on the ring floor."

Sydney noted that Christy Martin inspired everyone to "step into our power," adding, "her story made us fight harder for ourselves and for every woman who has ever been silenced."

"This film was painful, joyful, resilient, beautiful, it was everything, thank you David for believing in me," she noted.

## Charlie Roan celebrates Rock and Roll Hall of Fame moment — dreams turned real



Before the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame could induct the honorees, musical presenters, performers and guests arrived on the roof of a parking lot in downtown Los Angeles.

A slew of musical talent turned out including Chappell Roan, The Killers, Donald Glover and Brandy Carlile.

Carlile told Reuters, "Tonight is just hours of people's dreams coming true and people getting to speak that haven't got to speak before. And it's just a whole evening full of like gratitude. You can ask for much more. And there's wine."

"The Twist" singer Chubby Checker, pop star Cyndi Lauper and grunge

## Kim Kardashian opens up about her bar exam result in emotional reveal



Kim Kardashian has revealed the result of her bar exam.

The reality TV star took California bar exam in late July and revealed the result of the exam on November 8, 2025.

Taking to Instagram Stories on Saturday, Kim announced that she failed to pass the exam.

Kim Kardashian breaks silence on her bar exam result.

Kim wrote, "Well...I'm not a lawyer yet. I just play a very well-dressed one on TV."

She went on to add, "Six years into this law journey, and I'm still all in until I pass the bar. No shortcuts, no giving up. Just more studying and even more determina-

tion." However, Kim expressed her gratitude towards those who supported an encouraged her. She wrote, "Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged me along the way so far."

"Failing short isn't failure - it's fuel," she noted. Adding, "I was so close to passing the exam and that only motivated me even more. Let's go!"

It is pertinent to mention that Kim Kardashian passed the "baby bar exam" in 2021, which is also known as the First-Year Law Student's Examination. Moreover, the SKIMS founder also celebrated her graduation from her Law Office Study Program in May.

## Kids' Corner



Names: Farhan, Aasha & Shoaib Pirzado  
Location: Badah  
About us: We love our Mother and Baba Sain

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



REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## Lawyers Announce Protest Drive from November 14 Against 27th Amendment

By Muqeen Koerio

HYDERABAD: Lawyers across Sindh are preparing to launch a widespread protest movement starting November 14, to oppose the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, which they claim threatens the independence of the judiciary.

The campaign, announced by senior bar council members, will begin with a march followed by sit-ins outside district courts across

the province. Later phases may include an indefinite court boycott if their demands are ignored. The lawyers' representatives argue that the amendment aims to centralize control over judicial appointments and administrative decisions, undermining the principle of separation of powers.

Speaking at a press conference, Sindh Bar Council leaders said that the proposed changes amount to a "constitutional assault" on judicial

autonomy. They vowed to continue their struggle until the government withdraws the amendment.

Sources within the legal community warn that the move could trigger a judicial crisis similar to those seen in the past when clashes erupted between lawyers and government authorities. Civil society members have expressed support for the lawyers' stance, urging dialogue between both sides to prevent a constitutional confrontation.

## Dr. Muhammad Ramzan Wasan Bereaved as Elder Brother Passes Away



By Imtiaz Ali Liskani

NAUBAD: Deep sorrow prevailed in the local community following the death of Sabo Wasan, the elder brother of former Civil Surgeon and respected Hur Jamaat member Dr. Muhammad Ramzan Wasan. He was 64 and passed away suddenly due to a heart attack. The funeral took place in his ancestral village, Nachay Wasan near Naonabad, and was attended by a large number of relatives, social leaders, political figures, and members of the Hur Jamaat. Attendees expressed deep grief over the loss and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

Community members remembered the late Sabo Wasan as a kind-hearted and socially active individual who always supported local welfare initiatives. Dr. Ramzan Wasan thanked all friends and well-wishers for their support during the difficult time. Fataha Khwani was also offered for the departed soul.

## Horror in Home: Doctor Stabs Wife in Domestic Rage Before Fleeing Scene

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A tragic domestic dispute turned violent in Badin when a well-known local doctor, Dr. Niaz Junejo, allegedly stabbed his wife multiple times, leaving her critically injured. The incident occurred at their residence on Cant Road, where the couple had reportedly been engaged in an argument before the attack. Neighbors, hearing the woman's screams, rushed to the scene and found her

lying in a pool of blood. The injured woman was immediately shifted to Indus Hospital Badin for initial medical assistance but was later referred to Hyderabad due to the severity of her injuries. Police arrived shortly after the incident but found that the accused had already fled. The victim's brother, Tapidar Ghazi Junejo, lodged a formal complaint, alleging that Dr. Junejo brutally assaulted his sister over a domestic disagreement. He appealed to

SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani to ensure the arrest of the absconding suspect and provide justice.

Police officials stated that a manhunt has been launched and that raids are being conducted at multiple locations to trace the accused. The case has sparked outrage among local residents, who demanded stringent action against the perpetrator and called for better protection for victims of domestic violence.

