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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Opposition Alliance Declares Black Day Protest Against 27th Amendment On Nov 21

ISLAMABAD: The opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) rejected the 27th Constitutional Amendment and announced nationwide protest and 'Black Day' to be observed on November 21.

According to a statement issued after an emergency meeting chaired by veteran politician Mehmood Khan Achakzai, the amendment has curtailed the authority of Supreme Court.

The statement said the government had "destroyed the basic structure of the Constitution" and demanded that the Constitution be restored to its original form.

It added that the 'controversial' amendment had placed the judiciary under the control of the executive.

The joint opposition further stated that the recent resignations of judges were being seen as acts of resistance.

It announced that the united opposition would stage a protest march from Parliament House to the Supreme Court on Monday, November 17.

Moreover, a resolution against the constitutional amendment would also be tabled in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.The meeting was attended by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, Salman Akram Raja, former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, Zain Shah, Sajid Tareen, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.—RT/Agency

Six Judges Named To Constitutional Court As Three Take Oath Amid Political Turmoil

ISLAMABAD: Marking a historic point in country's judicial and constitutional history, Justice Aminuddin Khan on Friday was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the newly formed Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) today (Friday) under the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath to Justice Aminuddin at the Aiwan-e-Sadar today, a day after he approved his appointment to the key post on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The president made the appointment under clause (3) of Article 175-A, read with Article 175-C of the Constitution. It added that it would come into effect from the date that Justice Aminuddin took his oath.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force chiefs, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and federal ministers including DPM Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and other dignitaries and officials.

Justice Aminuddin, whose legal practice started around four decades back, was previously serving as the head of the now-dissolved constitutional bench, which was formed as a result of the 26th Constitutional Amendment last year.

The Ministry of Law has also issued a notification for the appointment of six judges to the FCC. The judges include Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha, Justice Rozi Khan Barrech and Justice Arshad Hussain Shah.

Meanwhile, Justice Aminuddin later administered the oath to other three out of total six FCC judges after being sworn in as the CJ of the said court.

Three judges, namely, Justice Farooq, Justice Najafi and Justice Rizvi have taken oath in the first phase.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the open area between the judges' and administration block in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).—RT/Agency

President Signs Off On Resignations Of Justices Mansoor Ali Shah And Athar Minallah

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday approved the resignations of Supreme Court justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah.

Both the judges had forwarded their resignations to President Zardari following the enactment of the 27th Constitutional Amendment a day ago.

The jurists had criticised the 27th Amendment, describing it as a "grave assault on the Constitution of Pakistan". However, the federal government called the judges' resignations "political speeches" and the latter's allegations "unconstitutional".

Justice Shah, in his 13-page resignation letter, called the recent constitutional tweak an assault on the Constitution that dismantles the Supreme Court, compromises judicial independence and weakens the country's constitutional democracy.

He wrote that the amendment, passed "without debate or consultation", creates a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) above the Supreme Court and places the judiciary under executive influence, leaving the apex court "truncated and diminished".

Justice Shah said he could not remain in a court "stripped of its constitutional authority", adding that continuing would amount to silently accepting a constitutional wrong.—RT/Agency

Four Accomplices Of Slain Bomber Nabbed In Islamabad Judicial Complex Attack Probe

ISLAMABAD: Security agencies have arrested four terrorists linked to the extremist group Fitna-ul-Khawarij, who allegedly assisted the suicide bomber involved in the recent attack on the Judicial Complex Islamabad. According to the Government of Pakistan, a joint intelligence-based operation carried out by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) successfully dismantled the entire cell responsible for the bombing.

During interrogation, the handler of the deceased attacker confessed that a commander of a banned organisation, based in Afghanistan, had contacted the bomber through the Telegram app and ordered him to carry out an attack in Islamabad.

Officials revealed that the attacker had travelled from Afghanistan to Pakistan and was provided shelter in the outskirts of Islamabad by local facilitators. Following instructions from the Afghan-based commander, the bomber obtained an explosive vest from Peshawar and transported it to Islamabad for the attack.Authorities say the arrest of the four accomplices marks a major breakthrough in the investigation, and further inquiries are underway to trace remaining networks connected to the plot.—RT/Agency

Senate Pushes Through Armed Forces And SC Bills To Cement 27th Amendment Framework

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Friday approved bills, three of them related to the armed forces, a day after the National Assembly passed them with a majority vote.

The bills include the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Pakistan Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Pakistan Air Force (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2025.

The bills redefine institutional roles and bring multiple laws in line with the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

Central to these changes is the recommencement of Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir's five-year tenure under the newly created office of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar presented the Army Act Amendment Bill, saying that the approval of the 27th Constitutional Amendment necessitated changes to various Acts. He said that amendments had been made to the Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts.

The Army Act Amendment Bill was passed by a majority vote in the Senate. However, members of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) opposed the bill.

JUI-F's Senator Kamran Murtaza suggested that the bill be referred to the relevant committee for further consideration.

The Senate also passed the Air Force Amendment Bill, presented by DPM Senator Dar, and the Navy Ordinance Amendment Bill, which was tabled by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

Morever, the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Bill was also approved, presented by Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry. Members of PTI and JUI-F opposed the bill.

The lower house of parliament on Thursday passed the said bills to make Acts relating to armed forces and the apex court consistent with the 27th Amendment to the Constitution.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Russia Hold Landmark Security Talks On Asian Geopolitics

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have held their first official consultative meeting on security-related matters in Asia.

Both sides discussed regional security dynamics, emerging alliances, and new avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

According to the Foreign Office, the meeting focused on key aspects of bilateral and regional security. On this occasion, the director general for Asia and Pacific Cooperation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also met with the spokesperson of Pakistan's Foreign Office.

The two sides reviewed the regional security environment, the formation of emerging alliances, and potential opportunities to expand cooperation.

The Foreign Office stated that Pakistan greatly values its constructive and cooperative relationship with Russia, and supports a dialogue-based approach to promoting peace and stability in the region.

In September, Pakistan and Russia conducted a joint military exercise that focused on drone warfare among other things, the Pakistani military said.—RT/Agency

Indian Air Force Jet Crashes Near Chennai, Sparks Safety Questions

CHENNAI: Indian Air Force (IAF) Pilatus PC-7 trainer aircraft crashed near Tambaram in Chengalpattu district on Friday afternoon during a routine training mission.

The pilot managed to eject safely, and no injuries or damage to civilian property have been reported.

The crash occurred around 2:25pm, according to the IAF. Locals rushed to the site after hearing the impact, where debris from the PC-7 was seen scattered across an open area. A video shared by PTI on X showed damaged parts of the aircraft lying on the ground as residents gathered nearby.

The IAF immediately confirmed the incident and stated that the aircraft was on a standard training sortie when it crashed.

IAF orders investigation

In an official statement, the Indian Air Force said: "An Indian Air Force PC-7 Mk II trainer aircraft met with an accident during a routine training mission and crashed at about 1425 Hr near Tambaram, Chennai, today. The pilot ejected safely, and no damage to civil property has been reported. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident."—RT/Agency

PPP Fires No-Confidence Motion To Oust AJK PM Anwarul Haq

MUZAFFARBAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Friday formally submitted a no-confidence motion against Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

The Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari-led party also nominated Faisal Rathore as its candidate for the position of AJK premier.

Speaking to journalists, PPP leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said the party makes all decisions after "thorough internal consultations".

He confirmed that the PPP will move a no-confidence motion against the AJK prime minister, adding that the region holds a "special place" in the party's heart.

"Considering the situation in Kashmir, we hope this decision proves beneficial," Ashraf said, adding, "Our leadership has taken this step for the welfare of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir."

The PPP moved to consolidate its government in the autonomous region shortly after President Asif Ali Zardari revealed the political strategy last month.

The party bolstered its strength in the Legislative Assembly when 10 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmakers joined the PPP on October 26 during a meeting with President Zardari's sister, Faryal Talpur, at Zardari House in Islamabad.—RT/Agency

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Move To Strengthen Defence Partnership

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Aamir Raza, held separate high-level meetings with the Saudi Chief of General Staff and senior Saudi defence leadership during his visit to the Kingdom, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

According to ISPR, Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, Chief of General Staff (CGS) Pakistan Army, called on General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al-Rowaily, Chief of General Staff, Royal Saudi Armed Forces, at Riyadh.

During the meeting, matters of mutual strategic interest were discussed, with a special focus on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, enhancing interoperability and advancing collaboration under the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA).

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the long-standing fraternal ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, contributing towards regional peace, stability and self-reliance.

A Special Meeting of the Pakistan-KSA Bilateral Defence Industrial Forum was also held in Riyadh. Pakistan tri-services delegation was led by Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, CGS Pakistan Army, while the Saudi side was headed by H.E. Mr Khalid Al Biyari, Assistant Minister of Defence for Executive Affairs.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz's Aide's Meeting With Israeli Tourism Chief Declared Unauthorised By FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's foreign office on Friday confirmed that a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's special assistant on tourism, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, and an Israeli official at a global travel fair in London was not authorised by the government.

The incident gained attention after a video circulated on social media showing Khan interacting with Michael Izhakov, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Tourism, at the Pakistan pavilion during the World Travel Market (WTM).

Tahir Andrabi, spokesperson for the foreign office, told reporters that no prior approval or information had been given to the government regarding the meeting. "I can assure you that if at all such a meeting or such an interaction took place, it was without authorisation, certainly without information to us and certainly without authorisation by the government," he said.Andrabi added that it was unfair to link the incident with speculation about Pakistan joining the Abraham Accords or recognising Israel, calling such conclusions "too far-fetched."—RT/Agency

Ukrainian Capital Hit By Massive Barrage In Escalating Conflict

KYIV: Almost every district in Kyiv came under "massive" attack Friday morning, the Ukrainian capital's mayor said, with a death reported hours after AFP journalists heard explosions in the city centre.

Moscow, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, has intensified its attacks on infrastructure, particularly targeting Ukrainian energy facilities and rail systems, as well as residential areas, in recent months.

Missiles and drones were targeting critical infrastructure in the capital on Friday, said Mykola Kalashnyk, the head of the Kyiv regional military administration.

Mayor Vitaly Klitschko called it a "massive enemy attack", saying air defence forces were in operation.

One person was killed and at least 15 wounded in the attack, according to the Ukrainian emergency services, which added that "more than 40 people have been rescued" from fires and destruction across the city.

Earlier, Klitschko reported fires or damage to buildings in eight of Kyiv's 10 districts, saying medical emergency teams were deployed to all of them.

He said a pregnant woman was among those hospitalised as well as a man in "extremely serious condition".

"Sections of heating networks were damaged," he wrote on Telegram, with some buildings in northeastern Desnyansky district temporarily left without heat.Electricity and water supplies could also be disrupted, he added.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
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THE HEARTLAND

AKMCC Hyderabad Sparks Citywide Awareness Drive on World Diabetes Day

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Aga Khan Maternal and Child Care Centre (AKMCC) Hyderabad organized a public awareness walk and session to mark World Diabetes Day, with large participation from doctors and staff. The session, themed "Live Well With Diabetes: Know Your Risk, Treat It, and Thrive," highlighted that one in four adults in Pakistan is affected by diabetes, with many unaware of their condition. Speakers, including Dr. Syed Merajuddin Shah, Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Dr. Sana Umar and Dr. Jaweria Naqvi, stressed timely diagnosis, lifestyle changes, and proper treatment to prevent complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, vision loss and nerve damage. They emphasized that diabetes is a national public health challenge requiring community-wide awareness and accessible screening. AKMCC reaffirmed its commitment to diabetes prevention and education through annual awareness initiatives. Participants received free screenings, including vital sign checks, RBS and HbA1c testing, along with consultations from dietitians and physiotherapists.

Thul Erupts as Residents Demand Arrests in Youth's Murder Case

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The family of Imtiaz Noonari and members of civil society staged a strong protest demanding the arrest of the suspects involved in his killing near Thul. Twelve days earlier, in the Bahu Khoso police station limits of village Waryam Noonari, armed men allegedly shot Imtiaz Noonari dead outside his home for refusing to pay extortion, injuring three others. Led by community members and political activists, protesters marched from Rahbar Chowk and blocked the Thul-Jacobabad road. They said police have failed to arrest the suspects, who are roaming freely and issuing threats. The protesters demanded immediate arrests and justice, warning that their protest would continue otherwise.

