



Jennifer Lawrence Opens Up About the Fear She Never Escapes

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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Report claims Bushra Bibi steered Imran Khan on governance and key decisions Like Rasputin!

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's marriage to his spiritual adviser shocked the country. Now she could help decide whether he returns to office or stays in prison. The Economist reported former prime minister Khan, according to the UK publication report, was introduced to Bushra Bibi by her older sister, Maryam. At some point in her conversations with Khan, who was prone to fretting about religion and the meaning of life, Maryam suggested he talk to her sister. Bushra Bibi was reluctant to talk to Khan at first, saying she did not meet men outside of the family, but eventually agreed to a telephone consultation. And that was when it began. The calls went on for hours through the night.



Eventually, the calls became visits. Bushra Bibi's husband, Khawar Manika, was pleased at first. He liked having such a famous person at home. But as his wife's intimacy with Khan grew, he became concerned. "She wanted to sit alone and talk to him. I would say, as a husband, 'Why can't we sit together?'" he said. The report reads that sometimes Manika would walk in on them but, "every time I stepped in, there was a hush". According to Manika, his wife explained to Khan that she had seen the future: if the two of them were married, his election as prime minister would follow (Bushra Bibi has denied this story). At the end of 2017, she divorced her husband, and

on January 1, 2018, she married Khan in a secret ceremony. Khan claims not even to have seen his bride's face before they were married. Once in office, Khan struggled to fulfil lofty campaign promises of creating an Islamic welfare state and 10 million jobs. His relations with the political and military elite quickly soured. His wife upset crucial friends and allies. Ministers and household staff grumbled about the eccentric First Lady being given too much power. —RT/Agency

Pakistan and Jordan move to elevate strategic and economic partnership

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Jordan on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to bolster bilateral strategic and economic ties, with a focus on expanding mutual cooperation at regional and international forums. The development came during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Jordan's King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, who arrived in the country earlier today on a two-day visit, state-run. The two leaders emphasised the need to deepen bilateral relations and explore opportunities to enhance cooperation across several sectors, including trade, investment, health, education, and defence. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army



Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar were among the attendees of the meeting. PM Shehbaz welcomed King Abdullah II's visit to Pakistan, terming it as a "testament to the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Jordan". Jordan's king appreciated Pakistan's continued support for Jordan's role in

the humanitarian efforts in Gaza. Both leaders reaffirmed the two nations' principled stance on Gaza, including their opposition to any relocation of Palestinians from the territory. They also vowed to strengthen coordination among the eight Arab-Islamic countries working with the United States on a ceasefire in Gaza. PM Shehbaz briefed

King Abdullah II on recent developments in the region, particularly in Afghanistan and India. King Abdullah recognised Islamabad's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. The two leaders also attended a ceremony for exchanging memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in media, culture, and education. PM Shehbaz then hosted King Abdullah II and his delegation for a dinner. Before his meeting with PM Shehbaz, the Jordanian leader was presented with a guard of honour at the PM House after his arrival in the country. President Asif Ali Zardari and the premier were joined by First Lady Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto-Zardari, and other officials in the welcoming ceremony for Jordan's king at PAF Base Nur Khan in Rawalpindi. President Zardari expressed hope that King Abdullah II's visit would "give bilateral relations a new strategic dimension". The ties between the two countries are based on historical brotherhood, mutual trust, and shared values, he added. A special investiture ceremony is also scheduled at the Aiwan-e-Sadr (President House) to confer the highest civilian award upon King Abdullah II. King Abdullah II's visit to Pakistan comes a month after Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir visited the country. —RT/Agency

Cyber firm flags seven relentless cyber threats stalking Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A global cybersecurity firm has identified seven advanced persistent threat (APT) groups targeting Pakistan's government, intelligence agencies, oil and gas industry, and corporate sector in a bid to steal sensitive information. The News reported on Saturday it said there are around one million such attacks every month, meaning Pakistan faces cyberattacks on a per-minute basis. The attempts seek to extract vital data from devices such as computers, laptops and mobile phones, and in some cases via insecure Wi-Fi networks. According to the data, more than 5.3 million on-device attacks were detected in Pakistan in the first nine months



(January to September) of the current calendar year, compared to 2.5 million web threats over the same period. The data is stolen and then placed on the Dark Web for various reasons. The banking and financial sector, including insurance companies, also faced such attacks, but they were reluctant to share details. During a media briefing session here on Friday, Dmitry Berezin, Kaspersky's Global Security Expert, focused on pressing cyberthreats facing the country, including exploits, ransomware, and advanced targeted attacks. "Understanding the growing and increasingly sophisticated cyberthreat landscape is crucial for organisations, while individuals should also stay aware and follow fundamental cyber hygiene principles," Kaspersky advised. —RT/Agency

Russia steps in, offers to broker peace between Pakistan and Afghanistan



MOSCOW: Russia has extended an offer to mediate in the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, emphasised that stability in the region is a top priority. She warned that escalating border tensions pose a threat not only to the two nations but also to the wider international community. Zakharova urged both Pakistan and Afghanistan to exercise restraint, stressing that negotiations remain the only sustainable solution. She noted that both countries are important partners and highlighted Moscow's readiness to facilitate dialogue. Pakistan and Afghanistan have previously engaged in

multiple rounds of talks under the mediation of Qatar and Turkey. The Doha negotiations led to a temporary ceasefire, but subsequent meetings in Istanbul failed to achieve significant progress. In addition to Russia, other regional powers have expressed concern. Turkey's President announced that a high-level delegation would be sent to Pakistan to help de-escalate tensions. Similarly, Iran's Foreign Minister offered mediation after discussing the issue with his Pakistani counterpart. The latest offer from Russia adds another dimension to the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions between the two neighbours. —RT/Agency

President Zardari approves sweeping amendments for Army, Air Force and Navy

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday signed the Pakistan Army, Air Force and Navy Amendment Bills 2025 into law following their approval by parliament. According to notifications shared by the PPP on the social media platform X, the president gave his assent to the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill 2025, the Pakistan Air Force (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the Pakistan Navy (Amendment) Bill 2025. The bills, presented by deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, were passed by both the lower and upper houses of parliament — the National Assembly and the Senate — this week. What are the key changes? Under the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, the COAS will concurrently



serve as Chief of the Defence Forces for five years. Field Marshal Munir's tenure will restart from the date the new notification is issued. Article 243 provisions applicable to a Field Marshal will also apply to a General promoted to the rank. The federal government may authorise the Vice Chief of Army Staff or Deputy Chief of Army Staff to exercise powers of the COAS, under written orders issued on the

CDF's recommendation. The legislation further clarifies that once the first notification for the dual office is issued, the incumbent COAS' tenure will be deemed to have recommenced from the date of that notification. The federal government will determine the duties and responsibilities of the CDF, including multi-domain integration, restructuring and ensuring jointness across the armed forces. —RT/Agency

UK magazine alleges Bushra Bibi's deep sway over key state decisions, Tarar weighs in

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has said that a British magazine has published a story alleging that the wife of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Bushra Bibi, played a decisive role in state matters and influenced major government decisions. Speaking to the media in Lahore on Friday, Tarar claimed that the PTI founder would consult Bushra Bibi — not experts — before taking important decisions. He said that international



publications are now reporting that "all decisions were being made by one woman," adding that Bushra Bibi, under the guise of spirituality, was directing both political and economic affairs

Pakistan envoy urges bold, economically driven reset in ties with Washington

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh met US Congressman John Larson in Hartford to discuss strengthening the long-standing and consequential bilateral partnership between Islamabad and Washington. Highlighting the significance of Pak-US relations, Sheikh emphasised that the relationship had consistently proven vital not only for both nations but for the

wider free world. The ambassador highlighted the current unprecedented positive momentum in bilateral ties and called for transforming the goodwill into a strategic, economically entrenched partnership focused on mutually profitable propositions. He underscored Pakistan's improving economic indicators, including single-digit inflation, upgraded credit ratings by all three major agencies, and ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) engagement, as evidence of stability and opportunity. He added that sectors for collaboration included information technology (where Pakistan offered a 70% cost advantage over the US) and remained competitive with regional peers, enhanced US agricultural exports (cotton, soybeans), energy, and investment through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). —RT/Agency

of the country. Tarar argued that these revelations further expose what he described as "hypocrisy, falsehood, and deceit" at the heart of the PTI founder's politics. —RT/Agency

Trump says will sue BBC for up to US\$5 billion over video edit



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said he would sue the BBC for up to US\$5 billion after the British broadcaster apologised for a misleading edit of one of his speeches but said it would not pay damages.

"We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and five billion dollars, probably some time next week. I think I have to do it. They've even admitted that they cheated," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. Trump's lawyers sent the BBC a letter on Monday accusing it of defaming the president with the video of the speech before the 2021 US Capitol riot and giving it until Friday to apologise and pay compensation. "The people of the UK are very angry about what happened, as you can imagine, because it shows the BBC is fake news," Trump said. He added that he planned to raise the BBC issue with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has backed the broadcaster's

independence while avoiding taking sides against Trump.

"I'm going to call him over the weekend. He actually put a call into me. He's very embarrassed," Trump said. On Monday, the BBC apologised for giving the impression in a documentary aired last year that Trump had directly urged "violent action" just before the assault on the US Capitol by his supporters on Jan 6, 2021. The firestorm over the video edit has led the BBC director-general and the organisation's top news executive to resign. The BBC said Thursday that its chairman Samir Shah had sent a "personal letter" to the White House making clear to President Trump that he and the corporation are sorry for the edit of the president's speech. "However, it added: "While the BBC sincerely regrets the manner in which the video clip was edited, we strongly disagree there is a basis for a defamation claim." —RT/Agency

Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirm seizure of oil tanker in Gulf waters

IRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed on Saturday that they had seized an oil tanker in the Gulf off the country's coast, a day after security companies determined they were likely responsible after a judicial authority ordered the seizure of the cargo of an oil tanker with the trade name Talara and the flag of the Marshall Islands, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) rapid reaction units of the naval forces monitored its movements and intercepted and seized it, said a statement from the IRGC, the ideological arm of the Islamic republic's military. "The tanker was found to be in violation of the law by carrying unauthorised cargo," the statement continued,



adding it "was carrying 30,000 tonnes of petrochemical cargo and was heading to Singapore". The vessel had departed from Ajman in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was heading south through the Strait of Hormuz when it was approached by three small boats, after which it made a "sudden course deviation", maritime security company Ambrey said. The

US Navy had earlier said it was "actively monitoring the situation". "Commercial vessels are entitled to largely unimpeded rights of navigation and commerce on the high seas," said the US 5th Fleet, which patrols the region. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and liquefied natural gas, has previously been the scene of similar incidents. —RT/Agency

Five militants taken down in high-intensity joint Police-CTD operation in Bannu, Lakki Marwat

PESHAWAR: Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) eliminated five militants during a joint intelligence-based operation in Bannu and Lakki Marwat, according to a media report issued by the Central Police Office (CPO) Peshawar on Friday.