## Shia Ulema Council Honors Iqbal's Vision During Commemorative Event at Press Club

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Shia Ulema Council Pakistan held an impressive event at the Tando Allahyar Press Club to mark Iqbal Day and commemorate the birth anniversary of the great philosopher-poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The ceremony was held under the guidance of Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi and attended by journalists, students, scholars, and citizens. District President Haji Zawal Pathan, Syed Zameer Shah, and Syed Mureed Ali Shah delivered speeches highlighting Iqbal's philosophy, spiritual vision, and his role in awakening the Muslim Ummah. They emphasized that Iqbal's poetry remains a timeless source of inspiration for self-realization, national pride, and unity. During the



event, students recited Iqbal's verses, and discussions were held on his contributions to the idea of Pakistan. Speakers urged the youth to study Iqbal's message and work for intellectual and moral revival. The program concluded with prayers for national prosperity and unity among Muslims worldwide.

## Devotees Gather for 16th Urs of Sufi Scholar Saen Abdul Aziz Laghari

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: The 16th annual Urs of revered Sufi scholar Saen Abdul Aziz Laghari was observed with spiritual devotion and large-scale participation in Moro. Thousands of devotees, scholars, and social figures gathered to pay homage to the saint, whose teachings continue to inspire followers across Sindh.



The ceremony began with Quran recitation, followed by speeches highlighting Saen Laghari's message of truth, peace, and humanity. Religious leaders emphasized that his philosophy of "service to humanity" remains

vital in today's world marked by conflict and intolerance. Attendees recalled how Saen Laghari spent his life spreading knowledge and compassion, promoting harmony among people of all backgrounds. Food was distributed to devotees, and special prayers were offered for

the prosperity of Pakistan. Cultural performances, including Sufi music and poetry, added a spiritual atmosphere to the event. Organizers vowed to continue the saint's mission through educational and welfare initiatives for the underprivileged.

## Outrage Grows as Protesters Demand Arrest of Hafiz Muazzam's Killers



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Family members and supporters of Hafiz Muazzam Noonari, who was murdered two years ago during a robbery, staged a protest in Thul demanding the arrest of the killers. Holding placards and chanting slogans, the demonstrators accused the local police of deliberate negligence and alleged that officers were bribed to protect the culprits.

The protesters, including women and children, blocked the main road for several hours, disrupting traffic. The victim's father claimed that the suspects roam freely and continue to threaten and harass the family to withdraw the case.

Addressing the crowd, community elders demanded that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon take notice and ensure justice. They also called for the suspension of negligent officers. The demonstration concluded after police assured protesters that the investigation would be expedited and arrests made soon.

## Rising Ice Drug Addiction Among Youth Sparks Public Alarm

By A.S. Theem

JATI: The growing use of the synthetic drug "ice" (methamphetamine) among youth in Jati and its adjoining areas has raised alarm among parents, educators, and community leaders. Reports suggest that a surge in addiction cases has been recorded in recent months, particularly among teenagers and young adults.

Experts link this troubling trend to unemployment, peer pressure, and lack of awareness about the drug's destructive effects. Several local schools have reported cases of students suffering from mental health problems due to substance abuse.

Social activists have called on the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and police to intensify crackdowns against drug dealers allegedly operating with impunity. They also urged the provincial government to launch awareness campaigns in educational institutions.

Health professionals warn that ice addiction leads to severe psychiatric disorders and violent behavior. The community has appealed for urgent rehabilitation programs and preventive measures to protect youth from falling prey to this menace.

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## Fire Erupts in A-Section Police Station Record Room, Files Reduced to Ashes

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Panic spread through the A-Section Police Station in Navabshah when a sudden fire broke out in the record room late Friday night. Police officials confirmed that thick smoke quickly engulfed the premises, forcing the immediate evacuation of all detainees from nearby lockups.

Firefighters and rescue teams arrived promptly at the scene and battled the flames for over an hour before bringing the situation under control. Initial reports suggest that a large portion of the police record—including case files and FIR documents—was destroyed in the blaze. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined, but sources indicate that an electrical short circuit could be a possible reason. SSP Shaheed Benazirabad has ordered a detailed inquiry to ascertain whether negligence or foul play was involved. Local residents and rights activists have urged authorities to digitize police records to prevent such losses in the future.

The incident has also reignited debates over safety standards in government buildings and police facilities across Sindh.

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## Tragedy Strikes as Woman Shot Dead by Husband in Domestic Dispute



By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A tragic incident of domestic violence shocked residents of Zardari Colony when a man, identified as Ghulam Sarwar Pathan, allegedly shot and killed his 30-year-old wife, Aaliya Pathan, before fleeing the scene. Police reached the location promptly after being informed by neighbors and took the victim's body into custody. The body was shifted to the Civil Hospital Tando Allahyar for postmortem and other legal formalities before being handed over to relatives. According to police sources, initial investigations suggest that the murder was the result of a heated domestic dispute. The tragic news spread quickly, plunging the neighborhood into grief as mourners gathered at the victim's residence. Police have registered a case and initiated a search operation to arrest the accused. Officials vowed that justice would be ensured and strict punishment would be sought for the perpetrator. The incident has reignited calls for stronger legal measures and awareness campaigns to prevent domestic violence.

Following the devastating

loss, the grieving father, Suraj Lohano, along with his relatives, staged a protest in front of the hospital with the child's body, condemning the hospital administration for negligence. Speaking to the media, the bereaved family demanded strict legal action against all absent doctors and staff responsible for this gross dereliction of duty.