AC Ghulam Fatima Ghalu Leads High-Level Push for Measles–Rubella Vaccination Drive

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Assistant Commissioner Mehar, Ghulam Fatima Ghalu, chaired a meeting regarding the Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign starting from 17 November. Officers from the health and education departments, along with local notables, attended. Officials were instructed that children aged 6 months to 5 years will be vaccinated from 17 to 29 November. Multiple teams have been formed to visit villages, schools, health centres, vaccination points, and remote areas. She emphasized raising awareness through the education department, media, and mosques so parents ensure their children receive protection against measles, rubella, and related diseases. Participants included Syed Muhammad Shah Rizvi, Dr. Muhammad Quresh Dero, Dr. Muhammad Isa Sodhar and others. A rally was also taken out from the Mukhtiarkar office to the main gate.

Hepatitis B and C Screening Brings Lifesaving Checks to Saeed Khan Chandio Village

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: A Hepatitis B and C screening camp was organized in Saeed Khan Chandio village under the supervision of Dr. Waqar Ahmed Memon from Tando Bago Taluka Hospital. A total of 104 villagers were tested for Hepatitis B and C. According to Dr. Memon, seven positive cases were identified four for Hepatitis B and three for Hepatitis C. Blood samples of these patients were sent to Hyderabad for PCR testing, and upon receiving results, proper treatment and therapy will be provided. Vaccinations were administered to the remaining participants to prevent the disease. Villager Yousif Chandio appreciated Dr. Memon and his team for their efforts and prayed for their success.

Jacobabad Students Rise Up Against Corruption, Demand Accountability Now

By Muhammed Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Concerned students from various government schools staged a peaceful protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's House, highlighting alleged irregularities in the allocation of specific funds for school activities. Organized by the Children's Rights Movement and Student Rights Movement under Adarsh Khan Ameer, the demonstration aimed to raise awareness about the importance of transparency and proper utilization of resources meant for students' education and development. Protesters carried banners urging protection of students' basic rights and accountability for those responsible, including certain officials previously linked to fund mismanagement. Speakers emphasized that funds meant for sports, competitions, and student welfare should directly benefit children and that any misuse undermines their opportunities. The students and organizers called upon education authorities to conduct a fair and transparent investigation, ensure justice, and restore public confidence in the management of school resources.

Hyderabad Police Hit Hard at Mainpuri and Gutka Network, Six Nabbed in Major Sweep

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police carried out multiple operations, recovering large quantities of hazardous Mainpuri and Gutka and arresting six accused, including absconders and proclaimed offenders. At Checkpoint Paban, police arrested Saifal Bhurgari with 790 Mainpuri packets, while his accomplice escaped. City Police caught proclaimed offender Shan Elahi Shaikh. Bhittai Nagar Police arrested Saeed Khaskheli with 14 Gutka packets. Baldia Police detained Ghulam Mustafa Mallah with 450 Mainpuri packets. Hali Road Police arrested absconders Hamid alias Bona and Ali Haider, seizing 800 Mainpuri packets. Further operations continue.

Umerkot Residents Alarmed Over Open Drug and Alcohol Sales

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Residents of Shadi Palli and Old Shadi Palli have raised serious concerns over the open sale and consumption of alcohol, hashish, and other intoxicants in the area, even on Fridays. Locals claim that various shops across Shadi Pli's colonies and nearby neighborhoods are openly selling these substances, putting the younger generation at risk of destruction. Community members said previous complaints to authorities had little effect, while drug dealers continue operations openly. Citizens have urged SSP Umerkot and SHO Atta Muhammad Laghari to take strict action to stop the sale of intoxicants and protect youth from further harm.

Severe Gas Cuts and Low Pressure Leave Thatta Residents Struggling

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Residents of Thatta and nearby areas are facing severe difficulties due to prolonged gas load shedding and a noticeable drop in gas pressure. The shortage has disrupted daily life, particularly affecting cooking and heating, as winter approaches. Many households have resorted to coal as an alternative fuel, leading to the emergence of makeshift coal kilns on the city outskirts, raising health and environmental concerns. Locals have urged gas utility authorities to take immediate action to restore regular gas supply and alleviate the hardships faced by the community amid growing energy challenges.

Young Man Left Critically Wounded in Brutal Axe Attack at Digri Service Pump

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: In Digri city, a young man working at a service pump was severely injured in an axe attack. Altaf Ali Khaskheli, a resident of Khaskheli Para, filed a case at Digri Police Station, stating that his brother, Thanaullah son of Abdul Rauf Khaskheli, was attacked by Muhammad Khan son of Imam Dino Sheedi and Jahangir son of Ghulam Rasool Sheedi. The assailants fled the scene after the unprovoked attack. The injured was provided initial medical aid at Digri Hospital and then referred to Hyderabad for further treatment. No arrests have been made yet, and the complainant has demanded swift action for justice.

Nooriabad Residents Press Authorities to End Land Grabbing Crisis

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Growing concerns over land occupation near Nooriabad and the Super Highway have prompted residents and community leaders to call for urgent action. Locals report that several influential individuals, including Malik Bedi Khan Hemlani, have allegedly occupied government and private land, sometimes reselling it at high prices. The case of five acres belonging to the late Sultan Jakhro, including the Data Darbar Hotel, has sparked particular concern, as residents say the land was taken despite owners' refusal to sell. Repeated court observations by the Sindh High Court in 2015, 2019, and 2023 highlighted the issue, while a 2024 task force registered hundreds of cases across Sindh, mostly in Karachi.

HESCO's Anti-Theft Drive Recovers Over Rs 79 Crores in Power Dues

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has strengthened its campaign against electricity theft, recovering over Rs. 79.56 crore since January 2025. Under CEO Faizullah Dahri, a total of 32,904 illegal connections have been disconnected, 208,269 meters of illegal wires seized, and 773 accused apprehended. On November 14, focused operations in Hali Road, Qasimabad, Tando Allahyar-I, Preetabad, Makli, Nawab Shah-II, Satellite Town, Mirwah Gorchani, and Samaro led to 147 illegal connections being cut and Rs 41.4 lac recovered. CEO Dahri urged timely payment of electricity dues and full cooperation with authorities, warning that continued default could result in legal action and involvement of security forces. The campaign will continue until power theft is fully eradicated.

Sindh Police and Chandka Nursing Institute Offer Free Education for Martyrs' Children

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Sindh Police and Chandka Institute of Nursing & Allied Health Sciences, Larkana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide free medical education to children of martyred police officers. The MoU was signed by Chairman Syed Iqbal Babu and DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab, in the presence of IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon. During the ceremony, IG Sindh distributed laptops to students and awarded certificates to teachers. The program offers free admission in two degree programs and 12 short courses annually, while serving police personnel will receive a 50% fee concession.

Sports Fever Grips Moro Government Girls Degree College

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: Government Girls Degree College Moro organized a vibrant Sports Day under the supervision of Principal Prof. Afshan Bano Kandhro. Various competitions were held, and students actively participated, showcasing their talent in multiple sports. Winners were awarded prizes for their achievements. Principal Prof. Afshan Bano Kandhro appreciated the students, saying they excel not only in academics but also in sports. She emphasized that the college encourages holistic development and praised the students for their dedication, hoping they continue to achieve greater success in the future while bringing honor to the institution.

Syed Daim Shah Receives Top Honor from Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department

GHARO: Syed Daim Ali Shah, President of the Aquaculture Farmers Association and CEO of Agri Plus Industry, expressed heartfelt gratitude after being honored with a shield by Minister for Livestock & Fisheries Sindh, Muhammad Ali Malkani. The ceremony was also attended by Secretary Sindh Kazim Hasan Jatoi, former DG Marine Fisheries Ali Muhammad Mastoi, and DG Livestock Hasnain Bhutto. Shah thanked the entire team for their support and acknowledged the efforts of the Minister and Secretary in promoting fisheries, livestock, cattle, and shrimp production in the province. The event highlighted achievements in aquaculture and the commitment to enhancing Sindh's agricultural and fisheries sectors.—RT

JUI-F Sindh Mobilizes Public to Defend Rights

By Muhammed Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: JUI-F Sindh leader Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro has urged the people of Sindh to actively raise their voice against alleged injustices and defend their rights. Speaking at a public gathering, he criticized the 27th Constitutional Amendment, warning that granting lifelong immunity to those who exploited Sindh's lands would harm the province. He emphasized the need for unity to safeguard religion, land, resources, women, and children. Soomro reaffirmed JUI-F's commitment to improving healthcare, education, and rights of the underprivileged. Supporters pledged full confidence in his leadership and vowed to back the party's struggle for Sindh's rights.

Three Brothers Badly Hurt in Car–Truck Crash Near Hyderabad Bypass

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A serious traffic accident took place near Hyderabad Chhalghari Stop Bypass when a car crashed into a truck that was stationary on the road due to a mechanical fault. The car driver, unaware of the broken-down truck, was unable to avoid the collision. Three brothers from Hyderabad including Sanaullah (40), Aurangzeb (43) and Attaullah (46) were traveling from Islamabad to Hyderabad when the accident occurred. All three sustained injuries and were trapped inside the vehicle. Rescue 1122 teams arrived promptly, safely extricated the victims, administered first aid, and transported them to Civil Hospital Hyderabad for further medical treatment. Authorities are investigating the incident.

Advocate GM Laghari Vows Sweeping Reforms in Hyderabad Bar Elections

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Advocate GM Laghari, contesting for Vice President of Hyderabad District Bar Association, pledged to prioritize lawyers' welfare, dignity, and facilities. He promised modern work amenities, training workshops for junior lawyers, promotion of legal activities, and a welfare fund for those in need. Laghari emphasized support at Bar, judicial, and administrative levels, advocating transparency and collective decision-making. Several senior lawyers endorsed his candidacy for positive change.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Aleem Khan Orders NHA to Roll Out New Toll Plazas Across KP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Aleem Khan has ordered the National Highway Authority to establish new toll plazas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister chaired an important meeting in the capital where the NHA gave him a detailed briefing on ongoing development projects.

He added that the revenue collected from these toll plazas would be spent exclusively on improving KP's road infrastructure while also warning that acts of vandalism at toll plazas would not be tolerated.

Khan highlighted the importance of revenue collection for ensuring continuity of both development and maintenance projects while also directing the mandatory inspections for all projects with liabilities exceeding Rs10 million.

Reiterating his commitment to eliminating corruption within the NHA, Khan said no officer or staff member would be allowed to engage in corrupt practices and stressed that transparency and integrity must be upheld at every scale.—RT/Agency

New Commission Set Up to Shield Journalists and Media Workers from Rising Threats

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has established a commission dedicated to ensuring the safety and rights of journalists across Pakistan.

The body has been constituted under the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021, with the Ministry of Information formally issuing the notification.

According to the announcement, the commission will oversee measures related to journalists' security, monitor violations, and support the implementation of legal safeguards in Pakistan.

The 12-member commission includes representation from key journalist bodies in Pakistan, such as the National Press Club and the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ). Representatives from national and provincial press unions have also been included to ensure broad-based input from the media community.

As per the notification, the Principal Information Officer from the Ministry of Information will serve as an ex-officio member, while the Director General of the Ministry of Human Rights has also been nominated to the commission.—RT/Agency

Nationwide Diesel Shortage Sparks Fears of Imminent Price Hike

ISLAMABAD: Diesel 'shortage' is being reported nationwide amid a potential increase in petroleum product prices from November 16, ARY News reported on Friday, citing sources.

Sources privy to the development report that oil companies have halted the supply of diesel in Islamabad. The reported suspension has led to diesel shortages in various regions. According to the Petroleum Dealers Association, private oil companies have not been supplying diesel for the past three days.—RT/Agency

Asad Qaiser Vows PTI Will Undo 26th and 27th Amendments Upon Return to Power

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has said that whenever PTI founder Imran Khan returns to power, the party will immediately revoke the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Qaiser criticized the current parliament, stating that "this assembly has no authority to legislate." He questioned the process behind the amendments, saying, "Is this how laws are amended? First you pass an amendment, and then you say it should be something else?"

Asad Qaiser praised Supreme Court judges Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah for stepping down, saying they deserve "tribute for their principled stance." He urged lawyers' bodies and labour unions to stand in solidarity with them.—RT/Agency

PHC Blocks KP Government from Deploying State Machinery for Political Gain

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Friday restrained the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government from using state machinery for political activities, including rallies, public gatherings, and million marches.