Officials said the action was carried out as part of an intensified crackdown against the militant group referred to as Khawarij, targeting their hideouts in the two districts where they had reportedly been planning subversive activities. Law enforcement agencies launched coordinated raids after receiving credible intelligence about the presence of armed

militants in the area. During the operation, the militants opened fire on security personnel, triggering a heavy exchange of gunfire. Police and CTD officials effectively retaliated, resulting in the killing of all five militants involved. The CPO report confirmed that none of the police personnel were harmed during the encounter,

and all members of the operational teams remained safe. Authorities added that the militants were linked to recent terrorist plots aimed at destabilising the region. Weapons, ammunition, and communication devices were recovered from the site, and forensic teams have begun examining the seized materials. —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



SAFWCO Rolls Out Massive Rs 9 Crore Lifeline to Supercharge Hyderabad's SMEs

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: SAFWCO has distributed Rs 9 crore in matching grants to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) under the European Union-funded GRASP project.

The cheque distribution ceremony was held at the Indus Hotel, Hyderabad, with notable recipients including Fresh & Roshan (Rs 1 crore) and Al Noor Cold Storage, Bio Energy Solutions, Saeed Khan Enterprises, and HN Food Products (Rs 2 crore each). Hyderabad Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi praised SAFWCO's impact on rural development, particularly its efforts in education, healthcare, and financial support for women. He acknowledged the contributions of SAFWCO founder Suleman G. Abro, MPA Sabir Qaimkhani and Sindh Abadgar Board President Mahmood Nawaz Shah also lauded the organization's transparent and effective aid distribution. SAFWCO's CEO, Suleman G. Abro, and SMCL Managing Director Syed Sajjad Ali Shah outlined the group's training initiatives and microfinance services for entrepreneurs. The event was moderated by broadcaster Naseer Mirza.



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Legal Fraternity Mobilizes to Dismantle the 27th Amendment



By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: KB Laghari, Sindh Bar Council member, announced that lawyers across Pakistan are uniting to demand the repeal of the 27th Constitutional Amendment. Speaking at a gathering at Advocate Badar Mangnejo's residence, he said conventions will be held in major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Quetta, and Peshawar. Laghari urged both lawyers and the public to actively oppose the amendment, promising the movement will continue until success is achieved.

Daulatpur Seminar Sounds Alarm on Measles and Rubella Protection

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A seminar was held at Daulatpur Rural Health Center to raise awareness about protecting children from dangerous diseases like measles and rubella. The event was attended by special guest MPA Dr. Bahadur Khan Dahri, Town Committee Chairman Hashmat Dad Khanzada, Dr. Dilawar Jokhio, hospital MS Dr. Noor Muhammad Parhyar, and Dr. Jamshed Ahmed Khanzada, along with doctors, teachers, women, and local citizens.



Officials announced that free vaccination for children aged six months to five years will be available from November 17 to 25. Parents were urged to vaccinate their children to prevent these life-threatening diseases and to fully cooperate with health teams to eliminate them.

Larkana Gears Up for Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's 18th Death Anniversary

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, chaired by DC Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, to finalize arrangements for the 18th death anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on December 27. District officers, department heads, and officials from police, health, SEPCO, and municipal authorities participated. The DC instructed strict law and order, improved traffic management, cleanliness, lighting, drinking water supply, and medical arrangements, including ambulances and mobile medical services. Road works, signage, and parking near the mausoleum were emphasized. Chairman District Council Aijaz Ahmed Laghari and Special Assistant to CM Sindh Khair Muhammad Shaikh appreciated the efforts and assured public cooperation. Another review meeting will be held in Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto ahead of the anniversary.



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Sindh Media Forum Presses State Life for Tailored Insurance Protection for Journalists

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The Central President of Sindh Media Forum, senior journalist Niaz Hussain Wistro, along with Central General Secretary and young senior journalist Jahanzeb Ali Katiyar, met with Imdad Ali Pehnwari, Area Manager of State Life Insurance Corporation Pakistan, Qasimabad branch, to discuss insurance-related matters. During the meeting, they proposed the introduction of special, discounted insurance policies for working journalists associated with the Sindh Media Forum.



of the Forum. Jahanzeb Ali Katiyar reviewed various policies and emphasized that these initiatives would bring positive changes to journalists' lives and their families.

DEO Umerkot's Surprise Inspections Expose Gaps in Teaching and School Standards

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: District Education Officer (DEO) Secondary Schools Umerkot, Mir Hassan Arisar, carried out surprise visits to several government institutions, including Higher Secondary School New Chhor, to assess teaching quality, attendance, discipline, and overall administrative performance. He joined the morning assembly, recited the national anthem with students, and appreciated their discipline. The DEO also visited various classrooms, taught lessons, and asked questions to gauge student learning and teacher effectiveness. In meetings with headmasters and teachers, he discussed school needs such as lab and library facilities and stressed adopting modern teaching methods. He instructed staff to submit issues in writing and assured support within available resources. Teachers and students welcomed the initiative, hoping such visits would further improve educational standards.



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Sobhodero Journalists Alliance Demands Urgent Funds for Neglected Press Clubs

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The newly elected cabinet of the Sobhodero Journalists Alliance held its first meeting under Taluka President Anwar Ali Narejo, with General Secretary Shaman Ali Rajpar conducting proceedings. The meeting demanded the immediate arrest of killers of slain journalists in Sindh and urged action against false cases registered against media personnel. The cabinet also called for the prompt release of funds for smaller press clubs in Khairpur District. Senior leaders, including Vice Presidents Mazhar Naimat Mangnejo, Lala Ashfaq Bhagat, Fazal Muhammad Mangi, Zulfiqar Sehto, and Waheed Ali Solangi, participated. Narejo announced a historic protest march to the CM House to secure justice and press club funds. The agenda was approved unanimously.



for smaller press clubs in Khairpur District. Senior leaders, including Vice Presidents Mazhar Naimat Mangnejo, Lala Ashfaq Bhagat, Fazal Muhammad Mangi, Zulfiqar Sehto, and Waheed Ali Solangi, participated. Narejo announced a historic protest march to the CM House to secure justice and press club funds. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Jamshoro Man Held After Brazen Theft of Friend's Sister's Dowry

JAMSHORO: In Kotri, Shedi Mohala and took jewellery and cash reserved for the dowry. Police arrested him within 24 hours. Waris confessed to committing the theft with the assistance of a rickshaw driver, citing greed as his motive. Authorities have recovered the stolen items and are investigating the case further to ensure justice for the affected family.—RT

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Dadu DC's Office Launches Aggressive Push Against Child Marriages

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: A meeting was held at the DC Office Dadu, chaired by Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, DC Dadu, with Mashooque Birhamani, Focal Person of the Child Marriage Prevention Initiative (CMPI), Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh. The meeting was attended by ADC, police officials, social welfare representatives, civil society members, and community leaders. It was decided that an awareness campaign against child marriages would be launched in every Taluka of Dadu District. The campaign will also focus on educating the public about the Sindh Child Marriage Registration Act 2013, passed in 2014, and ensuring its implementation. Mashooque Birhamani emphasized the importance of community participation to curb child marriages and protect children's rights.



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Thul's Free Mega Medical Camp Provides Lifesaving Care to Over 800 Patients

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A one-day free medical camp was organized at Panhyar House Thul under the supervision of social leader Mir Afaq Panhyar, with support from MNA Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhani. Over 800 patients were examined, and many received free diagnoses and medicines. Speaking to the media, Mir Afaq Panhyar emphasized the need to improve healthcare facilities in Thul and provide easy access to medical services for deserving people. Doctors and volunteers, including Sardar Abdul Hakeem Panhyar, were honored for their contributions. Residents and local dignitaries praised the initiative, calling for such humanitarian activities to continue on a regular basis.



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Samaro Gets Fresh Start as 34 New Homes Handed Over by Muslim Aid Society

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Assistant Commissioner of Samaro, Sanjay Kumar Tarkio, inaugurated a project of 34 houses in Muhammad Ramzan Dhonkai village, constructed by the social organization Muslim Aid Society. The ceremony, held in a simple yet dignified manner, was attended by Muslim Aid representatives, including Country Head Asif Chishti, UC Samaro Road Chairman Nasir Khan Dhonkai, stakeholders, local residents, and beneficiary families. AC Samaro praised the project as a major step for regional development and the welfare of underprivileged families, emphasizing the importance of providing safe housing. Muslim Aid Society stated that the initiative aims to provide dignified homes to vulnerable families and that its services in education, health, and housing will continue.



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Inferno Rips Through Mehar Mobile Shop, Wiping Out Millions in Minutes

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A sudden fire broke out at the mobile shop of Muhammad Paryal Bughio, located near the Biryani Wala on Gahi Mahesar Road in Mehar city. The fire resulted in the destruction of mobile phones, chargers, and other valuable items worth millions of rupees. The fire department, along with the Municipal Committee, responded promptly and managed to control the fire, preventing further damage. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but the shop suffered significant financial losses. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.



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Hyderabad Police Net 10 Suspects in Sweeping Anti-Crime Crackdown



By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police continued their crackdown on criminal elements, arresting 10 suspects in multiple operations across the district. Rahkui Police apprehended Amjad Mirani and Waseem Machhi, recovering 300 packets of mainpuri from each, with cases 103/2025 and 104/2025 registered under Section 8 of the Mainpuri Act. Hali Road Police arrested Salman Arain after seizing an illegal 30-bore pistol, registering case 233/2025 under the Sindh Arms Act. Meanwhile, Baldia Police detained seven alleged gamblers and seized Rs 2,700 along with playing cards, booking them under the Gambling Ordinance. Further investigations are in progress.

NATIONAL

Interior Minister Slams 'Cowardly' Cadet College Attack, Hails Swift Army Action

WANNA, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the recent attack on Cadet College Wanna, describing the attackers as "monsters" with no connection to humanity. During his visit to the college, Minister Naqvi was welcomed by IG Frontier Corps South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Major General Mehr Omar Khan.



Pakistan Army officers and soldiers who successfully thwarted the assault and rescued cadets and teachers. He lauded their bravery, professionalism, and swift response, saying their courage exemplifies the nation's resilience in the face of terror.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that no religion permits targeting children, asserting that the attackers have no faith and calling them inhumane. "To call these monsters human is an insult to humanity," he stated, underlining the severity of the crime and the moral depravity of the assailants.—RT/Agency

Chaman Man Carves Stunning Mountain Museum, Merging History With Nature

CHAMAN: In the rugged highlands of the old Chaman mountain range, an extraordinary cultural landmark has taken shape—quite literally—within the mountain itself. What appears at first glance to be a simple hillside reveals, upon closer look, a remarkable museum carved entirely by hand. At its foothills, a flourishing fruit orchard and a community futsal ground complete a landscape where history, nature, and local life coexist in harmony. A fusion of heritage and natural beauty, the site captivates visitors with its serene vistas and the quiet grandeur of stone-hewn rooms. This unique museum is the vision and creation of local resident Ibrahim Khan, who sculpted five rooms into the mountain, transforming the rocky terrain into a living testament to the region's culture. The cool interior not only shields visitors from harsh weather but also offers an intimate glimpse into the traditions of Chaman.—RT/Agency

Azma Bukhari Hits Hard at Imran, Backs Damning Report on Bushra Bibi

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has strongly criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his wife, Bushra Bibi, claiming that for four years, key aides—including Coach and Pirmi—misled the party leader while Bushra Bibi allegedly facilitated "halal corruption." Responding to a special report by an international magazine concerning Bushra Bibi, Bukhari stated that the findings were "100 percent accurate and fact-based." She said the report highlights Bushra Bibi's influence and exposed the hidden "devilish" elements behind alleged pseudo-spiritual practices. Azma Bukhari further accused PTI aides—Pinky, Gogi, Coach, and Buzdar—of manipulating the party leader for four years, asserting that while "fake spiritual centers" flourished, the country and its economy suffered. She said the international report sheds light on how personal influence and superstition undermined governance and accountability during PTI's tenure.—RT/Agency

Govt Finalizes Tough New Law to Reshape Pakistan Nursing Council

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal has announced that the new law governing the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) has been finalised. Speaking to the media on Friday, the minister said significant reforms have been introduced to modernise the council's structure and improve regulatory oversight of the nursing profession.