The family later took the body home in their car, where scenes of anguish and mourning filled the house. The incident has raised serious questions about the state of healthcare services in the region, with locals urging health authorities to ensure accountability and prevent such tragedies from happening again.—RT

## Tragedy in Kot Ghulam Muhammad: 42-Day-Old Infant Dies as Doctors Absent from Hospital!

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: In a deeply tragic and shocking incident, a 42-day-old baby lost his life at Taluka Hospital Kot Ghulam Muhammad due to the alleged absence of doctors and medical staff on duty. The heartbreaking episode has sparked outrage and grief across the local community.

According to details, Suraj Lohano, a resident of New City Colony, rushed his newborn son, Rudraj, to the hospital's emergency ward after the baby's condition suddenly worsened. To his horror, not a single doctor or technician was present in the emergency department. Desperate and panicked, the father waited for more than an hour, pleading for help to save his infant's life—but no medical assistance arrived. Tragically, the baby breathed his last, struggling in his father's arms.

Following the devastating



The family later took the body home in their car, where scenes of anguish and mourning filled the house. The incident has raised serious questions about the state of healthcare services in the region, with locals urging health authorities to ensure accountability and prevent such tragedies from happening again.—RT

## Journalists Express Deep Condolences to PTI Leader Abdul Latif Rind

By Sajid Ali Anar

QAZI AHMED: Members of the Taluka Press Club Qazi Ahmed, led by their President Raja Sajid Ali Anar, visited the residence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Abdul Latif Rind to offer condolences on the death of his nephew. The delegation included senior journalists, photographers, and social workers who expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss. They prayed for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss with patience. During the visit, Abdul Latif Rind appreciated



the solidarity shown by the journalist community and thanked them for their heartfelt condolences. The visit reflected strong social and professional bonds

between the local media fraternity and political representatives of the area, reinforcing the spirit of compassion and unity in times of grief.

between the local media fraternity and political representatives of the area, reinforcing the spirit of compassion and unity in times of grief.

## Speed King! Faisal Shadi Khel Triumphs in Thrilling 10th Thal Jeep Rally

MITHA TIWANA: The desert roared with excitement as Faisal Shadi Khel clinched first place in the spectacular 10th Thal Jeep Rally, one of Pakistan's most thrilling off-road motorsport events. Drivers from across the country gathered in the golden dunes of Thal Desert to test their speed, skill, and endurance in this high-octane competition. Faisal Shadi Khel's stunning performance left spectators in awe as he maneuvered his powerful jeep through treacherous sand tracks, sharp turns, and blinding dust clouds with exceptional control and

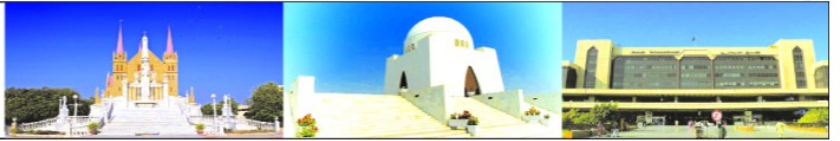
precision. He not only outpaced seasoned rivals but also set a remarkable time that sealed his victory and reaffirmed his reputation as one of Pakistan's finest off-road champions.

The rally, organized under the supervision of the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), featured multiple categories, including stock and prepared classes for both men and women. Thousands of fans, tourists, and motorsport enthusiasts thronged the desert to witness the electrifying race, turning the otherwise quiet

region into a festival of adventure, color, and national pride. Officials praised the participants for showcasing remarkable sportsmanship and resilience in the face of extreme desert conditions. Faisal Shadi Khel dedicated his win to his fans and team, expressing gratitude for their unwavering support. The 10th Thal Jeep Rally not only celebrated Pakistan's passion for motorsport but also highlighted the potential of the Thal region as a hub for adventure tourism and off-road racing excellence.—RT



# METRO KARACHI



## CM Murad Grieves Death of Anchor Jameel Farooqui's Brother

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of the brother of well-known TV anchor Jameel Farooqui. In his condolence message, the Chief Minister extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul's eternal peace and for the family's strength to bear this ir-



reparable loss. "May Allah elevate the deceased's ranks in the hereafter and grant patience to the family," he said. The CM's spokesperson, Abdul Rasheed Channa, confirmed the Chief Minister's message of condolence and solidarity during this difficult time.—RT

## Mayor Murtaza Wahab Fast-Tracks Karachi's Road Overhaul Drive

KARACHI: Officials of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) say that the city's infrastructure is steadily improving day by day. Following the directives of Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, work on lane markings and traffic signs is being rapidly completed after the construction of roads to ensure better enforcement of traffic laws.



Road, connecting Shaheed-e-Millat Road and Shara-e-Faisal, has not only been restored in a short period

but has also been upgraded with modern lane markings, meeting international standards.—RT

## K-IV Pipeline Push: University Road Traffic Shut Till December 30

KARACHI: Work on laying pipelines under the K-IV Water Supply Project is currently underway in the city. According to officials of the Karachi Water and Sewerage System Improvement Project, the installation of water pipelines from NIPA Chowringi to the Federal Urdu University will begin on November 10. During this period, the road will remain closed for vehicular traffic until



December 30.