In its four-page written order, the PHC ruled that the use of government resources in political activities is a violation of Articles 4, 5, and 25 of the Constitution and amounts to misuse of authority and waste of national funds.

Hearing a plea filed against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) provincial government, the court ruled that the government should differentiate between government functions and political events.—RT/Agency

Sugar Prices Spiral to Rs229 per kg in Fresh Blow to Consumers

ISLAMABAD: The sugar prices rose to Rs229 per kg across parts of the country on Friday, according to figures released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The PBS reported an increase of Rs19 per kg in Quetta, where the price rose from Rs210 to Rs229 per kg. It said that the maximum price in Peshawar stood at Rs200 per kg, while Karachi and Islamabad recorded maximum prices of Rs195 per kg. In Rawalpindi, the maximum price reached Rs190 per kg. Moreover, the PBS also said a fall of Rs2.01 in the average national price over the past week. —RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Narowal Launches Major Measles and Rubella Immunization Drive

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: The nationwide Measles and Rubella Immunization Campaign officially began in District Narowal, with vaccines administered to children under five at Government Girls Primary School Narowal No-1. The drive was inaugurated under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Lt. (R) Ahmed Haroon, CEO Health Dr. Adnan, and DHO Dr. Muhammad Tariq. Health officials highlighted that measles and rubella are highly contagious viral diseases that can cause severe complications, especially in unvaccinated children and pregnant women. The campaign will run from November 17 to 29, ensuring all children under five receive vaccinations. Authorities urged parents to participate actively. Officials present included Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Akram, CEO Education Arif Shehzad Ch., District Coordinator Dr. Muhammad Hassan, WHO representative Dr. Aqib Hanif, DIO Ehsan-ul-Haq, Deputy Education Officer (Women) Ms. Misbah Ishaq, AEO Fiza Sanaullah, and Headmistress Farzana Rasool.

Punjab Hands Over 209 Tractors to Farmers in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the second phase of the Punjab Chief Minister's Green Tractors Program, 209 tractors were distributed among successful farmers in Toba Tek Singh through a computerized ballot system. The event was held at the District Council Hall and organized by the Agriculture Department (Extension). Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Rafiq, and other dignitaries handed over tractor keys, while officials including Director of Agriculture Khalid Mehmood and Deputy Director Dr. Nausher Ali Khan oversaw the proceedings. Each tractor carries a Punjab government subsidy of Rs. 1 million. Officials highlighted that the program, implemented transparently, aims to modernize farming, boost wheat production, and promote agricultural prosperity in the district.

METRO KARACHI

PHARMA SHAKE-UP IN PAKISTAN: Historic Dialogue Sets Stage for Export Takeoff

KARACHI: Pakistan's pharma sector got a major boost as TDAP hosted its first National Pharma Stakeholders Dialogue in Karachi, uniting manufacturers, regulators, banks, and investors to drive export growth. Officials emphasized collaboration on financing, modernization, and global compliance. EXIM Bank and SBP pledged strong financial backing, while DRAP stressed international accreditation. Industry leaders pushed for R&D investment, CRO utilization, and bioequivalence labs. TDAP reaffirmed full government support to close policy gaps, raise standards, and propel Pakistan onto the global pharma stage.—RT

Millions in Misdeclared Chinese Salt Seized in High-Profile Karachi Raid

KARACHI: Pakistan Customs has thwarted a major smuggling attempt in Karachi, seizing 20,000 kilograms of Chinese salt ingeniously misdeclared as citric acid, with the confiscated goods valued at a substantial Rs20.5 million.

According to an official statement issued Friday, the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement conducted the targeted operation based on credible intelligence. The raid was executed by the Anti-Smuggling Organization (ASO) at A-One Godown, Walika Chowrangi, specifically targeting Shed No. 9, which is operated by M/s United Traders.—RT/Agency

DIG Shah Announces Robot Deployment to Crack Down on Parking Violations in Karachi

KARACHI: DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah has said that robots will assist in controlling parking violations across Karachi.

Exclusively speaking with ARY News, he stated that the robot will function as a tool installed inside traffic vehicles. It will scan wrongly parked vehicles in Karachi and feed the information directly into the system.

He noted that despite permission for single-lane parking in certain areas, double and even triple-lane parking is still being practiced.

Signboards have been installed in Saddar to clearly indicate where parking is allowed and where it is prohibited, DIG Shah added.—RT/Agency

ACE Sindh Zeroes In on Abid Hussain as Illegal Hydrant Probe Widens

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Sindh has issued a reminder notice to Abid Hussain, son of Ghulam Hussain, to appear before the department regarding an ongoing investigation into alleged corruption and illegal water hydrant operations in the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KWSC). The notice, dated November 13, 2025, follows an earlier summons from September 4, instructing Abid to present himself within two working days along with relevant documents. The inquiry, approved by Director General ACE Sindh, aims to examine allegations of unauthorized water connections and potential misappropriation. ACE officials emphasized the seriousness of the matter, noting the investigation is part of broader efforts to curb corruption and illegal hydrants. The outcome will depend on evidence gathered during the proceedings.

Dog Attack at Karachi University, PTI Leader's Strong Reaction

KARACHI: PTI Karachi General Secretary Arsalan Khalid stated that the situation in Karachi is worsening day by day. He highlighted a shocking incident at Karachi University where a child was injured by a dog bite. Arsalan Khalid criticized the Pakistan People's Party, accusing them of ruining the entire province and treating Karachi with hostility. He further pointed out that while dogs can't be killed, their vaccination should be carried out, yet it seems the authorities have granted them immunity from such measures.—RT/Agency

Karachi Cracks Down on Encroachments: New SOPs for Roadside Hotels and Tea Houses

KARACHI: The Karachi administration has introduced new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for roadside hotels and tea houses (chai dhabas) after these businesses were found causing encroachments, obstructing footpaths, and contributing to traffic congestion across the city. The new guidelines, approved by the Commissioner Karachi, target establishments operating on roads and footpaths.This decision follows a major crackdown on October 27, when the administration launched an operation to remove businesses illegally occupying public spaces.As part of the enforcement, numerous roadside hotels and chai dhabas were sealed, but many are now being de-sealed after owners submitted sworn affidavits pledging to comply with the new rules. A committee, led by Additional Commissioner Ghulam Mehdi Shah, has given approval for the de-sealing of several establishments, signaling a crackdown on illegal occupation and efforts to restore public spaces for pedestrians and vehicles alike.—RT/Agency

Karachi to Deploy Robots for Parking Crackdown: DIG Traffic Reveals High-Tech Plan

KARACHI: DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah has announced that robots will soon help control rampant parking violations across Karachi. Speaking exclusively he explained that these robots will be installed inside traffic vehicles, scanning illegally parked cars and instantly feeding data into the system.He expressed concern that despite allowing single-lane parking in select areas, double and even triple parking continues unabated. Clear signboards have now been placed in Saddar to mark permitted and prohibited parking zones. On Zaib-un-Nisa Street, only single-lane parking is allowed, and strict action will be taken during peak hours.Responding to rumors about reduced e-challan fines . —RT/Agency

Toba Tek Singh Press Club Mourns the Passing of Chaudhry Bashir Ahmed

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chairman Press Club, Mian Saeed Hassan, expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Chaudhry Bashir Ahmed, father of Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal (UK). He praised the late Bashir Ahmed's life of honesty, simplicity, and service to humanity. Hassan prayed for Allah's mercy on the deceased and strength for the bereaved family, affirming that the Press Club stands with them in this difficult time.

Gujranwala Division Accelerates Ambitious Beautification Projects

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Gujranwala Division, Syed Naveed Hyder Sheerazi, chaired a meeting on the progress of the "Beautification of Schemes" initiative, emphasizing that ongoing development projects must be completed on time and up to standard. He directed officials to focus on urban beautification, street landscaping, green belt maintenance, encroachment removal, and improved sanitation to provide a clean and healthy environment. Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed, Additional Commissioner Muhammad Shafiq, and other officials participated. Shirazi stressed that the campaign is a practical commitment to enhance Gujranwala's identity. Officers pledged continued joint efforts to make the city a model region in Punjab.

Police Smash Network of Fraudsters Selling Black Scorpions

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Police in Bhussi area, Kamalia, arrested a gang involved in defrauding people by selling fake "black scorpions.

" The gang lured citizens through Facebook ads, taking large sums before disappearing. Victim Waqar from Kohat paid Rs 200,000 as advance for a scorpion worth Rs 1.5 million, but the suspects vanished. Acting on his complaint, police registered a case against Asif, Faisal, Shahbaz, Sarfaraz, and three unidentified men, recovered the money, and warned the public to report any similar fraud immediately.

SOUTH PUNJAP

Fake Saints and Black Magic Crime Rings Exposed in Uch Sharif

By M Siddique Khan

BAHAWALPUR: Uch Sharif city and surrounding areas are reportedly under the control of a mafia involved in black magic, amulets, and fake saints. Dozens of fraudulent clerics and sorcerers are extorting large sums and women's offerings from citizens under the guise of blessings, matchmaking, or business success. Sources claim the mafia operates with the backing of influential political figures and wields media and social influence. Residents, students, lawyers, and social organizations demand immediate raids, closure of these centers, and exposure of accomplices.

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

SHO Talib Hussain Lashari Reassures Public as Law and Order Efforts Intensify

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: SHO of Saddar Police Station, Dera Murad Jamali, Talib Hussain Lashari, has assured citizens of maintaining law and order in the area with public cooperation. Sakhi Abdul Rauf Lehri met the SHO, with CIA Incharge Bahadur Khan Domki and Head Clerk Abdullah Solangi also present. During the meeting, administrative matters, recent performance, and the security situation of the police station were discussed. Sakhi Abdul Rauf Lehri praised the police for their services and emphasized the need for more effective measures to address public issues and ensure peace and security.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Afghanistan's Self-Inflicted Folly — And Pakistan's Moment to Walk Away

The Taliban-led Afghan regime's asinine and ungrateful decision to suspend all trade with Pakistan is yet another reminder that sentimentality in foreign policy is a luxury Pakistan can no longer afford. For decades, Pakistan has paid a staggering economic, social and security price for propping up Afghanistan—always under the illusion of "Islamic brotherhood." Yet Kabul's repeated backstabbing proves that Pakistan doesn't need enemies when it has neighbors like this.In the midst of its unholy honeymoon with the mad dog of South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the delusional Kabul administration seems convinced it can replace Pakistan with new trade partners. If Afghanistan believes it has options, then it must also be reminded—so does Pakistan. And perhaps this forced rupture will finally free Pakistan from the rampant abuse, corruption and smuggling that flourished under Afghan transit trade.The shock waves now rippling through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's traders and transporters are understandable. Hundreds of trucks stranded at Torkham, industries reliant on Afghan coal, and fears of losing access to Central Asian markets paint a grim short-term picture. Business leaders warn of huge financial losses, shuttered factories, jobless labourers, and plummeting tax revenues. Local traders caught between contractual obligations and a sealed border now find themselves trapped between the devil and the deep sea.But in the long term, this rupture may be the correction Pakistan desperately needed. For too long, Afghan trade has been a one-way street of concessions, blind trust and national losses. Pakistan cannot allow its economy—or its dignity—to remain hostage to Kabul's tantrums.This must be the moment Islamabad adopts a clear, unapologetic Pakistan First approach. If Afghanistan wishes to sever ties, let it. Pakistan's future lies in diversifying, reforming and strengthening its own economy—not subsidizing an ungrateful neighbor intoxicated by delusions and new alliances.Sometimes loss is liberation. And this might be Pakistan's chance to finally walk away.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Sukkur District Rolls Out Intensive 12-Day Measles–Rubella Vaccination Blitz

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: A 12-day vaccination campaign against Measles and Rubella will begin in Sukkur district on November 17, targeting 238,955 children under five. Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Nadir Shehzad Khan, urged parents to ensure their children receive the free protective vaccine and supplementary Polio drops during the campaign. At an advocacy seminar at Sukkur Arts Council, attended by DHO Dr. Ali Gul Shah, Deputy DHO Dr. Tanveer Abbasi, WHO consultants, and other officials, emphasis was placed on creating awareness and cooperation with health teams. Dr. Hammad Shamsi highlighted that all children, even previously vaccinated, must receive the supplementary vaccine. The campaign will operate through 197 outreach and mobile teams across the district, with support from health monitors, revenue staff, and community organizations to protect children's health.

