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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Trump Greenlights Historic F-35 Deal With Saudi Arabia in High-Stakes White House Summit

US: In a significant policy shift, President Donald Trump signed a billion-dollar deal with Saudi Arabia during a high-profile meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House on Tuesday, November 17.

U.S. President announced the approval of F-35 fighter jet sales to Saudi Arabia possibly altering the military balance in the Middle East.

The deal also marks a significant deepening of the US-Saudi defense ties.

When reporters asked President Trump about the F-35 sales, he confirmed, "We will be doing it."

In addition to it, the both leaders signed a framework for civil nuclear cooperation and discussed possible Saudi investments in



US artificial intelligence infrastructure.

With all ceremonial honors, the visit of the Saudi leader is focused on broadening ties beyond conventional oil and security cooperation into technology and commerce.

The visit marks the Crown's Prince's first visit to White House in over seven years and also brings a renewed focus on the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, for which US intelligence concluded the Saudi leader was responsible.

This diplomatic engagement signals a mutual intent to move forward, focusing strategic and economic interests amid ongoing regional tensions with Iran.

The F-35 Jet is a fifth-generation multirole stealth fighter, which is specially designed to be nearly invisible to enemy radar. —RT/Agency

23 India-Backed Militants Eliminated in Fierce KP Intelligence Ops

KPK: Security forces have killed at least 15 terrorists, including a ring leader affiliated with Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij, in two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

The military's media wing in a statement said that the operations took place between November 8 and 9 against the India-backed terrorists.

"On reported presence of khawarij, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan district," the ISPR said and added that during the conduct of the operation, 10 terrorists, including the ring leader, Alam Mehsud, were killed.

It added that five more terrorists were successfully neutralised in another intelligence-based operation conducted in the



general area of Datta Khel, North Waziristan district.

"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored khawarij found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision 'Azme Istehkam' (as approved by federal apex com-

mittee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the military's media wing added.

Separately, a suicide bomber was killed after detonating himself near a police station in Bannu, with no additional casualties reported, police said on Tuesday.

A motorcycle and the body of the attacker were found at the scene.

A heavy contingent of law enforcement

reached the site immediately and cordoned off the area as an investigation has been launched into the explosion.

The explosion follows a suicide blast at Islamabad's Judicial Complex on November 11 that left 12 people martyred and at least 36 wounded, including lawyers and petitioners.

The federal government had arrested four members of a Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan/Fitna al-Khawarij (TTP/FAK) cell linked to the suicide attack at the Islamabad District Judicial Complex. —RT/Agency

Bilawal Declares PPP Won't Allow AJK Govt to Be Run From Shadows

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said the Pakistan Peoples Party would not run the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government "from behind closed doors".

Speaking to the media at the oath-taking ceremony of the AJK prime minister, he congratulated the people of Kashmir and said political activity had now been restored in the region.

Bilawal said the PPP's relationship with Kashmir spanned three generations.

He recalled that following the assassination of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, protests were held not only in Muzaffargarh but also in Srinagar.

He added that former prime minister Benazir Bhutto had once said that wherever the sweat of Kashmiris fell, the blood of the PPP would also be shed.



He alleged that the PPP's mandate in Kashmir had previously been stolen to bring the PTI founder into power.

The PPP chairman said he personally visited Kashmir during the elections and praised the political awareness of the people of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Bilawal said the promises made by newly sworn-in AJK Prime Minister Faisal Rathore to the public were now a trust placed with him.

He urged Rathore to resolve public issues using the authority vested in him and to fulfil all commitments made to the people.

Commenting on regional tensions, Bilawal said the world had witnessed Pakistan's strength after the recent conflict with India.

"India is hiding its face from the world. From the United States to other countries, everyone will remind them that seven of their aircraft were downed," he remarked.

He further said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was avoiding the global stage to avoid embarrassment. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Outclasses Zimbabwe by Five Wickets in T20 Tri-Series Opener



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan secured a hard-earned five-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the T20I tri-series opener at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Thanks to disciplined bowling and a resilient Fakhar-Usman partnership, Pakistan's bowlers inflicted another major blow on the home side's run chase as he trapped their captain, Salman Ali Agha (one) lbw in the next over, bringing the total further down to 30/3.

Following the slump, Saim was then joined by experienced Fakhar in the middle, and the duo cautiously added 24 runs for the fourth wicket until Graeme Cremer denied their recovery by dismissing the opener, who made a 26-ball 22, featuring one six and a four. Fakhar then joined forces with Usman Khan to pull Pakistan back into the hunt, with the pair putting together crucial 61 runs during their partnership until the former was sent back by Richard Ngarava in the 16th over. —RT/Agency

UN Security Council Backs US Blueprint in Pivotal Vote on Trump's Gaza Plan

UN: The UN Security Council voted to adopt a US-drafted resolution endorsing President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza and authorising an international stabilisation force for the Palestinian enclave.

Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas agreed last month to the first phase of Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza — a ceasefire in their two-year war and a hostage-release deal — but the UN resolution is seen as vital to legitimising a transitional governance body and reassuring countries that are considering sending troops to Gaza.

The text of the resolution says member states can take part in the Trump-chaired Board of Peace envisioned as a transitional authority that would oversee reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza. It also authorises the international



stabilisation force, which would ensure a process of demilitarising Gaza, including by decommissioning weapons and destroying military infrastructure.

Hamas, in a statement, reiterated that it will not disarm and argued that its fight against Israel is legitimate resistance, potentially pitting the fighter group against the international force authorised by the resolution.