Under the K-IV project, a 2.7-kilometer water pipeline network is being

laid along University Road. In the first phase of the augmentation plan, pipelines will be installed from NIPA Chowringi to the Federal Urdu University, while in the second phase, work will extend from Hasan Square to NIPA Chowringi. The deadline for completing the pipeline installation under the project has been set for December 30.—RT/Agency

## Murad Ali Shah on Iqbal Day: 'Iqbal's Vision Still Guides Our Youth'

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his message to the nation on Iqbal Day, said that the people of Sindh pay tribute to the Poet of the East, Allama Iqbal. He de-

scribed Iqbal as a great thinker and philosopher who preached self-awareness, confidence, and unity. Murad Ali Shah stated that Iqbal's vision of Pakistan awakened the nation to free-

dom. He urged the youth to embrace Iqbal's philosophy to contribute to the country's progress and emphasized that unity and solidarity are the keys to Pakistan's bright future.—RT

## Sir Syed University Rallies Students for Breast Cancer Awareness

KARACHI: Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) organized a seminar on breast cancer awareness in collaboration with PASTIC and EU project BIOMED 5.0, highlighting the importance of early detection, education, and community support. The event, titled "Beyond the cure: psychology, nutrition, and science in the fight

against cancer," brought together experts including Dr. Yabinda, Dr. Sundus Dastagir, Dr. Qudsia Tariq, and Dr. Bilal Hassan, alongside students and community members.

Chief Guest Mrs. Erum Akbar Ali Khan, Chairperson of Zakir Ali Khan Foundation, emphasized that regular self-examinations and mammograms can

save lives. Speakers, including MPA Shariq Jamal, stressed raising awareness in remote areas, consulting doctors for body changes, and removing the stigma around breast cancer. SSUET's Registrar and Biomedical Engineering Chairperson highlighted the university's role in public health education and knowledge sharing.—RT/Agency

## Governor Tessori Launches Youth IT Empowerment Program in Surjani Town

KARACHI: Addressing a public gathering in Surjani Town, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori said Karachi's destiny will be decided by the poor, not the rich. He announced a new IT training program for 1,000



youth under the Governor's Youth Program, along with

the establishment of an IT market managed by the Government House. He said Surjani Town faces severe water, electricity, and sewage issues, which will be resolved through development funds.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Authorities Tighten Grip in Crackdown on Illegal Tea Stalls and Hotels

KARACHI: On Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi's directives, a citywide operation is underway against illegal roadside hotels and tea stalls. Reports from deputy commissioners of Central, Korangi, and Keamari districts have been submitted.

DC Central Tahsa Saleem said two illegal hotels on Mirza Adam Khan Road and Agra Taj Lyari were sealed, while furniture and equipment from cafes in Buffer Zone and North Nazimabad were confiscated. In Korangi, DC Masood

Bhutto reported the removal of roadside encroachments from Shaikat Umar Hospital to Kabaotari Chowk. In Keamari, DC Raja Tariq Chaudhry confirmed action against similar setups in Madina Colony.—RT/Agency

## Lyari Rangers Operation Nets Five Notorious Dacoits

KARACHI: Sindh Rangers arrested five suspected dacoits during an operation in Lyari. According to a spokesperson, the suspects were involved in multiple

incidents of extortion and robbery. The arrested men, identified as Muaz, Irfanullah Shah, Abdul Ghafoor alias Lal, Kareem, and Bilal, were found with fake pistols, a

stolen motorcycle, and extortion slips. The suspects allegedly used fake weapons to intimidate citizens. Raids are ongoing to apprehend their remaining accomplices.—RT/Agency

## Governor Tessori Vows CNIC Relief and New Projects for Bengali Community



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has announced support for the Bengali community residing in Karachi to obtain their national identity cards (CNICs). Speaking at a public gathering in Karachi, Governor Tessori also revealed plans to build a state-of-the-art university and hospital in Sirjani Town.

During the event, Farooq Sattar stated that the MQM's local autonomy agenda has been incorporated into the 23rd

Amendment, marking a success not only for Karachi but for the entire country. He added that this amendment will grant autonomy to 130 districts. Farooq Sattar further announced that soon Karachi will have a mayor who is a proponent of citizens' rights, and the deputy mayor will be a daughter of the city. He also said that by next December, the K-IV water project will be completed, providing the city with a reliable water supply.—RT/Agency

## JI's Safara Convention Draws Massive Membership Response



By Dildar Sailro

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized a large membership convention in Safara Town under the slogan "Become a Member, Become a Force." Karachi Ameer Munim Zafar Khan criticized the Sindh government for

corruption and lack of development, saying residents continue to suffer from sewage, road damage, and power and water shortages. District East Ameer Naeem Akhtar and other JI leaders attended the event, vowing to continue the struggle for citizens' rights.

## Free Medical Camp Brings Hope to Gadap's Rural Poor



By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: A free one-day medical camp was organized in Saleh Muhammad Jamani village, Gadap, through the joint efforts of the Pakistan Helpline Welfare Association, Pakistan Rangers (Bhat-tai 72 Wing), and Noor Medical Centre.