Free Livestock Treatment Camp Draws Crowds in Din Muhammad Shahani Village

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: A free livestock treatment camp was organized in Din Muhammad Shahani village to tackle rising animal diseases in livestock. Deputy Commissioner Dadu Syed Ali Murtaza Shah, under the supervision of Additional Director Muhammad Shoaib Dero, oversaw the camp. Veterinarians Dr. Kaleemullah Panhwar and Dr. Shoaib Panhwar treated cattle, goats, sheep, and poultry, provided medicines, and administered vaccines against skin, parasitic, and other serious diseases. The Deputy Commissioner urged villagers to cooperate with the livestock department, ensuring such camps reach all areas. Locals and village elders appreciated the initiative, praising the team's dedication.

Thatta Health Department Intensifies Rubella and Measles Awareness Efforts

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: The Thatta Health Department held an awareness seminar at We Care House Makli to educate the public on measles and rubella prevention and the importance of timely vaccination. District Health Officer Dr. Syed Safdar Ali Shah emphasized that these viral diseases pose serious threats to children but can be prevented through proper immunization. A special vaccination campaign will run from November 17 to 29, 2025, targeting children aged 6 months to 5 years. Assistant Commissioner Shakir Faheem urged parents to vaccinate their children on time, calling it a social responsibility and a safeguard for their future. Civil society, health workers, and officials attended, stressing awareness and house-to-house outreach.

BISP Payout Chaos at Thana Bula Khan Center Leaves Woman Injured

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A BISP payment center in Thana Bula Khan descended into chaos, leaving a female beneficiary, Matheeni, wife of Khan Shahno, seriously injured. The incident occurred as she attempted to collect her entitled cash payment, reportedly cutting her fingers in a doorway amid overcrowding and mismanagement. Locals criticized the center for lack of proper facilities, abusive treatment of women by payment agents, and alleged corruption linked to the high-volume "rush" during disbursements. The chaos has sparked public outrage and raised concerns over accountability and transparency at BISP centers in remote areas. Community members are demanding urgent administrative action to improve security, monitor agents, and ensure safe, dignified, and corruption-free payment procedures for all beneficiaries.

Provincial Health Minister Greets International Delegation at Zardari House

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Provincial Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho warmly welcomed foreign officers from the UK upon their arrival at Zardari House, Nawabshah. She presented them with Sindhi cultural gifts, including a traditional lungi and dupatta, and arranged a special lunch in their honor. The event was attended by PPP District Shaheed Benazirabad President Muhammad Salim Zardari, Incharge Zardari House Nawabshah Engineer Mir Muhammad Siyal, and other prominent political and social figures. The reception highlighted Sindh's rich culture and hospitality, fostering cordial relations between local officials and visiting foreign representatives.

Health Screening Drive Conducted at Government Boys High School Baghan

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: A comprehensive Health Screening Camp was organized on 14 November 2025 at Government Boys High School Baghan on the directives of Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho. The initiative, arranged by DHO Dr. Safdar Ali Shah and supervised by District Focal Person Dr. Asad Gul Venjhar, provided Hepatitis B & C screening and vaccination, dental checkups, eye and ENT examinations, pediatric assessments, deworming, and gynecological screening for girl students. DEO Hazoor Bux Khaskheli, Deputy DEO Zainab Shaheen, and Head Master Abdul Karim Memon ensured full support. Medical specialists and paramedical staff participated, while officials appreciated the successful launch of the School Health Screening Program (Phase-1).

Legendary Sindhi Artist Badal Rahi Critically Ill, Appeals for Public Support

By Khadem Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: Celebrated Sindhi musician and Badin's pride, Ustad Badal Rahi, is critically ill due to multiple serious ailments and remains bedridden at home. Known for his soulful folk songs and performances in Sindhi and other languages, he cannot afford treatment at private hospitals in Hyderabad or Karachi. Friends and students revealed that his health has deteriorated due to prolonged illness, and coming from a humble background, proper treatment has been impossible. Cultural figures and music lovers are urging the Sindh Chief Minister, provincial culture minister, and authorities to provide immediate medical and financial support to help Ustad Rahi continue sharing his art.

Nine-Year-Old Ashir Bhatti Sets New Academic Standard in Jamshoro

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Nine-year-old Ashir Bhatti from Kotri has achieved a remarkable academic milestone by completing the 18-month English Language Diploma at the Pakistan American Cultural Center (PACC). His early accomplishment highlights exceptional talent, dedication, and commitment to learning. Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, recognized Ashir's achievement by presenting him with a Shield and Certificate of Appreciation, praising him as an inspiring role model for his peers. DC Qadri emphasized that Ashir's success demonstrates how focus, persistence, and hard work can lead to excellence, regardless.

Shaheed Benazirabad Gears Up for Massive Measles–Rubella Vaccination Campaign

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The district steering committee, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Abdul Samad Nizamani, finalized preparations for the national Measles and Rubella vaccination drive, starting November 17 and continuing until November 29. The campaign aims to vaccinate 271,230 children aged 6 months to 5 years. DC Nizamani urged health and education officials to ensure all children receive vaccines, monitor cold chain systems, and oversee field teams' performance. Parents were encouraged to fully cooperate to protect their children. A total of 244 mobile, fixed, and outreach teams have been deployed. Health, education, and police officials participated in the preparatory meeting.

Cadet College Sanghar Opens Three-Day Book Fair with Cultural Flair

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: A three-day book fair commenced at Cadet College Sanghar, inaugurated by Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahmir Khan Bhutto. The commissioner toured the book stalls, food courts, and other attractions at the fair. Commandant and Principal Zeeshan Ali highlighted that the annual book fair encourages students to develop a love for reading, describing books as "silent friends and lights of knowledge." He emphasized that reading enhances awareness and understanding among students. Commissioner Shahmir Khan Bhutto praised Cadet College Sanghar as a model institution, lauding the staff and faculty for their dedication. Certificates and shields were awarded to cadets achieving top positions.

Shikarpur DC Calls Urgent Meeting to Boost Mamta Program Participation

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: A meeting of the District Coordination Committee of Shikarpur was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office to review and promote the Sindh government's "Mamta Program." The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Shikarpur, Shakeel Ahmed Abro, who emphasized increasing awareness to ensure maximum participation of women. District Coordinator Zahid Hussain Dahot briefed attendees on the program's progress, stating that 43,000 women in the district have already benefited. The program, supported by the World Bank, operates in 30 health centers across Shikarpur, providing services for women and children up to two years old.

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SPORTS

Lorenzo Musetti Pulls Out of Davis Cup Amid Shock Fitness Concerns

TURIN: Lorenzo Musetti has withdrawn from Italy's squad defending its Davis Cup title in Bologna next week, citing physical fatigue and family reasons following his defeat to Carlos Alcaraz at the ATP Finals in Turin.

Italy, winners of the last two Davis Cup editions, will also be without former world No.?1 Jannik Sinner, who earlier announced he would skip the tournament to focus on preparing for his Australian Open title defense.

Musetti, who missed out on automatic qualification after losing to Novak Djokovic in Athens on Saturday, made his debut at the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin this week as a late substitute following Djokovic's withdrawal.

Unlike the other seven players competing, the Italian did not have time to practice at the Inalpi Arena prior to the competition.

In addition to his nearly three-hour match against Djokovic, Musetti had played two additional rounds in Athens, contributing to his physical strain.

"Given my physical condition and my family situation, in agreement with captain Filippo Volandri, I have decided not to participate in the Davis Cup finals in Bologna," Musetti said.

"Obviously, there is a lot of regret and disappointment regarding how I approached this competition. With a better approach, perhaps I would have tried to play it, despite the family commitment. I knew that physical fatigue was difficult to shake off after the battles of the last few months, especially over the past few weeks," he concluded.—Agency

Onyeka Okongwu Dominates as Hawks Outgun Jazz 132–122

SALT LAKE CITY: Onyeka Okongwu delivered a standout performance to lead the Atlanta Hawks to a 132–122 victory over the Utah Jazz at the Delta Center.

Atlanta set the tone early, scoring 42 points in the first quarter to take control of the game.

Okongwu finished with 32 points, 11 rebounds, and 2 assists in 35 minutes, providing a key spark on both ends of the floor with his inside presence and consistent scoring.

Forward Jalen Johnson also starred, contributing 31 points, 18 rebounds, and 14 assists in a dominant all-around display.

His versatility and playmaking were pivotal to Atlanta's offensive rhythm.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker added 16 points, while Zaccharie Risacher chipped in 11, giving the Hawks balanced contributions across the lineup.

Utah struggled to contain Atlanta's pace and interior pressure but remained competitive with steady scoring.

However, Okongwu and Johnson's control in the paint allowed the Hawks to capitalise on numerous scoring opportunities.—Agency

Alcaraz Locks Down Year-End World No. 1 After Crushing Musetti

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz has clinched the year-end world No.?1 ranking for the second time in his career after a commanding 6-4, 6-1 victory over Lorenzo Musetti at the ATP Finals.

The win ensures the 22-year-old Spaniard finishes the season atop the ATP rankings, ahead of rival Jannik Sinner.

Speaking during an on-court interview, Alcaraz reflected on the significance of achieving his season-long goal.

"It means the world to me, to be honest. Year-end No.?1 is always a goal," he said. "From the middle of the season until now, I set my sights on the top spot, and finally, I got it."

Alcaraz also credited his team's hard work and unwavering support throughout a season marked by challenges and growth.

"It means everything — the work we put in every day during the season, the ups and downs. I'm really proud of my team and myself," he added.

This marks the second time Alcaraz has finished a season as world No.?1. In 2022, at just 19 years old, he became the youngest player in history to end a season at the top of the ATP rankings.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Muhammad Muneeb
About me: I'm a Karachi Gamer Making His Mark in the Virtual Arena!

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

Pakistan Blow Away Oman by 40 Runs in Asia Cup Rising Stars Opener

DOHA: Pakistan defeated Oman by 40 runs in an exciting opener of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2025 at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

After being asked to bat first, Pakistan posted a competitive total of 220/4 in their 20 overs. Opener Mohammad Naeem fell early for six off five balls to Omani pacer Shafiq Jan, leaving Pakistan at 19/1 in the second over.

Yasir Khan then joined Maaz Sadaqat and helped stabilise the innings with a 44-run partnership.

However, Wasim Ali struck to dismiss Yasir for run-a-ball 26, which included three fours and a six, bringing the score to 63/2 in the eighth over.

Mohammad Faiq added a quick 19 off nine balls, including one four and two sixes, before being dismissed by Jay Odedra, leaving Pakistan at 101/3 in the 12th over.

Sadaqat continued in sublime form, reaching a well-deserved half-century, while skipper Irfan Niazi joined him to accelerate the innings.

The pair added 82 crucial runs, with Niazi smashing five sixes in a 44-run cameo off just 21 balls, before falling in the 18.1 over for 44, leaving Pakistan at 183/4.

Saad Masood provided the late flourish, hitting back-to-back sixes and helping Pakistan surpass the 200-run mark. Pakistan finished strongly, scoring 18 runs in the final over to close at 220/4.

Sadaqat remained unbeaten on 96 off 54 balls, featuring five fours and nine sixes, while Masood contributed 19 off six deliveries, including one four and two sixes.

Chasing 221, Oman struggled from the start. Ubaid Shah struck early, dismissing opener Sufyan Yusuf for run-a-ball three, leaving the team at 7/1 in 1.3 overs. —Agency

PCB Opens Ticket Sales for High-Stakes T20I Tri-Series Featuring Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced ticket sales for the Pakistan-Sri Lanka-Zimbabwe T20I tri-series, which opened online at 2pm today.

Fans will be able to purchase tickets online, while physical tickets will be available at TCS Express Centres from 3pm on Saturday, 15 November.

Details regarding ECP enclosures will be announced later.

The tri-series, featuring Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, will be staged at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from November 18 to 29, with all seven matches scheduled to start at 6pm local time.

For all matches except the final, tickets for the General enclosures Miran Bakhsh and Sohail Tanvir will cost Rs200, while tickets for the final will cost Rs300.