Mustafa Kamal revealed that during the process of drafting and approving the new legislation, "a large number of recommendations and requests" were received from various stakeholders, reflecting the sector's keen interest in the reforms. He added that the government remained committed to strengthening nursing education, ensuring merit-based processes, and enhancing professional standards across the country.—RT/Agency

Lahore Suffocates as Air Pollution Soars to Deadly 'Hazardous' Levels

LAHORE: Air quality in Lahore has deteriorated to dangerous levels, with particulate matter (PM) readings reaching 533 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the Air Quality Index (AQI). The city now ranks as the most polluted among major global cities, surpassing New Delhi in

India, which stands second, and Kolkata in third place. Karachi ranks sixth, with PM levels recorded at 164 micrograms per cubic meter.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Speeding Dumper Sparks Chaos: Driver Fined and Suspended in Karachi!

KARACHI: Near Razaqabad, a high-speed dumper caused a traffic accident, prompting police action. Authorities issued a Rs. 100,000 e-challan for the absence of a vehicle tracker and suspended the driver's license for three months. A formal case



has also been registered at Shah Latif Town Police Station against both the dumper driver and its owner. Police warn strict enforcement will continue to prevent reckless driving and ensure road safety in the city.—RT/Agency

Sindh Government Orders Officials to Clear E-Challan Fines on Official Vehicles

KARACHI: The Sindh government has directed that fines issued via e-challans to official vehicles in Karachi will now be paid by the respective officers from their own pockets. The Department of General Administration has issued letters to all administrative secretaries outlining the new procedure.

According to the letter shared by DIG Traffic, officials will be personally responsible for settling e-challan penalties incurred by government-owned vehicles under their control. The move aims to promote accountability and ensure compliance with traffic regulations among departments operating official vehicles in the city. Authorities emphasized that this measure is part of broader efforts to improve road discipline and reduce violations by government fleet vehicles, signaling a stricter approach toward administrative responsibility in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Sindh Governor Urges Strong Global Coalition Against Transnational Crime

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, in his message on the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime, warned that organized criminal networks pose a grave threat to global peace, economic stability, and human life. He stressed that effectively countering these crimes requires robust legal



frameworks, comprehensive strategies, and strong international cooperation. The governor noted that Pakistan's law enforcement agencies are performing commendably in restricting the activities of organized groups involved in drug trafficking, smuggling, cybercrime, and human trafficking. He said strict and decisive action remains essential to curb these threats.—RT/Agency

Tributes Pour In for Jinnah Hospital's Dr Shahid Rasool After His Passing

KARACHI: Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, President of the Kakar Tribes Federation, expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Jinnah Hospital Executive Director Prof. Dr. Shahid Rasool. He praised Dr. Rasool as a compassionate, skilled professional whose contributions transformed Jinnah Hospital into a leading modern facility. Kakar offered condolences to Dr. Rasool's father-in-law, Syed Javed Sadiq, and prayed for the family's strength.—RT



Barrister Saif Defends Bushra Bibi as Explosive Report Details Her Grip on PTI Govt



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Barrister Mohtama Ali Saif has rejected a recent international media report about Bushra Bibi, calling it "fabricated and baseless" as the party and its political opponents sharply differed over the ex-first lady's role during former prime minister Imran Khan's tenure in office. Speaking in Peshawar on Saturday, Barrister Saif said Bushra Bibi is facing a "deliberate and organised campaign" aimed at damaging her reputation, insisting that every attempt to malign her "will fail". He added that despite



"unlawful imprisonment," she continued to show "remarkable resilience," saying her "high morale" reflected the sacrifices she had made. The PTI leader alleged that "false accusations" against her were politically motivated and intended to secure an advantage against the former ruling party. His remarks followed widespread debate triggered by a report published in The Economist, revisiting the political influence attributed to Bushra Bibi, her relationship with Imran Khan, and the controversies that shaped the former premier's time in power.—RT/Agency

BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Jaffarabad Hosts Urgent One-Day Seminar to Combat Measles-Rubella Threat



By Inayatullah Hur
JAFFARABAD: A one-day seminar on measles-rubella vaccination was organized at the District Health Office, attended by health department officials and field workers. After the seminar, DHO Dr. Ayaz Ahmed Jamali urged the public to cooperate fully for the success of the vaccination campaign. He said 81 teams across 22 union councils will vaccinate over 62,412 children aged 6 months to 5 years. Dr. Jamali emphasized that the MR vaccine is safe and verified, asking parents not to believe rumors. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, MPA Abdul Majeed Badini, and Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan stressed community support as a national responsibility.

HEARTLAND

MPA Sadia Javed Lauds Women's Empowerment, Calls It Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's Living Legacy



By Narain Das
MIRPURKHAS: MPA Sadia Javed, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development and Sindh Government spokesperson, said empowering women was Shaheed Mohtama Benazir Bhutto's dream, now being advanced by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. She made the remarks while addressing community workers and distributing business startup loans in Sohail Laghari village, Union Council Makhani Samo, Taluka Shujaabad. Sadia Javed praised the Sindh Rural Support Program for reducing poverty and empowering women, highlighting that 400,000 women have benefited and 99% of loans were recovered. Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori called it a revolutionary step, while SRSP CEO Muhammad Datal Kalhoro detailed the Rs 7 billion community initiative funds and Rs 1 billion women loans. District Manager SRSO Syed Shahenshah, Regional GM Khadija Hussain Shar, Deputy Director Anwar Hussain Khakheli, Program Officer Maqsood Hussain Kouchi, and journalist Qazi Asif also attended.

Central Punjab

IG Punjab Usman Anwar Leads High-Stakes Meeting on Overhauling Legal Inspectors' Structure

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar chaired an important meeting of Legal Inspectors at the Central Police Office, Lahore, to review service structure, seniority, and promotion matters. The meeting was attended by Additional IG Punjab Sultan Ahmad Chaudhry, DIG Establishment-I Suleman Sultan Rana, DIG Establishment-II Captain (R) Liaqat Ali Malik, AIGs Discipline and Legal, and other senior officers. Dr. Usman Anwar emphasized that legal officers



are the backbone of motion procedure for Legal Inspectors. The IG also announced that new SP and DSP Legal posts will be created as top priorities. He further strengthened the Punjab Police's legal framework.

Rescue 1122 Narowal Launches Aggressive Awareness Drive on Road Safety

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: On the directions of Secretary Punjab Emergency Service Department, Dr. Rizwan Naseer (Sitara-e-Imtiaz), Rescue 1122 Narowal organized a seminar, awareness walk, and inspection visits to mark the World Day of Road Traffic Victims. Citizens, students, Rescue personnel, and civil society members actively participated. Administrator and Regional Emergency Officer Gujranwala Division, Syed Kamal Abid, highlighted that a motorcycle accident occurs every minute in Pakistan, causing fatalities and lifelong disabilities.



He stressed the importance of following traffic laws, wearing helmets, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, and maintaining speed limits. During the event, Syed Kamal Abid inspected Rescue Stations in Zafarwal and Narowal, reviewing emergency vehicles and staff preparedness. District Emergency Officer Engineer Aurangzeb emphasized that road safety is a shared responsibility, and participants concluded the program with an awareness walk, pledging to promote safe driving practices.

Gujranwala Police Nab Duo Linked to Infamous Arsalan Dacoit Gang

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Kot Ladhia police have arrested two members of the Arsalan dacoit gang and recovered Rs 250,000 in cash along with two motorcycles. The operation, led by SHO Kot Ladhia Inspector Khuram Shahzad under the supervision of DSP Nowshera Warkan Imran Baig, was carried out on the orders of City Police Officer Muhammad Ayaz Saleem.



Arrested suspects include Arsalan and Sohail Ashraf. Local residents and social organizations praised the police action. CPO Saleem emphasized that criminals are a menace to society and assured that strict measures against them will continue, congratulating the police team for their high performance.

State-of-the-Art Digital Library Opens at Govt Graduate College Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Gujranwala Division Syed Naveed Hyder Sheerazi and Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed inaugurated a state-of-the-art digital library at Government Graduate College, Satellite Town. The library features online research portals, digital books, computer workstations, e-learning technology, high-speed internet, and smart study zones. The event saw participation from teachers, students, and education officials. Commissioner Sheerazi highlighted the importance of technology-based education, while Deputy Commissioner Ahmed emphasized the library's role in facilitating modern research and learning. Outstanding



students were awarded certificates and prizes to encourage academic excellence. The initiative was praised by students and local education stakeholders as a significant step forward in advancing education in Gujranwala.

Toba Tek Singh Horror: Husband Brutally Axes Wife to Death

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a shocking incident near Rajana Police Station, Ali Wars Baloch of Chak No. 188 GB allegedly killed his wife,

Mumtaz Bibi, by repeatedly striking her with an axe over a minor domestic dispute, before fleeing the scene. Police Crime Scene Unit collected evidence and transferred the body to RHC Rajana for post-mortem. District Police Officer Toba Tek Singh has ordered immediate action and the arrest of the accused. Police teams are conducting raids to apprehend him.

EDITORIAL



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

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Mysticism, Power and a Nuclear State: Pakistan Cannot Afford a Rasputin Problem

The revelations published by The Economist's 1843 Magazine — penned by respected journalist Owen Bennett-Jones — should jolt Pakistan into a moment of national introspection. This is not a routine political hit job, nor the usual partisan mudslinging. It is a serious assessment from one of the world's most credible publications, warning of something profoundly alarming: the possibility that a modern nuclear state of 250 million people may have been influenced not by institutions, advisors, or democratic processes, but by mysticism channelled through the former first lady, Bushra Bibi.

The article's claims are chilling. Decisions of state allegedly filtered through spiritual rituals, intelligence inputs relayed as "divine intuition," and senior aides frustrated by what they perceived as governance dictated by esoteric

practices rather than competence. Whether every detail is



fully accurate or partly coloured by disgruntled former staff, the seriousness of the allegations cannot be ignored. The Economist is not a tabloid, and Owen Bennett-Jones is not a lightweight. To dismiss this as mere propaganda is to avoid confronting a deeper systemic rot.