Hundreds of patients received free check-ups and medicines. The camp was inaugurated by DSR Tanveer Ahmed of Pakistan Rangers and Syed Qaisar Mahmood, Chairman of the Pakistan Helpline Welfare Association, along with Vice Chairman Kashif Memon.

Speaking to journalists, Kashif Memon said that the organization regularly sets up free medical camps across Karachi's rural areas, providing free treatment and medicines.

He said over 400 patients were treated for various ailments, particularly skin and joint diseases caused by poor hygiene and lack of clean water.

Riaz Khan, CEO of Noor Medical Centre, said such camps are regularly arranged with the support of Pakistan Rangers to serve underprivileged areas.

## Korangi Police Produce Arrested Journalist in Court Amid Tension

By Dildar Sailro

KARACHI: Korangi Police arrested Safdar Mahmood Arain, President of Korangi Press Club, on charges of extortion and produced him before the District East Judicial Magistrate Court No. 13 under FIR No. 678/2025.



KARACHI: The office bearers of Pakistan Peoples Party's Overseas Organization in Birmingham, UK visited former MNA and Chairman of the Ibrat Group, Kazi Asad Abid at his Karachi residence. Seen in the picture are Nauraz Baloch, Khawaja Zulfiqar Hussain, Saad Baloch, Bilal Lashari and Kazi Mustafa Abbasi and Kazi Asad Abid.—RT

## MQM's Afaq Ahmed Engages Truckers to Tackle Deadly Road Hazards

A joint delegation of the Insaaf Truck Dumper Association and the All Truck Dumper Owners Association, led by Haji Yusuf and Agha Mian Jan, visited the residence of MQM Chairman Afaq Ahmed.



The delegation's head expressed deep sorrow over the loss of human lives in traffic accidents, stating that no one would intentionally harm even an ant, let alone a human being. They noted that

while accidents may result from non-compliance with rules or driver negligence, a major cause is the poor condition of roads and the encroach-

ment of carts and stalls on more than half of the road space under administrative oversight.

Afaq Ahmed assured the delegation that he considers Pashtuns as brothers and emphasized that his appeal for strict enforcement of traffic laws regarding dumpers and heavy vehicles should be supported by all parties, including the Pakistan Peoples Party, to prevent further accidents.—RT/Agency

## Altaf Shakoor Warns: Karachi's Traffic System on Brink of Collapse

KARACHI: The traffic chaos in Karachi is not merely a nuisance—it represents a complete failure of the city's urban transport system, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor on Sunday. He added that the situation is fixable, but short-term solutions alone will not solve the problem.

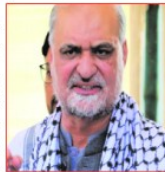
Karachi's car-centric growth over the past 20–25 years has led to excessive vehicles on roads while public transport remains underdeveloped. Ride-hailing bikes and delivery fleets add to the congestion. Unlike other megacities, Karachi lacks a functional mass transit system. The Green Line BRT, while a start, covers only a small corridor, and its second phase has stalled due to

political conflicts between the Sindh government and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab.

Feeder services are limited, and integration with other transit modes is poor. Weak traffic enforcement further exacerbates the issue, with lane indiscipline, illegal parking, and chaotic pedestrian movements causing bottlenecks.—RT

## Hafiz Naeem Slams Lifetime Immunity for President as 'Un-Islamic Shame'

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has condemned the proposed lifetime immunity for the President of Pakistan, calling it "wrong and shameful" from religious, constitutional, and democratic perspectives. In a post on X, he said the move undermines justice and reflects the hypocrisy of the ruling coalition. He criticized the PDM



and PPP for promoting feudal-style politics through manipulative tactics such as buying parliament members, capturing mayoral seats, and controlling policies via Form 47. Hafiz Naeem warned that the details emerging about the 27th Amendment are alarming and urged the opposition to reject it entirely.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Police Intercept Container Packed with Drugs

KARACHI: Police in Mochko area seized a container filled with narcotics brought from Balochistan. According to reports, the seized drugs are worth mil-

lions of rupees, and four suspects have been arrested. The operation was conducted near Musharraf Colony based on intelligence reports. Police said the drugs were being transported via rickshaws and motorcycles to various city areas, but the smuggling attempt was successfully foiled.—RT/Agency

## FIA Karachi Foils Belarus-Bound Illegal Travel Attempt

KARACHI: FIA Immigration Karachi foiled an attempt by two passengers to travel illegally to Belarus under the guise of passport was found tampered, with visa pages missing. Fake protector stamps and visa images

from Kotli, Azad Kashmir, were traveling to Azerbaijan on FlyDubai flight FZ-330. Asad's passport was found tampered, with visa pages missing. Fake protector stamps and visa images were also recovered from their belongings and mobile phones. Both had paid Rs. 1.4 million each to an agent and were handed over to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle for investigation.—RT/Agency

## Actress Romaisa Khan Exposes Payment Crisis in Entertainment Industry

KARACHI: Actress Romaisa Khan has openly criticized the entertainment industry for delayed payments. She said she is unable to ask for her payment multiple times, often resulting in her loss-

ing it entirely. She added that not demanding payment invites scolding from seniors, but constant reminders also damage professional relationships.—RT/Agency