First-Class enclosures i.e, Shoaib Akhtar and Yasir Arafat, will be priced at Rs300 for all matches except the final, which will be available at Rs400.

Premium enclosures, namely Azhar Mahmood and Javed Miandad, will offer tickets at Rs400 for the first, second, fifth and sixth T20Is, while the third and fourth fixtures will be priced at Rs500, and premium tickets for the final will cost Rs600.

Tickets for the VIP enclosures, Imran Khan and Javed Akhtar, will be sold at Rs500 for the opening two T20Is and the matches on November 25 and 27.

For the fixtures on November 22 and 23, VIP tickets will be priced at Rs600, while the final will cost Rs700.

Seats in the PCB Gallery (Main Building) will be priced at Rs1,000 for the first two matches and the fixtures on November 25 and 27.

Tickets for the matches on November 22 and 23 will cost Rs1,200, and Gallery seats for the final will be priced at Rs1,500.

Platinum Box seats will be available at Rs8,000 for the matches on November 18, 20, 25 and 27, while tickets for the fixtures on November 22 and 23 will be offered at Rs10,000.

Far-End Box seats will cost Rs7,000 for the matches on November 18, 20, 25 and 27, Rs8,000 for the 22 and 23 November fixtures, and Rs10,000 for the final.

Hospitality boxes for the series are also on sale, and interested fans can contact the PCB head office for further information.

The revised schedule of the tri-series confirms that Pakistan will face Zimbabwe in the opening match on November 18, followed by Sri Lanka taking on Zimbabwe on November 20. —Agency

England Keep Winning Surge Alive with Commanding Victory Over Serbia

WEMBLEY: England maintained their remarkable form in World Cup qualifying with a 2-0 victory over Serbia at Wembley, marking their seventh consecutive win.

Despite a rain-soaked evening and a sluggish start, the hosts displayed resilience and quality to secure the win.

England began the match slowly, a stark contrast to their recent dominant performances, but head coach Thomas Tuchel's motivational intervention helped lift the team.

The breakthrough came in the 28th minute when Bukayo Saka scored a superb volley, giving England a lead they would maintain throughout the match. Tuchel also handed a first senior cap to Manchester City's promising young defender Nico O'Reilly.

Substitutions including Phil Foden and Eberechi Eze after the 65th minute injected energy into the team, with Eze's curling finish in the final minute sealing a confident performance.

England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford extended his clean sheet streak to 10 matches, while the team has now scored 20 goals without conceding in World Cup qualifying.

Although the match lacked the tension of previous fixtures, the victory further boosted the squad's confidence ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

The match also highlighted the depth of England's squad, with contributions from Jude Bellingham, Foden, Marcus Rashford, and debutant Reece Wharton proving valuable.

After the game, Tuchel praised his team's resilience but noted areas for improvement.

"It was a difficult, complicated match. We had to adapt and be flexible. Maybe we lacked a little precision with the final pass, otherwise we could have created more chances and scored earlier to play with more calm," he said.

England's final qualifier will be against Albania on Sunday, while the draw for the 2026 World Cup is scheduled in Washington on December 5.—Agency

Shohei Ohtani Claims Fourth Major League MVP, Extending Historic Legacy

LAS VEGAS: Japanese baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers has claimed his fourth Major League Baseball MVP award.

The 31-year-old two-way player was the unanimous choice for the National League MVP, marking his third consecutive MVP victory since 2023, when he played for the Los Angeles Angels in the American League.

All 30 members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America cast their first-place votes for Ohtani, giving him a perfect 420 points. Kyle Schwarber of the Philadelphia Phillies finished second with 260 points, followed by Juan Soto of the New York Mets with 231 points.

This achievement makes Ohtani the only player in MLB history to earn multiple MVP awards in both the American and National Leagues, joining Hall of Famer Frank Robinson in winning MVPs in both circuits.

He also joins Barry Bonds as one of the few players to win three consecutive MVP awards and becomes just the second player, after Joe Morgan of the 1975-76 Cincinnati Reds, to win back-to-back MVPs and consecutive World Series titles in the same years.

Speaking after receiving the award, Ohtani praised his competitors.

"Before I say that, I wanted to just give a big shout-out to Juan Soto and Schwarber — they had amazing seasons as well. They helped bring the best out of me in competition," he said.

Ohtani's latest MVP campaign followed a season very different from his record-setting 2024 performance, when he became the first MLB player to join the 50-50 club with 54 home runs and 59 stolen bases.

Despite recovering from elbow ligament surgery that had sidelined him from pitching, he continued to excel offensively.—Agency

Norway Edges Closer to First FIFA World Cup in 28 Years After Beating Estonia

SOGNSVEIEN: Norway is on the verge of qualifying for their first World Cup in 28 years, thanks to goals from Erling Haaland and Alexander Sorloth, who secured a 4-1 victory over Estonia in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at Ullevaal Stadium.

Leading the squad in the absence of injured captain Martin Odegaard, Haaland urged his teammates to stay composed during a goalless first half in Oslo, despite irate home fans jeering as the players left the pitch for the break.

Just five minutes into the second half, Sorloth scored twice in quick succession, followed by a brace from Haaland, giving Norway four goals in twelve minutes.

In the 64th minute, Robi Saarma scored a consolation goal for Estonia.

Midfielder Morten Thorsby praised both Haaland and Odegaard, noting their growing understanding of the game and their increasing leadership on and off the pitch.

"They have also gained a better understanding of the influence they have on the rest of us," Thorsby said. "What they say, what they do, and how they act—it spreads."

With a three-point lead in Group I over second-place Italy, whom they will host in Oslo on Sunday, Norway has almost secured a spot at the World Cup in North America next year. Italy would need to defeat Norway and overcome a 17-goal deficit to claim the automatic qualifying spot, making a playoff in March the likely scenario for the Italians.—Agency

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ENTERTAINMENT

Man Who Grabbed Ariana Grande Faces Serious Charges in Court

Ariana Grande was grabbed by a man at the Asian premiere of Wicked: For Good in Singapore. The man has now been charged in court.

In a viral video, the man could be seen running up to Ariana and putting his arm around her shoulders to pose for a photo. The actress seemed taken aback and didn't do much to remove him. He was then grabbed and removed by bodyguards and the Side to Side singer's Wicked co-star, Cynthia Erivo.

According to BBC News, Johnson Wen has been charged with being a public nuisance in Singapore.

Wen will pay a fine of up to S$2000 ($1,540) if found guilty. According to local media, the influencer, who uploaded the video to his account, intends to plead guilty.

Bragging about his moment, Wen captioned the video, "@arianagrande @wickedmovie Dear Ariana Grande Thank You for letting me Jump on the Yellow Carpet with You"

After being arrested at he premiere, he later shared on his Instagram story that he was "free after being arrested."

This isn't the first time Wen has gotten close ot a celebrity. On his Instagram handle, Pyjama Man, he has previously shared videos of himself making it on stage at the concerts of Katy Perry, the Weeknd, the Chainsmokers, and others.

Kim Kardashian Opens Up on Why She's Stepping Back from Dating

Kim Kardashian has finally revealed why she isn't interested in dating anyone.

During the latest episode of The Kardashians, the 45-year-old reality star confessed that she no longer finds dating "appealing" nearly five years after her high-profile divorce from rapper Kanye West.

"You get really comfortable the longer you're single," explained Kim. "The thought of you sharing a bed or your TV shows with someone else becomes less and less appealing because you get set in your ways."

Although Kim feels comfortable being single, the mother of four made it clear that she isn't shutting down dating for good.

"When the right person comes along, I'll be so ready and everything will be fine," she said.

For those unversed, the Skims co-founder has been married three times, most recently to Kanye.

Kim officially announced her separation from the Gold Digger rapper in February 2021 after seven years of marriage. The exes share four children - North, 12, Saint, 9, Chicago, 7, and Psalm, 5.

Shortly after their divorce was finalized in 2022, Kanye exchanged vows with Bianca Censori.

Last month, Kim revealed that she parted ways with Kanye because she was "not feeling safe emotionally and financially" around him.

Taylor Swift's Heartfelt Letter to Liam Payne Emerges After His Tragic Death

Taylor Swift wrote an appreciative letter to Liam Payne.

The message written by the Blank Space crooner eight years ago to the Strip That Down hitmaker is now being auctioned off.

As Payne pursued a solo music career after his One Direction days, Swift cheered him on ahead of their respective performances at that year's Capital FM Jingle Bell Ball.

"Liam, Long time no see!" reads Swift's message in her signature handwriting.

"I'm so excited for you, you're crushing it out there. I'm obsessed with Bedroom Floor. It's so cool to see you from afar, I'm always cheering you on. Good luck tonight! Taylor," she further wrote.

As per Billboard and as announced by Omega Auctions, the upcoming Music Memorabilia sale will feature the 2017 note.

The item is valued at £5,000-£10,000 ($6,500-$13,000) on the auction house's website with letter coming with its original envelope and custom 'T' wax seal.

Omega informs that it was acquired through a "close associate" of Payne's, to whom he apparently gifted the card shortly after receiving it from Swift.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Sindh Hindu Panchayat Convenes Key Executive Session in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Sindh Hindu Panchayat's executive committee convened at the main Dharamshala in Larkana, hosted by Chairman Harish Lal. Members from Larkana, Sukkur, and Nawabshah divisions, including Ashoor Lal (Sukkur), Dr. Suresh Kalreja (Ghauspur), Dr. Raj Kumar (Nawabshah), and others, attended the meeting. Harish Lal stated that the Panchayat was formed last August to unite the Hindu community in Sindh. A 16-member committee was finalized, electing Dr. Suresh Kalreja as Chairman, Harish Lal as President, and Hari Lal as General Secretary. The platform aims to address community issues across districts and present them to higher authorities.

Woman Found Dead in Home, Suicide Suspected

By Ghazi Nohrio

MITHI: A 35-year-old woman, Kastoori, wife of Keval Meghwar, was found dead after allegedly hanging herself inside her house in the Akhani Mohalla of Chilhar town. Upon receiving the information, Chilhar police reached the spot and shifted the body to Taluka Hospital Mithi for postmortem. According to the police the woman was married, while the family members stated that she had been suffering from mental health issues and had been in severe depression for some time. They further revealed that she remained distressed due to being childless, and her medical treatment was also ongoing.Hospital authorities confirmed that the postmortem was conducted at Civil Hospital Mithi, after which the body was handed over to the heirs.

IBA Dadu Campus Lights Up with Tech and Sindhi Culture Festival

By Javed Laghari

DADU: IBA University Dadu Campus organized a grand festival inaugurated by PPP CEC member and former Education Minister Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq. The event featured innovative student projects, including robots, online attendance systems, and digital toll receipt models. Traditional Sindhi culture was highlighted through food stalls offering machan sag, chana, biryani, BBQ, and other local delicacies. Students from IBA, Pir Elahi Bux Law College, and local schools showcased their work, earning praise from guests.

Family Protests Alleged Police-Custody Killing of Teacher in Shahdadpur

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Relatives of teacher Jam Aziz Jakhro, allegedly killed due to police torture in custody, staged a protest on Hala National Highway after the accused were not arrested. The protest involved 10 identified heirs, 20-25 women, and 300-400 unidentified citizens, prompting police to file terrorism-related charges against participants. The demonstration ended after PPP leaders, including former Senator Malik Imamuddin Shaukeen, assured justice and cooperation. Jakhro's body was brought back to Shahdadpur for burial. Meanwhile, FIA arrested two constables, Noor Ali Lakhho and Rafiq Ajan, on four-day judicial remand, three other accused remain at large.

Unidentified Body Recovered from Canal Near Mehar

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Residents near the Mehar Grid Station in Mansoor Colony discovered the body of an unidentified man in a nearby canal. Upon receiving the information, AC Section police reached the site, retrieved the body, and transported it to Mehar Taluka Hospital. The body had remained at the location for several hours before police arrived. Authorities have been unable to identify the deceased so far, and an investigation is underway.

SSP Thatta Meets Traders, Unveils Strengthened Security Plan

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: SSP Thatta, Farooq Ahmed Bijarani, held a meeting with the Lower Rice Mill Association and local business community at the SSP Office. Addressing their concerns, he assured full cooperation and swift resolution of issues. Additional police personnel have been deployed across Thatta, including Shahibazaar, with intensified foot and motorcycle patrolling. SSP Bijarani emphasized public safety as a top priority and urged traders to keep security vigilant. He encouraged businesses to report grievances directly to his office. Traders appreciated the SSP's proactive approach and pledged full cooperation with law enforcement.