Pakistan — a country with nuclear weapons, a fragile trillion Dollar economy that has huge potential, and immense global scrutiny — cannot be run on the whims of any unelected figure, mystical or otherwise. History is

filled with cautionary tales of Rasputin-like influences compromising leaders, destabilizing courts, and weakening nations. No spouse, advisor, spiritual guide, or confidant — whether associated with Imran Khan or any other leader — can be allowed such unaccountable sway.

And while Imran Khan once commanded a near-cult following that spanned continents, that sheen is undeniably fading and fading fast. Increasing numbers of Pakistanis — both at home and abroad — are beginning to see through the facade as the idiosyncrasies, misjudgments, and governance follies continue to surface. Articles such as this one, published in reputable international outlets, are accelerating that shift in perception. It is a moment of reckoning not just for Khan, but for a nation long held hostage by personality politics over institutional sanity.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Hyderabad Rocked by Deadly Blast at Illegal Fireworks Factory

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: A massive explosion ripped through an illegal cracker manufacturing factory in Latifabad, Hyderabad, Sindh, causing the complete collapse of the structure and raising fears of significant casualties. The blast, triggered by a sudden fire in highly combustible materials, flattened the building in Laghari Goth near the river. Emergency Rescue 1122 teams, along with local residents, rushed to the scene. Four critically injured individuals were rescued and transported to Bhattai Hospital, while search operations continue for potential victims trapped under the debris. Authorities highlighted that the facility was operating illegally in a densely populated area, posing extreme public danger. Police from Latifabad Thana B-Section are expected to conduct a thorough investigation to hold those responsible accountable.



The incident underscores the hazards of unregulated fireworks production and the urgent need for strict enforcement of safety regulations in residential areas.

Bail Approved for Heirs of Late Headmaster Jam Aziz Jakhro in Court Hearing

By Sajjan Jani



SHAHDADPUR: A terrorism case was filed against the heirs of late Headmaster Jam Aziz Jakhro, who reportedly died due to alleged police torture in Shahdaddpur. Following his death, his family staged a sit-in on the National Highway at Hala, blocking traffic for hours. Hala Police, on SHO Tharo Khan Bhatti's complaint, lodged the case against Jam Aziz Jakhro's brothers Jam Arshad, Jam Zulfikar, Jam Murtaza, Jam Haider and sister Aywasaid Sohail Ahmed Lakho. Shahdaddpur Bar President Advocate Agha Ifkhar secured bail for all accused in the National Highway at Hala, blocking traffic for hours. Hala Police, on SHO 50,000 surety each.

Awami Press Club President Naz Solangi Injured in Brazen Assassination Attempt



KUMB: Senior journalist and President of Awami Press Club, Naz Solangi, was attacked, injured, and the assailants fled the scene, according to reports. While returning home from the Press Club at 10:45 a.m., near Ghat Station on Mehran Road, four armed men in a white car targeted him. Three of the attackers were carrying pistols, while one had a baton. They approached his motorcycle, attacked him, and fled after injuring him. Naz Solangi was treated in a nearby hospital in an unconscious state. An FIR has been registered at Kumb Police Station against the four unidentified assailants. Meanwhile, a large number of journalists protested outside the police station, demanding immediate arrest of the attackers from SSP Khairpur.—RT

Rajveer Singh Sodho Offers Heartfelt Condolences on Passing of Maharaj Cheten Joshi's Wife

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: PPP MPA Rana Hamir Singh Sodho expressed grief with the bereaved family on the passing of Maharaj Cheten Joshi's wife in Umerkot. Rana Hamir Singh Sodho visited Umerkot to offer condolences to the deceased's family and relatives. Prominent social figures of the city, including MC members Ramesh Kumar Ratanani, Kanwal Mohan Lal Ratanani, Dr. Khushal Das Harchandani, Banshi Malhi, Tekam Harchandani, Raees Ghulam Mustafa Khoso, and Bharti Maharaj, also joined in expressing their sympathies with the grieving family.

Jeay Sindh Tehreek Holds Mourning Gathering for Late Leader Haji Anwar Karnani

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Jeay Sindh Tehreek (JST) organized a condolence gathering in memory of their late leader, Haji Anwar Karnani. The event was attended by senior JST leaders including Faqeer Abdul Razzaq Unar, Rawal Karnani, Dr. Niaz Karnani, Baghi Farhad Memon, Akbar Brohi, Javed Ahmed Karnani, and Jam Singhar Karnani, along with the late leader's sons Munawar, Umer, and Muhammad Ali



Karnani. Addressing the gathering, leaders praised Haji Anwar's courage and dedication to the Sindh nationalist movement, noting his activism since student life at LUMHS, Jamshoro, and emphasized that his contributions to the Sindh community will remain unforgettable for generations.

Taj Welfare Brings Hope with School Supplies for Dodapur's Underprivileged Children

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Taj Welfare, a social organization, distributed books, school bags, and stationery to children in various villages near Dodapur, Jacobabad. The initiative was led by Taj Welfare leaders Ahmed Rind, Zain-ul-Abideen Katbar, Asif Ali Katbar, Muhammad Hanif Phanor, and others, who visited primary schools in several villages, including Sajjan Malgani, Karam Shah Nawaz and Jagir, as well as Qalander Bux Kathoor. Leaders emphasized that Taj Welfare's mission is to support the government attention to underserved, and for the rural areas, leading to many schools falling into disrepair and negatively impacting children's education.



mission is to support the government attention to underserved, and for the rural areas, leading to many schools falling into disrepair and negatively impacting children's education.

LUH Medical Superintendent Inspects Hyderabad Hospital Kitchen Amid Hygiene Concerns

By Muqem Koerio

HYDERABAD: Medical Superintendent of Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) Hyderabad-Jamshoro, Dr. Irshad Hussain Kazmi, conducted a detailed inspection of the hospital's kitchen store and kitchen unit. AMS and Kitchen In-charge Dr. Ali Nawaz Abbasi briefed him on food quality, stock availability, and cleanliness arrangements. Dr. Kazmi instructed staff to further improve food quality, and strictly follow hygiene and



sanitary standards, and ensuring patient meals are fresh and safe. Hospital administrative officers accompanied him during the visit, and patient health would not be tolerated.

Three-Day Fisherfolk Festival Opens with Vibrant Cultural Celebrations

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

BADIN: The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum inaugurated a three-day Fisherfolk Festival at Dargah Shaikh Kario Bhandari in Badin's coastal area, with the traditional ceremonial sheet offering marking the start. Fishermen and visitors from across Sindh are attending. On the second day, PF Forum Chairman Mehran Ali Shah and Viva Foundation CEO Mustafa, along with Chief Consultant Asim Mehmood, will participate in cultural events, Ramadan Mullah, PF Forum Secretary, said the festival features traditional dances, storytelling, poetry, handicrafts, and exhibits highlighting fishermen's rights and coastal community issues. The festival will continue for three days.

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Jam Adnan Unar Celebrates Birth of Muhammad Zawiyan Unar in Joyful Gathering

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BE-NAZIRABAD: Millions of well-wishers have extended their heartfelt congratulations on the birth of Muhammad Zawiyan Unar at the residence of Jam Adnan Unar, Gadnashin of Shaheed Fazi Shah Bukhari Dargah in Qazi Ahmed. The newborn is the only son among four daughters of his family. Muhammad Zawiyan Unar was born two days ago at a private hospital in Hyderabad, bringing immense joy to his family and the local community. The family has received an outpouring of blessings and felicitations messages from relatives, friends, and admirers across the region.

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District Council Chairman Inspects and Revives Gomi Bai Ladies Club in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Gomi Bai Ladies Club in Larkana received a special visit from District Council Chairman Atiaz Ali Laghari and Vice Chairman Asadullah Bhutto. Dr. Sakina Gad, President of Gomi Bai Ladies Club, and Noor Jahan Magasi were also present. During the visit, Atiaz Ali Laghari inspected the old building and assured that renovation work will be carried out through special funds from the Chief Minister of Sindh. The club, historically supported by Begum Nusrat Bhutto, has long been a center for social welfare, with active participation from respected families. Today, the third generation of members continues the tradition of community service. District Council members Fareeda Pechuho, Dr. Anila Isran, Puri Chandni, Fakhra-un-Nisa Khaskheli, and Hameeda Khaskheli appreciated the club's efforts, praising the Pakistan Peoples Party for supporting women-led social welfare initiatives.



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Hyderabad Hosts Second International Diabetes Conference on World Diabetes Day

By Muqem Koerio

HYDERABAD: On World Diabetes Day, the second International Diabetes Conference was organized at a private hotel in Hyderabad by the Asian Institute of Medical Sciences in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. The event was attended by Commissioner Hyderabad Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, Clinical

Director Dr. Sadiq Memon, healthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, sugary drinks, and Ultra-Processed Products (UPPs) as major contributors to diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. AI-based tools for diagnosis were introduced, and collaborative research was encouraged. Over 35 million Pakistanis are affected. Shields were presented to participating doctors and researchers for their contributions.

REGIONAL TIMES

SPORTS



Rehan Ahmed Sidelined, Blow to England Lions Tour Plans



Rehan Ahmed has been ruled out of any further participation on the England Lions tour of Australia after suffering a right lower leg strain during the Ashes warm-up match against England in Perth.

Legspinner Rehan batted at No. 5 for the Lions, making 16 off 41 balls on day one before becoming one of six wickets for England captain, Ben Stokes. He played no part with the ball, or in the Lions' second innings, with the ECB announcing afterwards that he would return home to begin his recovery.

Rehan had signed up to play for Hobart Hurricanes in the 2025-26 BBL, but the BBC reported that the

injury was not expected to impact his involvement in the competition, which starts in a month's time.

England Lions are scheduled to play another four-day match at Lilac Hill, against a Cricket Australia XI, next week, before a one-off unofficial Test against Australia A in December. The Lions are also expected to be involved in a pink-ball tour game between England and the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra between the first and second Ashes Tests. It had been speculated that Rehan, who missed out on selection as the second spinner in the main Ashes squad to Will Jacks, could stay on with England after the Lions programme concluded.—Agency

Lee and Wyatt-Hodge Power Hurricanes to Dominance as Heat Slide Further

Hobart Hurricanes 114 for 1 (Lee 59*, Wyatt-Hodge 44, Jonassen 1-12) beat Brisbane Heat 108 for 9 (Harris 28, Carey 2-10, Strano 2-17, Graham 2-25) by 16 runs (DLS method).

Lizelle Lee kept Hobart Hurricanes rolling, and Brisbane Heat winless thanks to a power-packed knock in their rain-impacted 16-run WBBL win in Sydney on Saturday.

Lee hit an unbeaten 59 off 45 balls, striking six fours and three sixes either side of a rain delay on Saturday. Hurricanes were flying before their innings was reduced to 12 overs and they purred to

114 for 1, with Heat's target increased to 125 based on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern system.

Jess Jonassen (1 for 12, 10, Strano 2-17, Graham 2-25) by 16 runs (DLS method).