## Dry Winds and Cool Evenings Define Karachi's Weather

KARACHI: The minimum temperature in Karachi was recorded at 17.5°C, while the current temperature stands at

19°C with 86% humidity. Winds are blowing from the northeast at 3 km/h. The Meteorological Department forecasts dry

weather with temperatures ranging between 30°C and 32°C, and light morning haze with cool nights.—RT/Agency

## Media Circles Toast PMC Coordinator Mian Khurram Shahzad's Birthday

By Dildar Sailro

KARACHI: The birthday of Pakistan Media Council's Central Coordinator Mian Khurram Shahzad was celebrated with enthusiasm. Senior journalists from across the city attended and praised his dedication to ethical jour-



nalism and the Media Memon, Fida Pakistani, and Waseem Hashmi, including Faisal among others.



Never tell your problems to anyone...20% don't care and the other 80% are glad you have them.

—Lou Holtz

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MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 2025

## Al-Sharaa Poised to Make History as First Syrian President to Visit the White House

BEIRUT: Two decades ago, Ahmad al-Sharaa was held in a U.S.-run detention center in Iraq after joining al-Qaida militants fighting against American forces there.

Few would have predicted that he would go on to become the first Syrian president to visit Washington since the country's independence in 1946.

Since rebel forces he ousted former Syrian President Bashar Assad last December, al-Sharaa — who cut ties with al-Qaida years earlier — has gone on a largely successful charm offensive to establish new ties with countries that had shunned Assad's government after its brutal crackdown on protesters in 2011 spiraled into a 14-year civil war.

Al-Sharaa met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Saudi Arabia in May, where



Trump announced that he would lift decades of sanctions.

The two men will meet again on Monday in Washington, where Syria is widely expected to officially join the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group. Al-Sharaa arrived in the U.S. on Saturday ahead of the meeting, according to Syrian state media. Apart from that agreement, al-Sharaa will use the visit to push for a full removal of the remaining sanc-

tions imposed on his country.

Al-Sharaa's media adviser, Ahmad Zeidan, told the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV that the "foremost" issue on the president's agenda in Washington is to call for a repeal of the Caesar Act, which imposed sweeping sanctions over human rights abuses by Assad's government and security forces.

The Caesar sanctions are currently waived by presidential order, but a permanent repeal will require a congressional vote.

Days ahead of al-Sharaa's visit, Trump told reporters that he had moved to lift sanctions from Syria "to give them a fighting shot, and I think (al-Sharaa's) doing a very good job so far."

"It's a tough neighborhood and he's a tough guy, but I got along with him very well, and a lot of progress has been made with Syria," he said. On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council voted to lift sanctions from al-Sharaa and his interior minister, and the U.S. then removed them from its "specially designated global terrorist" list.

Meanwhile, senators have advanced a repeal of the Caesar Act through an annual defense authorization bill, but the final legislation is being negotiated with the House, where some top Republicans want to put conditions on it.

Rep. Brian Mast, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has expressed reservations about a full repeal. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who is close to Trump, has also pushed for conditions on the repeal, including security and representation for religious and ethnic minorities, "maintaining peaceful relations with other states in the region, including the State of Israel," and removing foreign fighters from government and security institutions. Skeptics of al-Sharaa point to eruptions of sectarian violence over the past year during which pro-government Sunni gunmen killed hundreds of civilians from the Alawite and Druze religious minorities. Al-Sharaa has promised to hold perpetrators accountable, but minority communities remain wary. —RT/Agency

## President and PM Reaffirm Allama Iqbal's Vision as Beacon for Pakistan's Brighter Future

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in their separate messages on the birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal being observed on November 9, called for drawing inspiration from the Poet of the East's vision to build a prosperous and united Pakistan.

President Zardari urged the nation to renew its commitment to Allama Iqbal's principles and ideals for a brighter future. "As we pay tribute to his remarkable personality, let us draw strength from his life and ideals as we work together to build a prosperous, peaceful, and united Pakistan," he said.

He said Iqbal's vision awakened the spirit of inde-



pendence and self-determination among the Muslims of the subcontinent, adding that his ideas continue to shape Pakistan's national identity.

President Zardari prayed that Iqbal's vision may guide the nation in its shared endeavor for progress and continue to inspire generations. —RT/Agency

which explore matters of identity, spirituality and freedom," the president said, adding that his ideas continue to shape Pakistan's national identity.

President Zardari prayed that Iqbal's vision may guide the nation in its shared endeavor for progress and continue to inspire generations. —RT/Agency

## Before Trump Talks, Riyadh Holds Firm on Conditions for Normalizing Ties with Israel

United States President Donald Trump has been talking up the prospects of Saudi Arabia agreeing to normalise ties with Israel, but it is unlikely to happen when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visits the White House this month.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia after decades of enmity could shake up the political and security landscape in the Middle East, potentially strengthening US influence in the region.

Trump said last month he hoped Saudi Arabia would "very soon" join other Muslim countries that signed the 2020 Abraham Accords normalising ties with Israel.