Kotri Police Recover Cash and Gold, Arrest Suspect Within Hours

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Kotri Police achieved a major breakthrough by arresting Ali Waris Jutt and recovering stolen cash and gold within 24 hours of a theft at Sameer Abbasi's residence in Sheedi Para. The stolen property, valued at around Rs 3.5 million, included Rs 1 million in cash and 6 tolas of gold. SHO Zulfiqar Odhano revealed that the accused, a friend of the victim's brother, used a duplicate key to commit the crime. An FIR has been registered, and investigations are ongoing.

Tando Muhammad Khan Seminar Highlights Government Support for Wheat Farmers

By Andul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A seminar on wheat cultivation was held at the local Maimana Banquet Hall, organized by the Agricultural Department Tando Muhammad Khan with support from Fatima Fertilizer. The event was chaired by Additional Director Agriculture Extension Tando Muhammad Khan, Mir Sohail Ahmed Talpur. Farmers' organizations, including the Sindh Abadgar Board, Chamber of Agriculture, Sindh Abadgar Union, political and social leaders, and hundreds of local farmers participated.

Climate Action Movement Launches Ambitious Tree Plantation Drive

By Hasnain Shahid Channa

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: Climate Action Movement Sindh organized a tree plantation program in Naushehro Feroz under the theme "Greening Sindh." Led by social leader Iqbal Rajpar, high school students, GSTA leaders including Sain Muhammad Peeral Kakepoto, Rasheed Memon, and others actively participated. The event, supported by Naushehro Feroze Bar members, General Secretary Shaukat Bohyo, Amir Imtiaz Memon, and press club officials, highlighted the benefits of tree planting for health and the environment. In addition, students of Bachal Mehr village school also planted trees with social leader Mahnoor Sheikh, emphasizing environmental awareness and sustainability.

Mirpurkhas National Press Club Leaders Extend Heartfelt Condolences

By Muzamil.Malil

MIRPURKHAS: Officials of the National Press Club Mirpurkhas, including President Hayat Qureshi, General Secretary Iqbal Solangi, and Governing Body member Muhammad Ali Bhargari, visited the residence of Information Secretary Ashfaq Ahmed Qureshi to offer condolences on the passing of his grandmother and mother of Mushtaq Ahmed Qureshi. The delegation recited Fatiha for the departed soul, praying for her elevated status in Jannat-ul-Firdous and for patience for the bereaved family. In a joint statement, the officials expressed solidarity with Ashfaq Qureshi and his family during this difficult time, reaffirming the Club's support and sympathy.

Agra City Shines with Colorful Cultural Ceremony

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A lively and culturally rich ceremony was held in Agra City, Khairpur, organized by the Journalist, Writer & Civil Society (JWC). Senior journalist Shoukat Noonari attended as the chief guest. The event featured cultural performances, wrestling (malh), kodi-kodi, stage acts by school students, speech contests, and drawing competitions, with awards presented to outstanding participants. Addressing the audience, Noonari highlighted Sindh's centuries-old tradition of peace and the enduring legacy of Sufi saints, emphasizing that the people of Sindh continue to cherish and celebrate their cultural heritage, spreading messages of love and harmony.

Family Demands Justice After Mithi Youth Allegedly Kidnapped from Ghotki

By Ghazi Nohrio

MITHI: Mithi resident, Nandlal Meghwar, has approached SSP Ghotki seeking the safe return of his son, Noushad Meghwar, who was allegedly kidnapped from Ghotki. According to the father, Noushad was employed at Dr. Dwarkadas Lohana's residence and went out on November 3 to run an errand from a barber's shop but did not return. The family received a call demanding a ransom of PKR 500,000, threatening harm to the youth. Nandlal appealed for justice, describing himself as a poor laborer supporting his family. The PPP MPA from the area, Surendar Valasai, has taken notice and assured that SSP Sukkur and SSP Ghotki are making every effort to recover the youth safely.

DC Dadu Orders Tough Crackdown on Child Labor Violations

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A meeting of the committee for prevention of forced and child labor was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Syed Murtaza Ali Shah. The DC expressed anger over the absence of the labor department official and directed the secretary to take departmental action. Civil society leaders, including Azra Memon, Mashooque Birhmani, and Niaz Chandio, highlighted that children are often seen working in workshops, hotels, bakeries, and welding shops during school hours. The DC instructed assistant commissioners of Mehar, KN Shah, Johi, and Dadu to enforce labor laws strictly, raise awareness, and take immediate action against violators to ensure children's rights are protected.

Ashiq Hussain Zardari Reaffirms PPP's Resolve for Farmers and Rural Revival in Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: On the special directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Ashiq Hussain Zardari addressed a gathering at Town Committee Ghora Bari, emphasizing the party's commitment to agricultural development, farmer welfare, and financial support for rural communities. He stated that PPP's politics focus on public service, a people-centric approach initiated by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and continued by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, aiming to modernize agricultural reforms, strengthen the agrarian economy, and uplift farming communities.

Government Grants Aid to Family of Boy Killed in Tando Allahyar Roof Collapse

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Due to heavy monsoon rains in 2025, the roof of a house in Village Moke Sharif, Tando Allahyar, collapsed, tragically killing young Abdul Basit, son of Muhammad Achar. On Friday, Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Noor Mustafa Laghari, handed over a financial assistance check of PKR 2 million from the Government of Pakistan to the bereaved father, Muhammad Achar, at the Deputy Commissioner's office. Expressing condolences, the DC said, "May Allah elevate the status of the departed soul and grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdaus. We stand with the family in this moment of grief."

NDF Rehabilitation Center Nawabshah Honors Abid Lashari on Tamgha-e-Imtiaz

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The NDF Rehabilitation Center in Nawabshah organized a ceremony to honour Abid Hussain Lashari, President of the National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan, for receiving the prestigious Pakistan Civil Award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. The management and staff praised his decades-long dedication and leadership in promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Sindh and Pakistan. Mr. Lashari thanked everyone for the honour and pledged to continue expanding rehabilitation services and advocating for inclusive policies. The ceremony concluded with prayers for NDF Pakistan's continued success.

Wife Arrested in Shocking Husband Murder Case

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, police have arrested a woman in connection with the murder of her husband. According to police, the wife, Rizwaana, has confessed to killing her husband Ali Dino Khaskheli with the help of accomplices. The deceased, Ali Dino Khaskheli, Rizwaana had married nine months ago and were residing in Akram Colony. After the murder, Rizwaana attempted to make it appear as a suicide and informed neighbors accordingly.

SSP Hyderabad Acts Swiftly Against Constables After Viral Video Uproar

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: SSP Hyderabad, Adeel Hussain Chandio, has initiated strict disciplinary action against two constables, Ismail Gaho and Muhammad Sharif Laghari, after a social media video surfaced showing alleged unprofessional behavior. Both constables were immediately Quarter Guarded as a precautionary measure. SSP Chandio has ordered a formal inquiry led by DSP Chhalgari to investigate the incident thoroughly. The move highlights the police department's zero-tolerance stance on misconduct, emphasizing accountability, discipline, and maintaining public trust in the force.

Kolhi Community Protest Turns Violent, Main Road Blocked

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A protest by the Kolhi community against the arrest of Keval Kolhi turned violent as women and men attacked Kot Ghulam Muhammad police station and threw stones, blocking Main Station Road for several hours and disrupting city traffic. The protest followed Keval Kolhi's arrest under the Gutka Act during a court appearance.

Sowing the Seeds of Tomorrow: Green Pedagogies in Education

By Dr. Khadim Hussain Dahri

Educationist, Professor, Researcher & Motivational Speaker

The metaphor is influential and precise: to "sow seeds" is an act of hope, investment, and faith in a future we may not see ourselves. The traditional, industrial-age model of schooling, which often views nature as a separate resource to be exploited, is proving inadequate for the challenges of the 21st century. In its place, "Green Pedagogies" are emerging, transformative approaches to teaching and learning that seeks to sow the seeds of sustainability, ecological literacy, and a deep, enduring connection to the living world. Green pedagogies are not merely about teaching about the environment; they are about teaching within and for the environment. It is an umbrella term for educational approaches that includes:Experiential Learning: Learning by doing—planting trees, testing local water quality, maintaining school gardens provide multiple experiences to the learners Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Encouraging students to think critically, understand and analyze the root causes of environmental issues and design feasible solutions of the problems Interdisciplinary Approach: Weaving climate and ecological concepts across all subjects, from science and geography to Urdu literature and social studies. Logical Reason: To foster pro-environmental behavior, we must engage students' hearts and hands, not just their minds. Experiential learning creates lasting neural pathways and emotional connections.The Outdoor Classroom: Nature is not a destination for a once-a-year field trip, but a regular, integral learning space. Whether it's a school garden, a local park, or a patch of regenerated forest, learning happens in the environment. Student-Centered & Inquiry-Based: Learning is driven by students' curiosity about the world around them. Questions like "Why are these leaves changing color?" or "Where does our water go after it rains?" become the starting point for interdisciplinary exploration in science, math, language, and art.The Impact of Green Pedagogies: The seeds sown through these practices yield a rich and vital harvest: Empowered Learners: Students become proactive problem-solvers, not passive recipients of doom-laden information. They see themselves as agents of positive change.Enhanced Well-being: Numerous studies show that learning in natural environments reduces stress, improves concentration, and boosts mental and physical health. Deep, Relevant Learning: Knowledge gained through real-world experience is more meaningful, memorable, and applicable. Stronger Communities: School gardens can provide food for local families, restoration projects can beautify neighborhoods, and student advocacy can influence local policy, strengthening the bond between the school and its community.Conclusion: "Sowing the Seeds of Tomorrow" is more than a poetic slogan; it is an urgent educational imperative. Green pedagogies offer a pathway out of the classroom and into the world for which we must all learn to care. By rooting education in the soil of experience, empathy, and action, we are not just teaching children about the world. We are nurturing a generation that will cherish it, protect it, and flourish within it. The seeds we sow in our classrooms today will determine the harvest of tomorrow.

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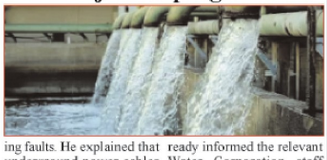
METRO KARACHI

CM Sindh Orders Rapid Overhaul of Karachi Development Work on University Road

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, conducted a late-night inspection of ongoing development work on University Road under the K-4 project. During the visit, he reviewed progress on key construction activities and instructed officials to ensure round-the-clock work on the water pipeline installation.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining traffic flow during construction and directed authorities to improve alternative routes to minimize disruption for commuters. Special attention was also requested for traffic management on roads in Gulshan-e-Iqbal and surrounding areas to ensure smooth vehicular movement.—RT

K-Electric Responds to Major Power Breakdown at Dhabeji Pumping Station



KARACHI: K-Electric has issued a clarification regarding the recent power breakdown at the Dhabeji Pumping Station, stating that electricity supply has been restored to 20 out of 22 pumps operated by the Water Corporation. According to the K-Electric spokesperson, repair work could not be carried out overnight due to water leakage from the pipelines, which made it unsafe to access the fault area.

The spokesperson added that KE teams are currently working during daylight hours to resolve the remaining faults. He explained that underground power cables often suffer damage when water from leaking pipelines seeps into the system, complicating restoration efforts—especially when the ground remains saturated.

K-Electric said it has already informed the relevant Water Corporation staff about the leakage issues and urged immediate action to prevent further damage. The power utility assured that restoration work is ongoing and will be completed as soon as conditions allow.—RT/Agency

JPMC Executive Director Dr Shahid Rasool Passes Away, Medical Community Mourns

KARACHI: The Executive Director of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), Dr. Shahid Rasool, has passed away at the age of 59, the hospital confirmed on Friday. According to JPMC spokesperson Jahangir Durrani, Dr. Rasool suffered a sudden cardiac arrest early in the morning.He was immediately shifted to a private hospital for urgent medical attention, but despite all efforts, he could not be revived. Dr. Rasool was a respected figure in Pakistan's medical community, known for his leadership at JPMC and contributions to healthcare management and patient care.Hospital staff, colleagues, and students expressed deep sorrow over his untimely demise. Condolences poured in from various medical and government institutions, praising his dedication to improving medical services in Karachi. The JPMC administration stated that arrangements would be made to honour his services and support his family during this difficult time. Dr. Rasool's death is a significant loss to Pakistan's healthcare sector.—RT/Agency

Opposition Leader Blasts KU Administration as Dog-Bite Cases Surge in One Month

KARACHI: Opposition Leader Ali Khurshidi has expressed deep concern over four dog-bite incidents reported within a month at the University of Karachi, terming the situation "highly alarming" and reflective of the administration's serious negligence. He said that children and women being targeted by stray dogs on campus is unacceptable and highlights a failure to ensure basic safety.