Danni Wyatt-Hodge (44 in 26 balls) combined with Lee in a 106-run opening stand, which only ended in the final over.

Grace Harris (28 in 21) hung in as Heat lost regular wickets attempting to maintain the scoring rate and finished at 108 for 9 thanks to a last-ball six from Sianna Genger.—Agency

Ronaldo Faces World Cup Opener Ban After Fiery Red Card in Portugal Loss



Cristiano Ronaldo is in danger of missing at least Portugal's opening match at next year's World Cup after being shown a red card in Thursday's 2-0 loss to the Republic of Ireland.

Ronaldo was initially shown a yellow card after elbowing Ireland defender Dara O'Shea during the match in Dublin.

However, it was upgraded to a red card, and Ronaldo was sent off for the first time in his international career after the referee reviewed the contact on a pitch-side video monitor.

Face of the Day



My name is Khawar Ejaz and I'm a Modeling enthusiast from Karachi

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

KKR Shake-Up as Venkatesh Iyer Leads Star-Studded List of Released Players

Venkatesh Iyer, who made a name for himself and was elevated to the national team following a strong IPL debut season in 2021 for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), is among the players being released by the three-time champions.

ESPNcricinfo has learned that Iyer, who was bought for a record INR 23.75 crore at the IPL 2025 mega auction by KKR, who used a right-to-match card to get him, is part of a lengthy list of high-profile names who are not being retained by the franchise.

The other high-profile players being let go are the South African duo of Anrich Nortje (bought for INR 6.5 crore) and Quinton de Kock



(INR 3.6 crore), Australian quick Spencer Johnson (INR 2.8 crore), Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz (INR 2 crore) and England allrounder Moeen Ali (INR 2 crore).

The uncapped Indian pair of Luvnith Sisodia and Chetan Sakariya, who had replaced the injured Umran Malik last season, are also being released.

After making a big impression in his debut IPL season - which came after he had starred for Madhya Pradesh in the domestic limited-overs tournaments in 2020-21 - Iyer had a quiet IPL 2022, but was again a star for KKR in IPL 2023, when he scored 404 runs, including a century, to average

28.86 at a strike rate of 145.85 for the season.

A key part of the team, he has even led the side on occasion and, last year, was talked about as a possible captain before Ajinkya Rahane was handed the reins. As it happened, Iyer scored just 142 runs in 11 games at a strike rate of 139.22.

KKR, who won the IPL in 2024, finished near the bottom of the table the following season. Among the players to perform poorly was de Kock (152 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 129.91), while the likes of Nortje, Johnson, Gurbaz and Moeen didn't get too many opportunities for one reason or another and weren't too impressive when fielded.—Agency

Pope Sparkles While Root and Brook Hit Form in Commanding England Victory

England 426 (Pope 100, Duckett 92, Crawley 82, Stokes 77, Bethell 3-14) and 202 for 5 (Pope 90, Smith 39*, Root 31) beat England Lions 376 (Jacks 83, McKinney 67, Row 55, Cox 53, Potts 53, Stokes 6-52) and 251 for 6 dec (Bethell 70) by five wickets



It was a rare occasion that the ball reared off the seamy surface and the type of fierce delivery that Duckett can expect on the bouncer surface of Optus Stadium, while Crawley edged Matt Potts to slip after a loose drive.

Potts followed up from his impressive effort earlier in the match with 1 for 9 off his four-over burst with the new ball.

Ollie Pope's stylish century in the first innings put to

on rotating the strike with sharp running between the wickets, quietly moving to 31 off 52 balls before being bowled by offspinner Will Jacks after playing down the wrong line.

Brook came to the crease after an ugly first-innings dismissal when he was bowled after charging down the pitch. He motored to 19 before his stumps were rattled after botching a reverse paddle against Jacks.

Jamie Smith ensured the game wrapped up quickly, clubbing an unbeaten 39 off 22 while Ben Stokes finished 15 not out as England hauled in the target in just 34.4 overs.

There had been an unknown over whether the final day would meander into an early finish or whether a chase late in the day would be conjured.—Agency

India Close In on Triumph After Chaotic 15-Wicket Day at Eden Gardens

South Africa 159 and 93 for 7 (Bavuma 29*, Jadeja 4-29) lead India 189 (Rahul 39, Harmer 4-30, Jansen 3-35) by 63 runs

India started the second day 122 runs behind in the first innings with nine wickets in hand. Less than six dramatic hours of cricket later, they were sensing a win, having reduced South Africa to effectively 63 for 7 in their second innings. Fifteen wickets fell on the day, Shubman Gill retired with a neck spasm, 39 remained the top score in the Test, and 57 the top partnership. This was the lowest top score in the first two innings of a Test in India, and the lowest in any Test since Durban 2010-11 between the same sides.



Absolutely nobody predicted the pitch would turn out to be so difficult to bat on. It looked like a normal Indian track, good for batting for first two days, but the top surface began to come off in the second half of the first day. On the second day, it became near unplayable. Even the fast bowlers drew generous

help to take 11 of the 26 wickets to fall.

The pitch might seem at odds with India's public utterances after the series loss to New Zealand last year that they want to play on more balanced surfaces, but commentator Dinesh Karthik said on air that it was not watered on the day before the Test, which

comes across as unusual. What wasn't unusual was that the best player on this moving day was Ravindra Jadeja, who scored 27 largely trouble-free runs before his old-fashioned technique of hiding the bat behind the pad got him out lbw to Simon Harmer.

Harmer himself showed all the hype was real, that he is now a vastly improved bowler to the one that showed up in India 10 years ago, taking 4 for 30 to keep South Africa in arrears of only 30 after being bowled out for 159 on the first day. Jadeja, though, showed 30 was plenty with an unerring unbroken spell of 13-3-29-4 as South Africa ended the day on 93 for 7.—Agency

ICC Unveils Women's Emerging Nations Trophy in Major Global Expansion



A new global tournament, the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy, involving eight teams from four continents, will be played from November 20 to 30 in Bangkok, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Netherlands, UAE, Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda will take part in the inaugural edition.

The trigger for the tournament, an ICC statement said, was the success of the recent ODI World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, where "more than 500 million viewers in India" were recorded and there was also "significant growth in viewership across countries".

"Nearly 300,000 fans attended matches across India and Sri Lanka and the event concluded with India becoming the first Asian team to lift the Women's Cricket World Cup, a watershed moment in the evolution of the sport and the socio-cultural context of gender roles," an ICC statement said. "Building on the extraordinary impetus provided by the marquee event, the ICC continues to invest in creating a sustainable future for women's cricket. The Women's Emerging Nations Trophy is part of a new three-tier development pathway designed to offer high-performance exposure to emerging nations."

Sanjay Gupta, the ICC chief executive, said, "It is the ICC and the Chair's [Jay Shah] vision to sustainably expand cricket's footprint across the world and grow the women's game. Providing elite athletes from emerging nations more opportunities to play at the highest level is aimed at fast-tracking their development and improving the competitiveness of their teams.—Agency

Faf du Plessis and Fraser-McGurk Headline Delhi Capitals' Surprising Release List



Delhi Capitals (DC) are set to release their overseas players after they signed him to a new contract in 2024. His intent-laden batting that yielded 222 runs off just 81 deliveries were the highlight for DC during the flag end of their campaign that season.

He was subsequently bought back via the right-to-match card ahead of IPL 2025, where he returned five single-digit scores in six matches. His overall tally of 55 runs included a best of 38 before he was benched.

Having returned home when the IPL season was paused owing to cross-border tensions with Pakistan, Fraser-McGurk opted to stay back when the season resumed, with the franchise signing Bangladesh left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman as a temporary replacement. At the time, the IPL had stated temporary replacements would not be retained, which means Mustafizur, too, will probably not go to the auction.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

ENTERTAINMENT



Jennifer Lawrence Opens Up About the Fear She Never Escapes



For any actor, making a movie requires a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. But it could all end in a disaster if the public doesn't like it. Jennifer Lawrence, exactly, fears this.

The actress shares this in an interview with V magazine. "The experience only adds to the dread, because I've had so many experiences of working so hard on something, loving something so deeply, and then releasing it to the world, and the world just being like, 'Boo! Hate you!' It is so awful."

She continues, "And [yet] somehow, I read a script, I meet with the director, we get on set, we start doing it, and somehow I'm able to forget that this part of the process will happen. I mean, I'm very blessed and very lucky. But it's a very scary few months."

Jen mentions her husband, when she shares, he "was so confused because he doesn't have as much experience with this stuff."

"So I was telling him about my anxiety, and he was like, 'But the movie's incredible.' And I was like, 'I know, but that doesn't matter. People might not get it.' And he was like, 'But they're wrong.'"

Nikki Reed Takes Aim at Wellness Industry After Years of Misleading Advice



In her search for answers, she turned to wellness products while doctors struggled to pinpoint what was wrong, but Reed said that many of the remedies she was sold simply did not work.

Calling out what she sees as predatory practices, she told host Taylor Lautner while appearing on the latest episode of his podcast that the industry is "capitalizing on people's hope."

"The placebo effect is real, but it doesn't work on me," she began, referring to the phenomenon in which a person feels better from a treatment with no active therapeutic benefit.

Moreover, Reed explained that during her

Madison Beer Admits Performing Old Hits Now Leaves Her Restless and Uninspired



Madison Beer gets "bored" performing some of her old songs live.

The 26-year-old star "cherishes" being able to sing and singled out Nothing Matters But You as one of her favorites to sing in the front of an audience.

She told Rolling Stone magazine: "[Singing] is my gift and the thing I cherish the most. I should be feeling that way about every song."

"I won't name names. I don't want to be mean to any other songs, but there's a couple songs that I would perform and honestly be so bored and feel like I literally can't do anything, like I'm just essentially sleeping," she said.

After winning praise for her live vocals, Madison was determined to challenge herself in the studio when it came to recording her upcoming third album Locket, which is due for release in January.

She said: "There's one song that is very vocally challenging." The Reckless hitmaker continued, "When I recorded this one song and I still had Twitter, I tweeted 'Oh my God, I literally don't know if I'm gonna be able to speak for a week.' That was a feeling that I really enjoyed with this album."

"I really liked my desire to push myself and see what I was capable of. So I hope people like the vocals on this project because we spent a lot of time doing it," Madison further mentioned.

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



STEAM Science Exhibition Showcases Students' Talent at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Digri

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: A one-day STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) science exhibition was held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Digri, where 10th-grade students displayed over 40 scientific models prepared for the event. District Education Officer Secondary Mir Fazal Muhammad Talpur, Deputy Director Professor Jameel Ahmed Qureshi, Principal Madam Zarina Kalo, Ms. Iram Kausar Laghari, Mir Waqar Talpur, teachers, and students visited the stalls and received briefings from participants, including Dua Fa-



Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, helps students develop practical understanding, showcase their hidden talents, and improve overall learning.