But Riyadh has signalled to Washington through diplomatic channels that its position has



not changed. It will sign up only if there is agreement on a roadmap to Palestinian statehood, two Gulf sources told Reuters.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman speaks with US President Donald Trump on the day of the Saudi-US Investment Forum, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 13. — Reuters/Fil

The intention is to avoid diplomatic missteps and ensure alignment of the Saudi and US positions

before any public statements are made, they said. One said the aim was to avoid any confusion at or after the White House talks on November 18.

The Crown Prince, widely known as MBS, "is not likely to entertain any possible formalising of ties in the near future without at least a credible pathway to a Palestinian state," said Jonathan Panikoff, former deputy US national intelligence officer on the Middle East. —RT/Agency

## US Air Travel Faces Near Standstill Amid Government Shutdown Crisis



WASHINGTON: U.S. flights will be reduced to "a trickle" in the run-up to the Thanksgiving holiday as the federal shutdown continues because of rising air traffic control staffing shortages, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in remarks that aired on Sunday.

Major airlines were dealing with a third day of government-mandated flight cuts after thousands of delays and cancellations snarled traffic on Saturday. The shutdown, which has reached a record 40 days, has led to shortages of air traffic controllers who, like other federal employees, have not been paid for weeks.

"It's only going to get worse... the two weeks before Thanksgiving, you're going to see air travel be reduced to a trickle," Duffy said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

Millions of people usually travel in the run-up to Thanksgiving, one of the most important U.S. holidays, which this year falls on November 27.

"Many of them are not going to be able to get on an airplane, because there are not going to be that many flights that fly if this thing doesn't open back up,"

Duffy said. The Federal Aviation Administration instructed airlines to cut 4% of daily flights starting on Friday at 40 major airports because of air traffic control safety concerns. Reductions in flights are mandated to reach 6% on Tuesday and then hit 10% by November 14.

As of 10:30 a.m. ET (1530 GMT) on Sunday, there had already been 1,400 flight cancellations and 2,700 delays as conditions looked to be worsening. The Federal Aviation Administration said it had staffing issues at 12 towers.

A growing number of air traffic controllers have retired since the federal shutdown started on October 1, Duffy said. The FAA is 1,000 to 2,000 controllers short of full staffing, he told CNN.

"I paid experienced controllers to stay on the job and not retire," Duffy said. "I used to have about four controllers retire a day before the shutdown... now up to 15 to 20 a day are retiring."

Some 1,550 flights were canceled and 6,700 were delayed on Saturday, up from 1,025 cancellations and 7,000 delayed flights on Friday. —RT/Agency

## Iran Steps Forward to Mediate Between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban in Bid for Regional Calm

ISLAMABAD: Iran has offered to mediate between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban to help defuse the mounting tensions following the recent collapse of talks between the two neighbors, diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

According to the sources, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi held separate phone conversations with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, offering Tehran's assistance in fostering reconciliation and building mutual trust.

During the discussion, the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers reviewed bilateral relations, regional developments, and international issues. Araghchi stressed that peace and stability along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border must be preserved and reiterated Iran's willingness to facilitate dialogue between the two sides.

"The Iranian foreign minister voiced concern over the

growing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan and urged both countries to continue dialogue to settle their differences," a diplomatic source said. Araghchi further assured that Iran was prepared to provide all possible support to promote peace and understanding in the region.

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar briefed his Iranian counterpart on the recent Istanbul talks between Islamabad and Kabul, which ended without progress. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to resolving issues through diplomacy, stressing that regional stability remains a top priority for Islamabad. Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination and consultation, with Iran expected to play a constructive mediating role in the coming days. Separately, sources confirmed that Araghchi also spoke with Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, conveying Iran's view that continuous engagement is vital to prevent further deterioration in bilateral ties. —RT

## Mamdani's New York Triumph Exposes Deep Rifts in Jewish Democratic Politics

NEW YORK: Zohran Mamdani's election as New York's next mayor exposed a deepening rift between traditional Democratic Jewish voters and younger progressives — one that could reshape politics for years in the metropolitan area with the world's largest Jewish population outside Israel.

Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist, handily defeated Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic former governor of New York who ran as an independent, while beating back accusations of anti-Semitism over his support of Palestinians in the conflict in Gaza.

A Muslim immigrant, Mamdani benefited from a wave of anger over Israel's conduct in Gaza among some Democrats and Jewish Americans who had initially supported it but grew disillusioned that shift manifested itself in spring protests at Co-



lumbia University last year that Mamdani supported and politically benefited from.

A Pew Research Center poll last year found that just half of Jewish Americans under 35 said the way Israel has carried out the war has been acceptable, while 68% of Jews ages 50 and older said it was acceptable.

In New York, about one-third of Jewish voters in Tuesday's election supported Mamdani, exit polls showed,

powering a victory that alarmed his Jewish opponents accustomed to backing the losing candidate.

"The morning after the election, many members of our community woke up with a sense of unease," said Hinda Pouppou, a senior vice president at the UJA-Federation of New York, a major Jewish nonprofit. "There's a lot of uncertainty about how Mayor Mamdani might act once in City Hall." —RT/Agency

## PML-N Clinches Wazirabad NA-66 By-Poll Unopposed as Rivals Withdraw from Race

GUJRAT: Bilal Farooq Tarrar, the ruling PML-N candidate for the Wazirabad NA-66 by-polls, has been declared elected unopposed as other candidates retired from the race.