Khurshidi urged the provincial Minister for Universities and Boards to take urgent notice of the matter and immediately seek a detailed report from the university administration. He stressed the need for daily cleanliness, fumigation, and sterilisation across all entry and exit points as well as within the campus to prevent further incidents.

He added that students, teachers, and parents are deeply distressed by the recurring attacks and that it is the government's fundamental responsibility to ensure a safe and secure campus environment for all.—RT/Agency

Karachi Woman Takes NADRA to Court After CNIC Refusal

KARACHI: A woman in Karachi has taken the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to court after the authority allegedly refused to issue her a Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), citing an "unacceptable" 10-month age difference between her and her sister.

According to the petitioner, NADRA officials insisted that siblings cannot have such a narrow age gap and therefore declined her application despite her providing all required documents, including her birth certificate, family registration details, and parental records. She argued that the refusal is unlawful, discriminatory, and has caused her immense hardship in accessing basic services that require valid identification.

The woman has requested the court to direct NADRA to process her CNIC without delay and to ensure that arbitrary and baseless objections do not hinder citizens from obtaining essential identity documents. The court has sought NADRA's response and is expected to hear the case in the coming days.—RT/Agency

North Nazimabad AC Shuts Down Café Pyala Again Over Illicit Activities

KARACHI: Assistant Commissioner North Nazimabad, Hamir Ahmed, has once again ordered the closure of Café Pyala for violating regulations. According to reports, the café's management reopened without authorization, giving the impression that they operate above the law.

Authorities noted that the management had reinstated the same illegal encroachments that had previously led to the café's initial sealing. The district administration emphasized that no individual or business will be allowed to violate the law, and strict action will continue against any unauthorized activities.

Officials reiterated their commitment to upholding regulations, ensuring public safety, and maintaining order in commercial areas. The closure serves as a warning to other establishments that compliance with legal and administrative directives is mandatory.—RT/Agency

Karachi Sets New Speed Limits Across Shahrah-e-Faisal

KARACHI: Authorities have officially set speed limits for vehicles on Shahrah-e-Faisal, one of Karachi's busiest roads, with signboards installed at multiple locations along the route.

According to DSP Kashif Nadeem, the speed limit for cars and light transport vehicles (LTVs) has been set at 60 km/h, while motorcycles are also restricted to the same limit. For buses and heavy vehicles, the speed limit is 30 km/h to enhance road safety.

Vehicles exceeding the prescribed speed will be automatically fined through e-challan cameras installed along the corridor. Authorities said the move aims to reduce accidents, improve traffic management, and ensure safer commuting for motorists and pedestrians. Commuters have been urged to adhere strictly to the limits to avoid penalties and contribute to smoother traffic flow on the city's main arterial road.—RT/Agency

Sindh Moves Fast: High-Level Committee Clears New Welfare Boost for Minorities

KARACHI: The Sindh Non-Muslim Welfare Committee held its second meeting at the Sindh Assembly, chaired by Dr. Sham Sundar K. Advani. Key lawmakers, including Roma Mushtaq Matto, Rana Hamir Singh Sodho, Dr. Khatoomal Jeevan, and others, reviewed ongoing welfare and development initiatives for minority communities. The session focused on youth empowerment, approving several new proposals aimed at improving living standards and expanding support programs. All projects were finalized through joint consultation, with the Sindh government agreeing to advance fresh welfare measures for minorities.—RT

Dhabeji Power Failure Cripples Karachi's Water Supply Network

KARACHI: A major power breakdown hit the Dhabeji Pumping Station after a cable fault occurred late last night, severely affecting the city's water supply. According to the Water Corporation spokesperson, the outage was reported around 9 pm at the K-3 Pump House of the Dhabeji facility.

Despite the passage of 14 hours, the cable fault has not yet been repaired, resulting in the shutdown of two pumps at the K-3 station. K-Electric officials have confirmed the fault and assured that repair work is underway and will be completed as soon as possible.

The Water Corporation stated that the disruption has already caused a shortage of 40 million gallons of water in Karachi. Officials added that normal pumping operations will resume once electricity is restored.

Authorities have urged residents to use water cautiously until the system returns to its regular schedule.—RT/Agency

Woman Dies After Alleged Negligence at Korangi Hospital, Residents Launch Protest

KARACHI: Tension gripped Korangi's Awami Colony on Friday after a woman died allegedly due to medical negligence at a local hospital, prompting enraged residents to vandalise the facility. According to the family, 26-year-old Nimra Ayaz was brought to the Korangi hospital two days earlier for childbirth, but her condition deteriorated shortly after delivery.

The victim's relatives claimed that doctors ignored her post-delivery complications, ultimately leading to her death. They alleged that timely care and proper medical attention could have saved her life. Following the incident, residents of the area gathered outside the hospital, damaging property in protest and demanding strict action against the responsible staff.

Police personnel arrived at the scene to control the situation and initiate an inquiry into the matter. Authorities have assured the family that a thorough investigation will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death and identify any negligence involved.—RT/Agency

Traffic Police Warn Public as Fake Challan Messages Spread Online

KARACHI: The spokesperson for the Traffic Police has warned citizens about the circulation of fake messages regarding traffic fine payments on social media, WhatsApp, and other online platforms. According to the spokesperson, the only authentic and approved method for submitting traffic fines is through the PSID payment system.

Citizens have been urged to immediately reject all unverified payment methods, avoid clicking on suspicious or unknown links, and report misleading messages to the authorities. The spokesperson emphasized that any official message from Sindh Police is issued solely under the name "Sindh Police."

He further clarified that if anyone receives a message from a private name or personal number claiming to represent Sindh Police, it should be considered fake. The department has advised the public to stay alert and help prevent the spread of misinformation by verifying all sources before responding..—RT/Agency

Gold Prices Fall by Rs 3,300 Across Pakistan

KARACHI: After a significant rise yesterday, gold prices in Pakistan fell by Rs 3,300 today, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa, Gems & Jewellers Association. The price of per tola gold dropped to Rs 439,762, while the price of 10 grams fell by Rs 2,829 to Rs 377,025.

The association attributed the decline to movements in the international market, where gold prices fell by $33 per ounce, bringing the global rate to $4,174 per ounce.—RT/Agency

Karachi Welcomes Mild Autumn Weather and Comfortable Temperatures

KARACHI: Karachi experienced stable autumn weather today, featuring hazy sunshine and moderate temperatures, as consistent conditions are expected to continue throughout the weekend.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Friday's maximum temperature will reach 32°C, while the minimum at night will be 16°C. The RealFeel temperature aligns closely at 32°C, with a RealFeel Shade of 31°C, offering comfortable conditions for outdoor activities.

Light northwesterly winds at 7 km/h provide gentle ventilation, and the UV Index remains at a safe level of 5.0, making it suitable for outdoor exposure.—RT/Agency

BYD Joins Karachi Marathon 2026 to Drive Sports and Sustainable Mobility

KARACHI: Mega Motor Company (MMC), the official partner of BYD in Pakistan, has signed a partnership with the Karachi Marathon 2026, marking support for Pakistan's first World Athletics–Certified marathon. The signing ceremony at BYD Pakistan's Karachi Experience Center was attended by senior leaders from MMC, BYD, and the marathon organizing committee, with cricket legend Misbah-ul-Haq as a special guest.

Under the collaboration, MMC will provide brand visibility, athlete sponsorship, and mobility initiatives, with the BYD SHARK 6 serving as the official timer car. The partnership aligns with Vision 2032, enabling Pakistani runners to qualify for global marathons and the Olympics. Danish Khaliq, VP Sales & Strategy at MMC, highlighted that the initiative reflects a commitment to community wellbeing, sports, and sustainable mobility, reinforcing BYD's mission of fostering innovation, green transport, and a cleaner, healthier Pakistan.—RT

Human Rights Push Intensifies as SHRD Takes Awareness Drive to Students

KARACHI: The Sindh Human Rights Department launched a new awareness lecture series with Director Agha Fakhur Hussain visiting IDARA-E-SHARQIA Government Girls Secondary School in Karachi. Students were briefed on human rights, women's empowerment, equality, and civic responsibility, with an emphasis on young women's role in building an inclusive society. Hussain praised the school's exceptional academic standards, discipline, and STEAM activities. The session encouraged confidence and social awareness, concluding with a call for students to champion justice. SHRD pledged to expand such awareness programs across Karachi and Sindh.—RT

Angel Learning Centre Celebrates Achievements of Students and Volunteers

By Zafar Alam Malik

KARACHI: Angel Learning Centre, committed to women's empowerment and education, has recently issued certificates of appreciation recognizing the contributions of students, volunteers, and key supporters. Individual students were celebrated for their curiosity, enthusiasm, and determination to learn, inspiring hope for a brighter future. Visiting volunteers received acknowledgment for their time, kindness, and encouragement in shaping young minds. Key supporters and chairpersons were formally honored for their leadership and unwavering commitment to the Centre's mission of educating and empowering women. The initiative highlights the Centre's dedication to nurturing talent and fostering a supportive community that uplifts learners and educators alike.

Sindh Government Unveils Broad Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programmes

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Sindh government spokesperson Sukhdev Hemnani stated that the provincial government is committed to promoting family planning, reproductive health, and women's empowerment through a rights-based strategy aligned with Pakistan's international obligations. Sindh's contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 29.5% in 2012-13 to 41.8% in 2024-25, with postnatal family planning exceeding 30%. The province also launched Pakistan's first male vasectomy campaign, online family planning app, and continues enforcing the Child Marriage Restraint Act. All services are voluntary, confidential, and respect human dignity, aiming for healthy families and a stronger future.

Resident Accuses Police of Extortion and Illegal Demolition Threats

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Shabbir Ahmed, a resident of Bhains Colony, Pirano Goth, alleged that SHO Sukhan Malik Saleem and duty officer Manzoor Chandio attempted to demolish his house illegally and demanded Rs 2.5 million as bribe. He stated that the land was legally purchased in 2012 with official documents, yet the officers ignored them. Shabbir has approached the court and complained to SSP Malir, urging IG Sindh and other authorities to take action against the officers and ensure justice.

Young Man Found Murdered in Karachi, Police Begin Probe

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The body of Yameen Pahnwar, son of Piyaro Pahnwar, was discovered behind Aqmal Para in Kohi Village, Shah Latif Town. Police and the Crime Scene Unit reached the site, collected evidence, and observed signs of violence on the body. The motive and time of the murder remain unknown. Authorities have recorded statements from local residents and are reviewing CCTV footage and mobile data. The body has been moved to the hospital for legal formalities, while police continue a thorough investigation to apprehend the culprits.

Gulistan-e-Johar Residents Voice Rising Safety Fears

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Residents of Gulistan-e-Johar have raised concerns over alleged illegal activities, including the open sale of LPG cylinders, Iranian petrol, and other unauthorized businesses near schools and markets. Despite restrictions by the Deputy Commissioner East, the trade reportedly continues. Journalists faced difficulties while seeking clarification. Authorities and journalist groups are calling for a thorough investigation to ensure public safety and enforce regulations.

You really have to love yourself first to get anything done in this world.

—Unknown

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Uniting People Every Day

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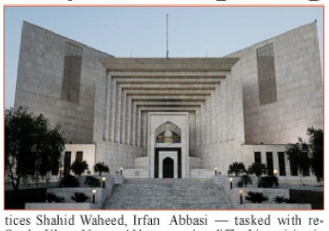
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 2025

CJP Yahya Afridi–Led Full Court Unanimously Revamps Supreme Court Rules



ISLAMABAD: A full court meeting of the Supreme Court (SC) on Friday updated the Supreme Court Rules, 2025, aimed at "expeditious administration of justice".