Dadu Municipal Committee Begins Aggressive Drive to Control Stray Dogs

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Under the strict instructions of Dadu Municipal Committee Chairman Pir Danish Ali, a stray dog control drive has been launched across the city. Chief Municipal Officer Javed Ralpoto, along

with officials Alawal Mangi and Liaquat Somro, informed that teams have been formed to target stray dogs troubling residents, especially in densely populated areas and school routes. The operation began today across all 24 wards, with over 30

dogs removed in the first phase. Poisoning and relocation measures are being used to ensure public safety. The drive is crucial as stray dogs pose a risk to the city's 400,000 residents, particularly during winter when dog attacks increase.



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Jhand Marri police have arrested a wanted suspect from Benazirabad who had killed his wife and injured his mother-in-law and sister-in-law a year ago. The accused, Dhani Bakhsh Jalbani, a resident of Village Hamal Marri in the jurisdiction of Mashaikh Hoti Police Station, had opened fire with a pistol on his wife Naila Jalbani,

and also injured his mother-in-law and sister-in-law before fleeing the scene. After extensive investigations, SHO Umar Sand Mehbub Alam Pahore located and arrested the suspect in Benazirabad. Following the orders of SSP Tando Allahyar, the suspect was tracked to Sakrand in Nawabshah and apprehended through a strategic operation. He is scheduled to be presented in court tomorrow.

Thatta Police Intercept Major Gutka Supply, Arrest Two in Swift Action

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Acting on SSP Thatta Farooq Ahmed Bijarani's directives, SHO Dhabaji Inspector Mubeen Parhiyar and his team foiled an attempt to supply gutka near Al-Hussaini

Weighbridge, Dhabaji. Two suspects, Izzatullah Pathan and Wasi-ul-Qamar Ansari, both from Karachi, were arrested. Police seized a Suzuki pickup, 500 kilograms of gutka material, 500 gutka packets, and three mobile phones. A

case was registered under the Gutka Act at Dhabaji Police Station. Local residents praised the police for their swift action, highlighting the importance of law enforcement in curbing illegal gutka trade in the region.

Gambat AC Orders Hardline Crackdown on Encroachments

By Munawar Ali Shah

GAMBAT: Under the special directives of Assistant Commissioner Gambat, Arbab Shah, anti-encroachment teams carried out operations across major city roads, targeting illegal structures and unauthorized encroachments. Temporary and permanent constructions on roads, footpaths, and government land were removed, widening streets and improving public access. Citizens were advised to



avoid building on government land and to cooperate with authorities. AC Arbab Shah emphasized that such measures aim to ensure public convenience and smooth

traffic flow, adding that anti-encroachment operations will continue until the city's streets and public spaces remain free from unlawful occupation.

Larkana School Bids Emotional Farewell to Headmaster Manoj Kumar



By Shahid Majood

JHUDO: A farewell ceremony was organized for Headmaster Manoj Kumar of Government Boys Elementary School Muhammad Khan Talpur. The event was attended by PPP Jhudo President Mir Irfan

Talpur, former Nazim and Chairman Haji Aslam Qaimkhani, SMC Committee Chairman Mir Nisar Talpur, PTI President Syed Ayaz Shah Rizvi, Tehsil Education Officer Abdul Aziz Shidi, Headmaster Pradeep Kumar, and other digni-

ties. Guests lauded Manoj Kumar's services since his appointment in 2017, highlighting his contributions to improving education and school infrastructure. He was honored with traditional Atrak in recognition of his eight years of dedicated service.

Thatta Youth Left Stranded as Salary Crisis Deepens

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Local youth in Thatta have reportedly been exploited by the NGO Vision for Education Foundation. Workers, promised year-long employment by a man named Abrar, were terminated after

three months without receiving their salaries. The project, aimed at screening schoolchildren for vision problems and providing glasses and medicines, was entirely staffed by young men and women from Thatta. Civil society and residents have condemned the incident, urging the Deputy Commissioner and Social Welfare Department to investigate and audit the organization, ensuring accountability and safeguarding the rights and dignity of the district's youth.

Tando Allahyar Police Nab Notorious Murder Suspect in Targeted Operation

Dhabaji Pumping Station Restored After 36-Hour Power Outage

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Power was restored to the K-III pump house at Dhabaji Pumping Station after a 36-hour outage, officials confirmed on Saturday. The disruption,

caused by an underground cable fault on November 13, had forced two major pumps to shut down, leading to a shortfall of nearly 100 million gallons of water and affecting several areas. Teams from K-Electric and Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) repaired the fault, resuming all pumping operations. Water supply to the city has now returned to normal, and officials assured citizens of continued monitoring and service restoration efforts.

REGIONAL TIMES: NATIONAL

Power Moves in Islamabad: PPP's AJK PM Pick Gears Up for Big Push

ISLAMABAD: PPP Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur met the party's nominated Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, at Zardari House in Islamabad. Rathore expressed full confidence in the PPP leadership and thanked Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Faryal Talpur for his nomination. He reaffirmed the vision of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Be-



nazir Bhutto for advancing the Kashmir cause. Faryal directed him to craft a robust development plan for Azad Kashmir, prioritizing youth welfare and future growth.—RT

Tragedy Strikes: Three Brothers Killed in Devastating Road Crash

SHUJABAD: A horrific road accident in Punjab's Shujabad claimed four lives, including three brothers, when a passenger bus rammed into their motorcycles, Rescue 1122 reported. Among the dead was 20-year-old Yasir, set to marry the next day, returning from Mehndi shopping with cousins and friends. Earlier, Karachi imposed a complete ban on dumpers and water



tankers following a deadly mishap in Razzaqabad, where a rickshaw driver died and others were injured. Authorities cited missing trackers in the vehicle responsible for the Karachi accident.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES: GLOBAL WATCH

Viral CNIC Claim from Delhi Blast Suspect Proven Fake

INDIA: A viral Pakistani CNIC image claiming to show the wife of a Delhi blast suspect has been debunked. Multiple Indian accounts on social media platform X circulated the image, alleging it belonged to Muhammad Umar's wife, linked to the Nov 10 Red Fort car explosion. The blast killed 12 people and investigators tied it to a Jaish-i-Mohammed

(JeM) terror cell operating from Faridabad and Pulwama. On Thursday, an X user, with a history of pro-India posts, shared the CNIC of a Pakistani woman, labeling her as "Afeera Bibi," claiming she worked for JeM and was connected to Dr. Shaheen, a recruiter for the terror group in India. The post also provocatively suggested Pakistan was "count-

ing its last days." Fact-checkers at iVerify confirmed that the CNIC does not belong to Umar's wife or any JeM affiliate. Authorities and independent sources warned the image was being used to spread misinformation and inflame tensions between India and Pakistan, highlighting the dangers of viral disinformation in sensitive geopolitical incidents.—RT

Indian Sikh woman marries Pakistani man after embracing Islam

SHEIKHUPURA: An Indian Sikh woman visiting Pakistan to attend a 10-day festival marking the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, has embraced Islam and married a Pakistani citizen in Punjab's Sheikhupura district.

She told the local court that she married Hussain of her free will without any pressure. In her statement, she said she independently decided to convert to Islam and marry the Pakistani man and now she wants to live with her husband. Court records showed that Kaur adopted the Islamic name Noor after her conversion.

According to officials, the woman — identified as Sarbjit Kaur from Jalandhar — arrived in Pakistan on November 4 as part of the annual pilgrimage. Police said she developed a friendship on social media with a young man — named Naseer Hussain from Ferozabad, leading to her decision to convert and marry.

The woman appeared before a judicial magistrate in Sheikhupura and recorded her statement confirming her conversion and marriage.

Pakistan Scores Big in Argentina: Trade Delegation Bags USD 8M Orders

ARGENTINA: Pakistan's high-level trade delegation to Argentina, organized by TDAP and the Pakistan Mission in Buenos Aires, secured USD 8 million in confirmed export orders during its November 10-14 visit. Thirteen top Pakistani companies held over 250 B2B meetings with 150+ Argentine buyers, generating another USD 10 million in potential deals. A landmark MoU was signed between SCCI and the Argentine



Chamber for Asia-Pacific to workwear, and sportswear, boost long-term cooperation, strengthening Pakistan's commercial footprint in opportunities in textiles, leather, Latin America.—RT

Jhol Grieves as Community Leaders Pay Respects to Faqir Ghulam Rasool Mahar

By Mohtab Shar

JHOL: Following the death of former national leader Faqir Ghulam Rasool Mahar, a series of condolence visits were held in Jhol. Key figures offering condolences included former Hur Jamaat Chief Qadir Bux Mangrio, Dr. Faqir Muhammad Hashim Khaskheli, Sanghar DHO Daulat Jamali, 1122

Sindh Chief Lutfi Ali Mangrio, and MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan. Leaders from Pakistan Peoples Party, local officials, poets, writers, and the staff of Shah Abdul Latif University also paid their respects. They gathered to express their sympathies and offer support to Mahar's grieving family and relatives during this difficult time.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Government's Sharjeel-led Pink Bus Revolution Rolls Out Karachi's Women-Only Route

KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that Karachi's new Pink Bus Service route—exclusively for women—will launch on November 17, 2025. Running from Abdullah Chowk to Numash, the service will initially operate during three key time slots: 8–9 am, 1–2 pm, and 5–7 pm. Memon said the initiative prioritizes comfort, safety, trained staff, and full security features. Aimed at easing the daily challenges faced by women commuters, the service encourages women to travel confidently for education, work, and personal needs, with future expansion planned.—RT



Farooq Sattar Pins Karachi's Downfall on Sindh Government's Mismanagement

KARACHI: Senior MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar has said that not only the roads but also the hearts of the people and the future of the city's youth have been shattered in Karachi. Speaking to a private TV channel, he accused the Sindh government of manipulating constituency delimitations to install their preferred mayor, adding that the Pakistan Peoples Party, its provincial government, and the city's mayor are responsible for Karachi's deterioration. Sattar said the process of development in Karachi has been deliberately halted by the provincial government's feudal and influential elements, including the chief minister. He claimed that every initiative for the city's uplift has been frozen, leaving residents frustrated and hopeless.—RT/Agency



Nasir Shah Ignites Bold Cultural and Development Vision at Sindh Literary Festival

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah declared Sindh a land of peace, love, and Sufi heritage while inaugurating the 8th Sindh Literary Festival in Karachi. Celebrating Sindh culture with aqr, rilli, caps, and traditional dance, he highlighted the addition of the Sindh language to Google's translation tools. Shah reaffirmed Chairman



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision, promising complete reconstruction of Karachi's infrastructure and improved public transport. Addressing media queries, he stressed respect for women and referenced reports from PTI's tenure, emphasizing that documented facts cannot be ignored.—RT

Karachi Traffic Police Crack Down on Water Tankers and Dumpers

KARACHI: Plying dumpers and water tankers have been completely banned in Karachi, Traffic Police chief said in a statement on Saturday. DIG Pir Muhammad Shah said that the blanket ban has been imposed on dumpers and water tanker in the city after the Razaqabad traffic mishap. "The tracker was not found to be installed in the dumper responsible for the accident in Karachi locality," DIG Traffic said. "Trackers have been installed in several dumpers and water tankers, but they didn't give access to police," he said. "The exempted heavy vehicles would also be allowed only during the scheduled time," DIG said.—RT/Agency

Dust Storm Danger: Viral Infections Explode Across Karachi



KARACHI: A surge in viral infections is being reported across Karachi as changing weather and rising dust pollution trigger widespread illness. According to media reports, cases of flu, cough, cold, and high fever have spiked dramatically, with hundreds of patients arriving daily at hospitals city-wide. Major hospitals—including Civil, Jinnah, and Abbasi Shaheed—are receiving nearly 6,000 patients every day. Doctors warn that pollution, dirt, and dust are driving the outbreak. Experts advise wearing masks, avoiding dusty areas, washing hands frequently, and eating clean, home-cooked food.—RT/Agency

Sindh High Court Demands Complete Land Records of Malir Villagers

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed the Deputy Commissioner Malir and Survey Superintendent, Board of Revenue, to submit complete records, including survey reports, of lands, villages, and graveyards in Deh

Dando, Deh Kotero, and Deh Joreji by November 26, 2025. Villagers of Wali Dad Salar, Muhammad Khan Salar, Dodo Kabeer, and other areas have expressed hope that the order will clarify land boundaries and help resolve longstanding disputes over ancestral properties.