He is the younger brother of Federal Minister for Information Attallah Tarrar. Returning Officer Shabeer Hussain Butt issued a notification on Saturday, declaring the PML-N nominee as elected unopposed.

The seat had fallen vacant in August last in the wake of conviction of the then Punjab PTI president and MNA Muhammad Ahmed Chhattha in a case of May 9 riots.

Scheduled for Sept 18, the by-polls were postponed due to massive flooding in Wazirabad and surrounding areas due to rain. The Election Commission of Pakistan rescheduled the ballot to Nov 23.

Sources in RO office said 30 aspirants had filed their papers, including ex-MPA Bilal Farooq Tarrar of the PML-N, ex-MPA Ijaz Samman of the PPP, four family members of veteran politician Hamid Nasir Chhattha and others.

However, all four members of the Chhattha family, including Ahmed Chhattha, his wife Ain Chhattha, brother Fayyaz Chhattha, also a former Gujranwala district nazim, and his daughter, had withdrawn their nomination papers after PTI founder Imran Khan announced boycott of the by-polls in Punjab.

PPP's Ijaz Samman too withdrew his papers as per the seat adjustment formula of his party with the PML-N whereas some other independent candidates also quit the race.

Two candidates backed by Tehreek-i-Labbak Pakistan (TLP) and some others submitted their retirement, paving the way for Bilal Tarrar.

His return unopposed.

The notification has been sent to the ECP for the issuance of a formal notification of the returned candidate. Belonging to Pir Kot village near Gakhar Mandi town of Gujranwala, Bilal Tarrar had earlier been elected as an MPA twice from a Punjab Assembly seat of Rahwali and Gakhar towns but he lost the February 2024 polls on that PA seat.

Bilal Tarrar is the grandson of former president Rafique Tarrar and this is for the first time that the Tarrar family contested an NA seat of Wazirabad as earlier in February 2024 polls, Attallah Tarrar applied for the PML-N ticket from a Gujranwala NA seat which was resisted by senior parliamentarian and former federal minister Mahmood Baashere (TLP) and some others succeeded in keeping the senior Tarrar away. —RT/Agency

## Shock Visa Crackdown: Diabetes, Obesity Could Cost You Entry into the U.S.

The visas of foreigners seeking residence in the US face the possibility of rejection if the applicants have certain medical conditions, including diabetes or obesity, according to US-based news outlet.

The publication reported this, citing a new directive from the Trump administration. According to the outlet, this new directive was outlined in a cable issued by the US State

Department to embassy and consular officials.

It "directs visa officers to deem applicants ineligible to enter the US for several new reasons, including age or the likelihood they might rely on public benefits," KFF reported. "The guidance says that such people could become a 'public charge' — a potential drain on US resources — because of their health issues or

age," the report said. "You must consider an applicant's health," the cable read, according to KFF. It added: "Certain medical conditions — including, but not limited to, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, cancers, diabetes, metabolic diseases, neurological diseases, and mental health conditions — can require hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of care." —RT

## PIA Slams 'False Narrative' After Plane Windscreen Crack Sparks Uproar

LAHORE: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has denied reports suggesting a major in-flight emergency, calling it a "false narrative" aimed at defaming the airline. A PIA spokesperson clarified

that the aircraft's windscreen has three strong layers, and only the inner layer was cracked, posing no safety risk. The airline condemned the "false narrative" aimed at defaming the airline. A PIA spokesperson clarified

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## Hamas Announces Plan to Return Body of Israeli Soldier Held in Gaza Since 2014

TEL AVIV: Hamas announced it will hand over on Sunday afternoon the body of an Israeli soldier who was killed in 2014 and who has been held in Gaza since then. His remains are the only ones held in Gaza since before the latest, two-year war between Israel and Hamas.

The return of the soldier, Hadar Goldin, would be a significant development in the U.S.-brokered truce and close a painful, 11-year saga for his parents, who spearheaded a campaign, along with the family of another soldier whose body was taken in 2014, to bring their son home for burial.

According to the announcement, Hamas said it

found the Goldin's body in a tunnel in the enclave's southernmost city of Rafah on Saturday. Goldin was killed on Aug. 1, 2014, two hours after a ceasefire took effect ending the that year's war between Israel and Hamas.

Israeli media, citing anonymous officials, have reported that Hamas was delaying the release of Goldin's body in hopes of negotiating safe passage for more than 100 militants surrounded by Israeli forces and trapped in the enclave's southernmost city of Rafah.

Gila Gamliel, the minister of science and technology and a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, told Army radio said

that Israel is not negotiating for a deal within a deal.

"There are agreements whose implementation is guaranteed by the mediators, and we shouldn't allow anyone to come and play (games) and to reopen the agreement," she said. Hamas made no comment on a possible exchange for its fighters stuck in the so-called yellow zone, which is controlled by Israeli forces, though they acknowledge that there are clashes taking place there. Goldin is one of five bodies of deceased hostages still remaining in Gaza. As part of the U.S.-brokered truce deal, the militants are expected to return all of the remains of hostages. —RT