The meeting, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, "unanimously updated the Supreme Court Rules, 2025", read a statement issued by the apex court.

The rules were updated on the recommendation of a committee — including Justices Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi — tasked with removing difficulties arising in giving effect to its provisions, the communique added.

The meeting appreciated the members of the committee for their role in reviewing the Supreme Court Rules, 1980, and drafting the new rules.

According to the statement, the updated rules were aimed at improving service delivery and ensuring "inexpensive and expeditious administration of justice".

As many as 17 Supreme Court judges were in attendance, while Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Ayesha Malik skipped the meeting.

The full court previously comprised 24 judges, of whom three were transferred to the Federal Shariat Court, while two tendered their resignations, bringing the total number of judges down to 19.On Thursday, SC Justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah tendered their resignations, which were approved by President Asif Ali Zardari earlier today (Friday).—RT/Agency

Trump Strikes Back, Demands DOJ Probe Clinton–Epstein Links

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump on Friday called on the Justice Department and FBI to investigate alleged links between the late financier Jeffrey Epstein and former president Bill Clinton, as fresh emails revived scrutiny of Trump's own past ties. Trump accused Democrats of weaponising the "Epstein hoax" to divert attention from the recent government shutdown deal, insisting the scandal centred on "Democrats, not Republicans." He also demanded probes into Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman and JPMorgan Chase. The controversy surged after newly released emails claimed Trump "knew about the girls," prompting Congress to push for full disclosure of Epstein-related materials.-RT

Scientists Recover World's Oldest RNA from 39,000-Year-Old Mammoth

USA: Scientists have extracted the oldest-known RNA from a woolly mammoth that lived in Siberia about 39,000 years ago, revealing that the fragile molecule can survive far longer than previously believed. The RNA was recovered from the muscle tissue of "Yuka," a juvenile male mammoth discovered in 2010 in Siberian permafrost and considered one of the best-preserved specimens of its kind. The findings show which genes were active in Yuka's body near the time of death, offering rare insight into cell stress and muscle function. Researchers say ancient RNA opens a new frontier in understanding Ice Age species, complementing breakthroughs in ancient DNA and protein studies. They believe RNA may be recoverable from even older remains under ideal conditions. The study, published in *Cell*, highlights the potential to analyse gene expression in extinct megafauna and even historical human-related samples. Scientists hope this discovery will encourage deeper exploration of ancient biomolecules.-RT

Second ODI: Babar Azam Stars As Pakistan Thump Sri Lanka To Win ODI Series

Star batter Babar Azam marked the end of his long century drought with a commanding ton that steered Pakistan to a dominant eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI of the three-match series at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Set to chase 289, Pakistan comfortably chased down the target for the loss of just two wickets and 10 balls to spare.

The Green Shirts got off to a dominant start to the pursuit as their opening pair of Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub put together a brisk partnership, scoring 77 runs in just 9.3 overs before the latter fell victim to Dushmantha Chameera.

Saim scored 33 off 25 deliveries, smashing five fours and a six.

Walking out to bat at No.3, Babar joined Fakhar in the middle, and the experienced duo ensured retaining Pakistan's momentum by knitting a 100-run stand, which eventually culminated with the opening batter's dismissal of Chameera in the 31st over.

Fakhar scored 78 off 93 deliveries with the help of eight fours and a six.

Babar Azam, on the other hand, remained firm and ended his two-year international century drought before leading Pakistan to the series-clinching victory when he hit the winning runs on the second delivery of the penultimate over.

The right-handed batter top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 102 off 119 deliveries, studded with eight fours.

He shared an unbeaten 112-run partnership with wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan, who scored 51 not out from 54 balls, hitting five fours and a six.—RT/Agecny

Khawaja Asif Slams Judiciary, Says Conscience Awakened Too Late

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday sharply criticised sections of the judiciary, stating that two judges suddenly found their "conscience awakened" after the amendment passed by the National Assembly a day earlier, yet remained silent when, according to him, "kangaroo courts" were used to carry out political victimisation against his party.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, Asif said that the role of the judiciary in what he termed a conspiracy against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was evident to the entire nation. He added that the entire chain of events began with the Panama Papers case, which ultimately led to Nawaz Sharif being declared disqualified for life. "That injustice was committed by the same judiciary," he remarked.Asif claimed that during their tenure, names such as former chief justices Saqib Nisar, Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Munib Akhtar and others repeatedly surfaced for allegedly targeting the PML-N leadership.

He further criticised Justice Athar Minallah, saying that the judge's sudden concern for democracy had emerged "only today," reminding the House that Minallah previously served as a provincial minister under former military ruler Pervez Musharraf.The minister reiterated that political engineering and selective accountability in the past had severely damaged Pakistan's democratic institutions, urging the judiciary to reflect on its role and uphold impartiality going forward.—RT/Agency

PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan Vows To Restore Judiciary's Independence

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has pledged that the party will work to restore the independence of the judiciary while striving to strengthen democracy in the country. Speaking to the media in Islamabad, he emphasized that PTI remains committed to ensuring that democratic principles guide all legislative and institutional actions.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan highlighted the differences between the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments, noting that the party had strongly opposed the changes. "We protested vigorously against the amendment and will continue to raise our voice inside the House as well," he said. He stressed that any constitutional amendment must respect institutional independence and reflect the will of the people, rather than being imposed unilaterally.

The PTI chairman further remarked on recent developments within the judiciary, stating that two Supreme Court judges had resigned, signaling the need for reforms to uphold judicial autonomy. He argued that strengthening institutions, rather than undermining them, is crucial for the long-term stability and democratic governance of Pakistan.Gohar Ali Khan reiterated that PTI's approach is rooted in dialogue and lawful protest, while holding that the party will continue to oppose any measures that compromise institutional freedom or public interest.—RT/Agency

China Warns Japan Of Crushing Defeat If It Interferes In Taiwan Crisis

BEIJING: Japan will suffer a "crushing defeat" by the Chinese military if it tries to use force to intervene over Taiwan, China's defence ministry said on Friday, ramping up the rhetoric over Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks about the island.

Takaichi sparked a diplomatic row with Beijing with comments in parliament last week that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could amount to a "survival-threatening situation" and trigger a military response from Tokyo.

China's top diplomat in Osaka shared a news article about Takaichi's remarks about Taiwan on X and commented "the dirty neck that sticks itself in must be cut off", prompting a protest from Japan's embassy in Beijing to Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Jiang Bin said that Takaichi's words were extremely irresponsible and dangerous.

"Should the Japanese side fail to draw lessons from history and dare to take a risk, or even use force to interfere in the Taiwan question, it will only suffer a crushing defeat against the steel-willed People's Liberation Army and pay a heavy price," Jiang said in a statement.

On Thursday, Sun summoned Japan's Ambassador to China, Kenji Kanasugi, to lodge a "strong protest" over Takaichi's remarks.

It was the first time in more than two years that Beijing has called in a Japanese ambassador. Sun last summoned then-ambassador Hideo Tarumi in August 2023 over Japan's decision to release wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea.—RT/Agency

Epstein Email Dump Exposes Web Of Political Giants

USA: A fresh trove of Jeffrey Epstein's emails has ignited a political firestorm, exposing his far-reaching connections with some of the world's most influential figures, including former US president Donald Trump, ex-prince Andrew, Steve Bannon and Larry Summers. The US House of Representatives is set to vote next week on forcing the release of long-held law-enforcement evidence tied to Epstein's alleged sex-trafficking ring. But the newly surfaced emails — spanning 2009 to 2019 — already reveal extensive exchanges, from Andrew pleading innocence to Bannon discussing global influence campaigns, further deepening the controversy surrounding Epstein's network.-RT

Russia Says North Korean Troops Proving Crucial In Clearing Mines In Kursk Region

KURSK: North Korean troops who helped Russia repel a major Ukrainian incursion into its western Kursk region are now playing an important role in clearing the area of mines, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Friday.

Under a mutual defence pact between the two countries, North Korea last year sent some 14,000 soldiers to fight alongside Russia in Kursk, and more than 6,000 were killed, according to South Korean, Ukrainian and Western sources.

Ukrainian forces smashed across the border in August 2024 and held on to substantial pockets of territory for months. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in April that Russia had finally pushed them out, with help from the North Koreans.

The significant North Korean role in Russia's de-mining operations highlights the desire on both sides to further develop their military ties, which North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said last month would "advance non-stop".

Video published by the Russian Defence Ministry showed North Korean troops being shown different types of mines and mine detection equipment, taking part in training exercises and singing patriotic songs.

"They're great lads, they learn quickly, listen attentively and take notes," said a Russian commander with the call sign "Veles".

A second commander, "Lesnik", said: "They are on an equal level with my sappers, carrying out the same tasks as my lads."Russian military news outlet Krasnaya Zvezda said the Russian and North Korean soldiers were dealing with a "previously unseen density" of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines left behind by Ukrainian forces in Kursk. It said many of the devices had been manufactured by NATO countries.—RT/Agency

Global Media Weighs In On Pakistan's Sweeping Constitutional Defence Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Parliament has passed a landmark constitutional amendment granting Field Marshal Asim Munir lifetime legal immunity and overarching authority over all the three branches of the armed forces.

According to the Financial Times, the move comes amid heightened economic pressure and regional tensions, positioning Field Marshal Munir at the centre of Pakistan's national security and decision-making structure. The paper noted that the amendment places him at the helm of defence coordination, effectively making him the most powerful figure in the country's institutional hierarchy.

The New York Times reported that Munir secured extended constitutional powers and lifetime legal protection through the amendment, reducing the Supreme Court's oversight and expanding the military's institutional influence. The report added that Munir is expected to assume the role of Chief of Defence Forces by the end of the month.

The Guardian described the legislation as a turning point for Pakistan's democracy, warning that it could limit the judiciary's independence. However, government officials maintain the change is aimed at ensuring "institutional harmony and national stability".

Germany's Deutsche Welle (DW) confirmed that the amendment also grants lifetime privileges to military chiefs and establishes a new Federal Constitutional Court to hear constitutional cases. The government claims this will strengthen the justice system and expedite judicial proceedings.

Bloomberg termed the move an "institutional consolidation of military influence", noting that Field Marshal Munir is widely seen as Pakistan's most powerful leader, with significant influence over security, foreign policy and economic affairs.

Analyst Michael Kugelman said the amendment constitutionally defines the power structure between civilian and military institutions and may provide long-term stability.—RT/Agency

Jordan's King Abdullah II Set For High-Stakes Two-Day Visit To Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Jordan's King Abdullah II will arrive in Pakistan for a two-day state visit on Saturday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during which he is expected to hold high-level meetings with the prime minister and the president, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO) on Friday.

The Jordanian monarch's last visit to Pakistan was at the invitation of former president Mamnoon Hussain. Two memoranda of understanding were signed by both nations, with one related to cooperation in civil protection and defence and the other to cooperation in the housing sector.

According to the FO, Saturday's high-level visit reflects the "longstanding, fraternal relations" between Islamabad and Amman.

"It will serve to further strengthen the strategic direction of Pakistan–Jordan relations and place them on a higher trajectory, encompassing a comprehensive and broad-based partnership in the political, economic, and cultural spheres," the statement read."During his visit … King Abdullah II … will hold important meetings with the president and the prime minister of Pakistan," the statement added. "The full range of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries will be discussed."—RT/Agency

Modi's Alliance Poised For Dominant Win In Hindi Heartland Vote

BIHAR: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling coalition is set to comfortably retain power in the poor and populous state of Bihar, a vote count showed on Friday, giving him a boost after a disappointing national vote last year.

Winning Bihar is crucial because it is India's third-most-populous state with nearly 130 million people and it sends the fifth-highest number of lawmakers to Parliament. Control of the eastern state strengthens any party's power in the Hindi heartland and often helps to shape national political narratives.

Modi's National Democratic Alliance coalition could easily cross the majority mark of 122 seats, with data from the Election Commission of India showing it was leading in more than 170 seats. TV channel said it was ahead in 191 seats, a potential gain of 69 seats from the last election.

"Bihar's mandate is clear!" Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party said on X. "The people have made it clear — now development is the identity. Not jungle raj, good governance is needed!"

The Bihar outcome would mark a sharp reversal for Modi, who lost his parliamentary majority in last year's national elections and had to lean on allies to remain in power. Since then, his party has steadily regained ground, winning several key state contests.—RT/Agency

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