Razaqabad Tragedy as Speeding Dumper Crushes Rickshaw Driver

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: A tragic accident occurred near Razaqabad Training Center in Malir when a speeding dumper collided with an Hiac van and a rickshaw, killing rickshaw driver Rahim Bakhsh, 45, on the spot. Several others were injured and rushed to Jinnah Hospital for treatment. Rescue officials and police confirmed that the dumper lost control while turning due to excessive speed, first hitting the

Hiac and then the rickshaw, which was completely destroyed. The dumper driver fled, and the vehicle has been impounded for investigation. Heavy vehicle accidents are on the rise in Karachi, with trailers, water tankers, and dumpers causing dozens of fatalities this year. Traffic police warn that unmonitored heavy vehicles pose a major safety risk, emphasizing the ban on dumpers and tankers operating without trackers.

Two Lives Lost in Separate Heavy Traffic Mishaps Across Karachi

KARACHI: Two more lives were lost in alleged heavy traffic-related accidents in Karachi. In the first incident at Razaqabad, a dumper collided with a passenger van and a rickshaw, killing one person and injuring several others. The deceased was identified as Rahim Bakhsh, the rickshaw driver. The second accident occurred near Chattri Chowranghi in Korangi, where a trailer ran over a pedestrian. Police said the identity of the deceased has not yet been established, and the body was transferred to a hospital for further procedures.—RT/Agency

Fuel Dealers Warn of Crisis as Artificial Diesel Shortage Hits Pumps

KARACHI: Fuel traders warn that a manufactured shortage of high-speed diesel is affecting petrol pumps nationwide, calling on the government to act before conditions deteriorate. The News reported on Saturday. In a letter to the chairman of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), the Petrol Pump Dealers Association said oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been limiting diesel supplies for the past week. According to the dealers, some companies are delivering very small amounts, while others are not supplying fuel at all. Because of this, many pumps are running dry and are unable to serve customers. Dealers say they place orders that later get cancelled, and fuel trucks are left waiting for hours without being loaded.—RT/Agency

Karachi Set for More Days of Pleasant Fall Breeze

KARACHI: Karachi is set to experience pleasant fall weather with warm sunshine and comfortable temperatures, according to meteorological reports. The city is expected to see stable conditions across the metropolitan area throughout the weekend and early workweek. Meteorologists predict mild and stable weather for the start of the coming week, with only minor fluctuations in temperature. Residents can enjoy outdoor activities under hazy sunshine, making for a comfortable and enjoyable start to the fall season in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Gunfire Erupts in Karachi Leaving Two Dead and Several Injured

KARACHI: A series of violent incidents involving firearms rocked the city on Saturday, resulting in two fatalities and several injuries, including two suspected criminals wounded during a police shootout. In the Gulshan-e-Maymar area, a 40-year-old woman identified as Sulana, wife of Kher Ullah, was fatally shot in what authorities described as an act of personal enmity. Her body was transported to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for medico-legal proceedings as the probe continues. Separately, Irfan Jan, a 50-year-old man, lost his life after being struck by a stray bullet on the road between Neepa bridge and Aladin Park, according to information from the Aziz Bhatti police station. His remains were moved to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) while an inquiry was initiated.—RT/Agency

Young Man Gunned Down in Targeted Killing on Abu al-Hasan Isfahani Road

KARACHI: A young man was shot dead in a targeted attack on Abu al-Hasan Isfahani Road, according to media reports. The incident occurred when armed assailants opened fire on the victim while he was riding a motorcycle. The initial burst of gunfire caused the young man to fall to the ground. Witnesses reported that within a minute, two armed men on another motorcycle returned to the spot and fired multiple additional shots at the injured victim to ensure he was killed. During the escape, one of the assailants reportedly stopped an online food delivery rider, sat behind him, and fled the scene. Police officials said the attack appears to be a targeted killing, possibly motivated by personal enmity. They added that the circumstances of the incident are unusual and the case remains shrouded in mystery as investigations continue.—RT/Agency

24th LUX Style Awards Deliver a Sparkling Blend of Real and Reel Glamour

KARACHI: The 24th LUX Style Awards return to Karachi this December, promising a spectacular celebration of Pakistan's fashion, film, drama, and music industries. This year's theme, "Mirror the Magic," honors the show's two-decade legacy while embracing innovation. A new digital creators' category highlights the rising power of online storytelling. With fresh collaborations between real-life achievers and on-screen stars, the event vows unforgettable moments and a bold new vision for Pakistan's creative future.—RT



AC Gulberg Leads Hardline Anti-Encroachment Sweep in Sohrab Goth

KARACHI: An anti-encroachment operation led by the Assistant Commissioner (AC) Gulberg was carried out in Sohrab Goth, resulting in multiple arrests and the seizure of various items used for illegal activities. According to officials, the team apprehended several individuals allegedly involved in setting up unauthorized structures and commercial setups in the area. During the operation, authorities also seized a vehicle believed to be used in the encroachment activities. Additionally, ticket books and other related materials used for collecting illegal fees were confiscated on the spot.—RT/Agency

MQM Under Fire After PTI's Mobeen Breaks Ranks to Back 27th Amendment

KARACHI: The MQM has come under criticism after PTI lawmaker Muhammad Mobeen supported the 27th Constitutional Amendment in the National Assembly. Party leaders and political analysts have questioned MQM's stance, highlighting internal divisions and differing priorities within the coalition. Observers noted that Mobeen's backing of the amendment, which involves proposed changes to provincial autonomy and governance structures, contrasts with MQM's previous position advocating for provincial rights and urban representation. Critics argue that such moves may undermine the party's credibility and create tensions among its traditional support base. The controversy has sparked debates within political circles, with party members emphasizing the need for a coherent strategy on constitutional reforms. Analysts suggest that MQM must clarify its position to maintain public trust and navigate the evolving legislative landscape effectively.—RT/Agency

Karachi Administration Reopens 255 Cafes and Hotels After SOP Compliance Drive

KARACHI: The Karachi administration has de-sealed 255 roadside cafes and hotels that were previously closed during operations against encroachments on footpaths and roads, after the businesses fulfilled comprehensive legal requirements. The committee, headed by Additional Commissioner Ghulam Mehdi Shah, approved new standard operating procedures (SOPs), which hotel owners and associations have formally agreed to in writing and via affidavits. According to the SOPs, no business will be allowed to occupy space on roads wider than 100 feet. Any obstruction on paths or roads will require verification by the Traffic Police and local authorities, followed by a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the relevant Deputy Commissioner.—RT/Agency

Transparency International Sounds Alarm Over Port Qasim's Rs60bn Dredging Scandal

KARACHI: A major controversy has surfaced involving Port Qasim Authority (PQA) after reports revealed an alleged attempt to award a Rs60 billion dredging contract through a direct, non-competitive process. According to Geo News, the move included presenting a "false justification" by citing urgent instructions supposedly issued by the prime minister. Transparency International Pakistan has formally requested the prime minister's intervention, highlighting serious concerns over violations of procurement laws. In a letter addressed to the PM's adviser, the watchdog stated that it received a complaint accusing PQA and the newly established National Dredging and Marine Services (NDMS) of preparing to award the country's largest maritime dredging contract to a private firm without competitive bidding.—RT/Agency

Japan Fest Lights Up Karachi with Vibrant Cultural Show at Japanese Consulate

KARACHI: Visitors at the Japanese Consulate in Karachi enjoyed a lively cultural experience during the recently held Japan Fest. The event featured a variety of performances showcasing Japan's rich traditions, arts, and modern cultural expressions. Attendees were treated to music, dance, and interactive displays that highlighted Japanese heritage and contemporary creativity. The festival aimed to promote cultural exchange and strengthen ties between Japan and Pakistan. Organizers said the event attracted a diverse audience, including students, families, and art enthusiasts, of whom many appreciated the opportunity to experience Japanese culture first-hand.—RT



KATI Sounds the Alarm: Billions Needed to Save Korangi's Failing

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: A KATI delegation met Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hider Shah to demand urgent fixes for Korangi Industrial Area's collapsing infrastructure. They sought Rs. 10 billion in direct development funds and warned of choking roads, a 60-year-old failing pumping station, and severe water and sewerage crises. The Chief Secretary termed their proposal "logical," promised transparency mechanisms, and pledged funds—including Rs. 100 million for emergency pumps. He also pressed KMC and TMCs to expedite drain repairs and road upgrades while urging reforms in Sindh Food Authority operations.



REGIONAL TIMES MONEY

Federal Government Slashes Debt by Rs1,283 Billion in First Quarter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has reduced its total debt by Rs1,283 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, according to media reports. By September 2025, the government's total debt stood at Rs76,605 billion, down from Rs77,458 billion in August 2025. The decline was driven by a reduction in both domestic and external borrowing. Domestic debt decreased by Rs649 billion in a single month, falling from Rs53,424 billion in August to Rs53,424 billion in September. Similarly, external debt dropped by Rs203 billion during the same period, from Rs23,385 billion in August to Rs23,181 billion in September. Officials stated that the decline reflects continued efforts to manage the fiscal deficit and improve debt sustainability. Analysts said the reduction, if sustained, could ease pressure on public finances and support macroeconomic stability. The government continues to monitor debt trends closely while exploring avenues to maintain fiscal discipline in the coming months.—Agency



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

—Albert Einstein

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16 2025

Congo, M23 sign framework for peace in Qatar, more steps needed

DOHA: The Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 rebel group signed on Saturday a framework agreement for a peace deal aimed at ending fighting in eastern Congo that has killed thousands of people and displaced hundreds of thousands more this year.

The agreement was signed by representatives from both sides at a ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha.

It was the latest of several documents that have been signed in recent months as part of efforts, backed by the United States and Qatar, to end the decades-long conflict in



November 15, 2025
Doha / State of Qatar

Congo that has often threatened to escalate into a full-blown regional war.

The framework was described by US and Qatari officials as an important step to peace but one of many that lie ahead.

The top US envoy to the region, Massad Boulos told Reuters the framework covered eight protocols, and that work still needed to be done to agree on how to implement six of them.

Boulos also acknowledged that implementing the first two protocols concern-

ing the exchange of prisoners and the monitoring of a ceasefire, agreed in recent months, had been slow.

"Yes, they were a little bit slow in the first few weeks," he told reporters after the signing. "Yes, people were expecting to see probably some immediate results on the ground, but this is a process... This is not a light switch that you just switch on and off."

M23, in the latest of a string of actions supported by neighbouring Rwanda, seized Goma, eastern Congo's largest city, in January and went on to make gains across North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

Rwanda has long denied allegations that it has helped M23, which has seized more territory in Congo than it has ever previously held.

In Congo, the violence has continued through the various diplomatic processes in Washington and Doha. On Friday, local officials reported that as many as 28 people killed by Islamic State-allied militants in eastern North Kivu province.

Qatar has hosted multiple rounds of direct talks between the Congo government and the rebels going back to April, but they have dealt largely with preconditions and confidence-building measures. —RT/Agency

Moonis Elahi gains major reprieve as Interpol closes two-year probe

LONDON/LYON: The General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) has dropped its probes into PTI leader Moonis Elahi after investigating him for nearly two years on the complaints filed by Pakistani authorities — including a Gujarat murder case registered against him in June 2023 when he was in London.

The Interpol has formally certified that Elahi, 49, is not currently the subject of any Interpol notice or diffusion based on Pakistan's request seeking criminal charges and extradition of the PTI leader.

A credible source at the organisation told media that Barcelona-based PTI leader "Elahi is not listed in its system under any form of international alert" after an investigation that lasted nearly two years.



Credible sources at the Interpol have confirmed that it dropped a long-running investigation into Elahi after establishing that not enough evidence exists against him of the alleged wrongdoings, as complained by the Pakistani authorities. Correspondence sent by the Pakistani authorities to Interpol alleged that Elahi is sought in Pakistan by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) and Punjab Police for murder, money laundering, bribery, fraud and misuse of authority. The Pakistani authorities had repeatedly asked Interpol for a Red Notice and extradition in money-laundering and other cases since early 2023, requesting that Interpol hand over the PTI leader and former federal minister to Pakistani authorities. In February and July 2024, the FIA told courts that a Red Notice request for Elahi was with Interpol and still "under process". —RT/Agency

Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza resigns from Lahore High Court bench

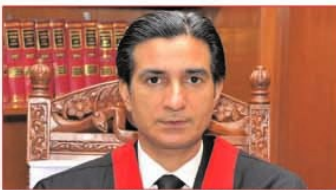
LAHORE: Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza has resigned as Lahore High Court (LHC) judge due to "personal reasons", sources said on Saturday.

As per the insiders, Justice Mirza submitted his resignation to President Asif Ali Zardari.

The judge was ranked fifth in seniority at the LHC and also served as a member of its administration committee.

Appointed as an additional judge in 2014, Justice Mirza's supernumerary was scheduled for March 6, 2028.

His resignation comes just two days after the National Assembly passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, making changes to the judicial structure and military command.



The amended bill finetunes the structure of the newly established Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), clarifies the titles and ranking of the country's top judges, and drops several clauses from the Senate-approved draft that had sought to alter oath-related provisions for various constitutional offices.

The latest move follows the resignations of Supreme Court judges Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah, who had issued letters strongly criticising the 27th Amendment.

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". RT/Agency

Justice KK Agha sworn in to Federal Constitutional Court amid shifting judicial landscape



ISLAMABAD: Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha was sworn in on Saturday as a judge of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC).

Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court, Justice Amin Uddin Khan, administered the oath in a ceremony held in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) conference room.

The event was attended by FCC judges who took their oaths a day earlier, including Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi.

Several judges from the Islamabad High Court were also present, including IHC

DG ISPR holds high-level engagement with students and teachers on national security

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held a special interactive session with students and faculty at The Millennium Universal College and Future World School, focusing on national security, internal stability and the responsibilities of youth in safeguarding Pakistan's future.

Addressing the session, the DG ISPR spoke about the internal security environment and highlighted the critical role of a strong national defence. He encouraged students to stay informed, think critically and contribute positively to Pakistan's progress.

Students and teachers paid rich tribute to the Pakistan Army for its services. Teachers noted that the



armed forces not only protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity but also ensure the safety and well-being of the public. DG ISPR holds special session with students on national security. They said the session broadened students' perspectives, encouraging them to think beyond traditional views. Faculty members added that the engagement famil-

US weighs dramatic nuclear test revival, pushes high-stakes F-35 deal with Saudi Arabia

US: The United States will resume nuclear testing in line with other nations, President Donald Trump said, while also confirming he is weighing a potential agreement to supply Saudi Arabia with F-35 fighter jets. He did not clarify whether the testing plans involve detonating a nuclear warhead. "I don't want to tell you about that, but we will do nuclear testing like other countries," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he travelled to Florida for the weekend. Trump last month ordered the US military to immediately restart the process for testing nuclear weapons after 33 years, making the surprise announcement on Truth Social while aboard his Marine One helicopter flying to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for a trade-negotiating session in Busan, South Korea.



F-35s deal with Saudi Arabia in the offing. Trump also said that he is considering agreeing to a deal to supply Saudi Arabia with F-35 stealth fighter jets, which are made by Lockheed Martin. "They wanna buy a lot of jets," Trump told reporters. "I'm looking at that. They've asked me to look at it. They want to buy a lot of '35s' - but they want to buy actually more than that, fighter jets." The potential sale comes as Trump plans to host Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House next week, when they are expected to sign economic and defence agreements. Asked about the talks, Trump told reporters it was "more than a meeting, we're honouring" Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, President Trump is expected to reach a deal with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, allowing Riyadh to acquire F-35 stealth fighter jets, Bloomberg News reported citing a White House official. —RT/Agency

KP Chief Minister Afridi unveils 40.8 MW Koto Hydropower Project



LOWER DIR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Saturday inaugurated the 40.8-megawatt Koto Hydropower Project during his visit to Lower Dir.

The project, completed at a cost of Rs21.7 billion, is expected to generate 207 million units of electricity annually, producing an estimated revenue of Rs2.4 billion. During the inaugural ceremony, officials provided a briefing highlighting the project's role in strengthening the province's energy capacity and economic growth.

In addition to the hydropower project, Chief Minister Afridi also inaugurated the 18.5-kilometre Tormang-Razgram Road, completed at a cost of Rs1.5 billion.

Speaking on the occasion,

Pakistan's Asia-leading bond surge expected to continue as global investors reopen access

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's dollar bonds are expected to extend their Asia-leading rally as recent credit-rating upgrades and plans to re-enter global debt markets lift investor sentiment, according to Bloomberg.

The government intends to issue yuan-denominated bonds later this year and to return to the Eurobond market in 2026 for the first time in nearly five years, a key milestone for a country that came close to default two years ago. The move could spur further gains in debt, according to Goldman Sachs Asset Management and UBS Asset Management. These planned issues highlight Pakistan's effort to diversify its funding sources and curb reliance on the International Monetary Fund. So far this year, its dollar bonds have delivered a 24.5% return, the highest in Asia. Danske Bank Asset Management, which bought Pakistan's dollar bonds at the



peak of its financial crisis two years ago, has increased its holdings several times this year, said Soren Morch, head of emerging markets debt. "We are optimistic that Pakistan will stay on the reform course, rebuilding buffers like higher dollar reserves and also getting market access and taking advantage of that," he told Bloomberg. S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings have both upgraded Pakistan's sovereign rating this year, pointing to better fiscal management and reform momentum. Under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's International Monetary Fund (IMF) backed programmes, the government has obtained billions in IMF funding by raising taxes and keeping fiscal policy discipline. "The outperformance will sustain as long as they're sticking to the IMF policies, which we believe they have a strong commitment to do so," said Shamaila Khan, head of fixed income emerging markets and Asia Pacific at UBS Asset Management. A potential reopening of market access for Pakistan is another support, she added, because "then you really are not concerned about refinancing over the next two to three years." —RT/Agency

Massive blast rocks industrial zone south of Argentina capital

ARGENTINA: Powerful explosions rocked an industrial area and ignited a fire south of Buenos Aires on Saturday, officials said, with at least 22 people sent to the hospital.

The incident occurred inside the Spagazzini Industrial Park in Ezeiza, where multiple factories were affected. "The explosions and fire breaking out in the different factories are huge," said Gaston Granados, mayor of Ezeiza where the events unfolded. He said the cause of the explosions was unknown. TV footage showed thick smoke pouring from the industrial area, while dramatic videos on social media captured towering flames and a powerful shockwave sweeping through the area.

The blast, felt across Ezeiza and Canelas, shattered windows in nearby homes, and some residents told local media they saw an object fall from the sky moments before impact. Hospital director Carlos Santoro said his facility had received 22 injured people. According to local media, five factories were hit by the explosions and

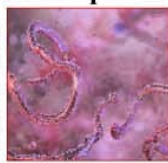


fire. The industrial area features companies making tyres and chemical products, among other goods. Granados said the flames affected several plants in the industrial park. "One of them is a chemical plant, where the warehouses caught fire, and where there are facilities related to agriculture and fertilisers. There is also a plastics plant called Plásticos Lago," he told local media.

Granados described the scene as chaotic. "It's all very confusing. We're trying to ensure safety in the area and evacuate anyone who might be nearby. Fire crews are working to combat the intense fire that's burning in all areas," he said. The mayor confirmed that 15 fire crews responded to the emergency.

Africa CDC confirms deadly Marburg virus outbreak in Ethiopia

AFRICA: Ethiopia has confirmed an outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus in the south of the country, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Saturday. The Marburg virus is one of the deadliest known pathogens. Like Ebola, it causes severe bleeding, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea and has a 21-day incubation period. Also like Ebola, it is transmitted via contact with bodily fluids and has a fatality rate of between 25 and 80 percent. The head of the World Health Organization, Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, confirmed on Friday that at least nine cases had been detected in southern Ethiopia, two days after Africa CDC was alerted to a suspected haemorrhagic virus in



the region. "Marburg virus disease (MVD) has been confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory (in Ethiopia)," Africa CDC said. "Further epidemiological investigations and laboratory analyses are underway and the virus strain detected shows similarities to those previously identified in East Africa." It said Ethiopian health authorities had acted swiftly to confirm and contain the outbreak in the Jinka area. —RT/Agency

Nawaz leaves for London for medical tests amid political scrutiny

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif departed for London on Saturday.

Nawaz Sharif travelled to London via Qatar Airways and is expected to stay in the United Kingdom for around 15 days. During his visit, he will undergo routine medical examinations. His departure comes just days after he attended the National Assembly session and cast his vote in favour of the 27th Constitutional Amendment on Wednesday. Pakistan's National Assembly passed the landmark 27th Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority as the opposition staged a walkout. The session featured



high political drama and was attended by key national figures, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. Two senior judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC), Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah, have resigned from their posts. Justice Mansoor