"The resolution imposes an international guardianship mechanism on the Gaza Strip, which our people and their factions reject," Hamas said in its statement, issued after the adoption of the resolution.

Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the UN, said the resolution, which includes Trump's 20-point plan as an annex, "charts a possible pathway for Palestinian self-determination... where rocks will give way to olive branches and there is a chance to agree on a political horizon."

"It dismantles Hamas' grip, it ensures Gaza rises free from terror's shadow, prosperous and secure," Waltz told the council ahead of the vote. —RT/Agency

Zelenskyy and US Envoy Head to Turkey in Fresh Push to Break Russia-Ukraine Deadlock

KYIV, Ukraine: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that he will travel to Turkey this week in an attempt to jump-start negotiations on ending Russia's invasion, which began nearly four years ago.

U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff will join Zelenskyy in Turkey, a senior Turkish official told The Associated Press, but the Kremlin said that Russia won't be sending anyone.

Turkey provided a setting for low-level talks between Ukraine and Russia earlier this year, though the only significant progress in Istanbul was on exchanging prisoners of war. U.S.-led international peace efforts have brought no breakthrough, either.

Zelenskyy said that he would be in Turkey on Wednesday, a day after visiting Spain where he hoped for pledges of new support on Tuesday.

"We are preparing to reinvigorate negotiations,



and we have developed solutions that we will propose to our partners," Zelenskyy said on social media, without providing details. "Doing everything possible to bring the end of the war closer is Ukraine's top priority."

U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin's refusal to budge from his demands for putting an end to the invasion.

Heavy new American sanctions on Russia's all-important oil industry, devised to push Putin to the negotiating table, are due to take effect on Friday.

PM Shehbaz Congratulates New AJK PM and Promises Full Federal Backing



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday telephoned the newly elected Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and congratulated him on his election victory.

During the conversation, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the uplift of the AJK people was among the federal government's priorities.

"We are determined to work with the AJK

Dar Urges SCO to Unleash Financial Firepower and Fast-Track Economic Integration

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday called on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to accelerate regional economic integration by operationalising key financial tools to support connectivity and development projects.

He made these remarks while addressing the 24th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) held in Moscow.

The CHG is the second-highest decision-making body within the SCO and oversees cooperation in areas such as economy, finance, trade, connectivity, commerce and socio-economic development, including the organisation's budget. It also adopts joint communiqués, statements and key decisions.

During his address, Dar said that the joint communiqué and documents adopted at the summit would go a long way in guiding collective efforts toward regional prosperity.

He emphasised that the SCO's agenda, spanning trade, economy, culture, and humanitarian cooperation, forms the foundation of a "mature, future-oriented" organisation.



Highlighting the outcomes of the recent Tianjin summit, the foreign minister noted that the SCO is shifting towards deeper economic integration.

He pointed to expanded trade collaboration, improved infrastructure connectivity, investment partnerships, and the promotion of digital economies as key pillars for sustainable growth across the SCO region.

He also underscored the SCO's potential to enhance humanitarian cooperation and disaster response.

He shared that Pakistan has developed a "technology-driven, proactive" disaster management system and expressed Pakistan's willingness to conduct simulation exercises with member states to knowledge. —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Massive Turnout Marks Shaheed Benazir Hari Card Seminar in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A seminar on the Benazir Hari Card was held at the District Council Badin under the chairmanship of Jam Ali Asghar Halipot, Chairman District Council and President PPP District Badin. The event saw participation from farmers, agricultural experts, and political leaders, including Provincial Minister Muhammad Ismail Rahu, Dr. Sajjad Ali Chaudhry, MPA Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, MPA Mir Allah Bux Talpur, MPA Tanzila Umm-e-Habiba Qambrani, Haji Mir Mallah, and Vice Chairman Fida Hussain Mendhro. Jam Ali Asghar Halipot said



the seminar was organized on the directives of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to gather feedback and address complaints regarding the Benazir Hari Card. He announced a complaint box for farmers and directed Additional Director Agriculture Intiaz Ali Bhutto to ensure coordination with Union Council representatives. Speakers, including Wafa Latif Jokhio, Mir Kashif Talpur, Haji Allah Dino Chaudhry, Gul Muhammad Sarwaj, Ameer Haider Khawaja, Allah Dino Lohani, Zameer Khan Bhurgari, and Mumtaz Ali Pathan, raised concerns over the agriculture and revenue survey. Halipot assured all issues would be resolved.

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Hyderabad Cracks Down with Tough Night-Time Enforcement Drive

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A massive late-night crackdown was carried out across Hyderabad as Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon and Assistant Commissioner Latifabad Saud Ahmed inspected marriage halls, banquets, and chai dhabas operating beyond permitted hours. Acting on the DC's directives, AC Taluka City Baba Saleh Rahupoto and AC Taluka Qasimabad Hataf Siyal launched similar operations in their respective areas, targeting



restaurants and venues open past midnight. The Deputy Commissioner has issued strict SOPs, warning that any violation will result in firm administrative action. Monitoring of establishments operating after 12:00 a.m. will continue daily, reflecting the administration's strong commitment to public safety and law and order in Hyderabad.

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Hyderabad Police Sweep Nets Seven Suspects as Gutka and Narcotics Hauls Grow

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police conducted multiple operations across the city, resulting in the arrest of 7 suspects and the seizure of narcotics, liquor, and Gutka/Mainpuri. At Tando Yousuf, police arrested Liaqat Ghani Pathan for electricity theft and threatening HESCO staff. FIR No. 101/2025 registered under sections 506(2), 337-H(ii), 353, 504, 34 PPC. Suspect Gustabhi alias Badi was caught with 200 packets of Mainpuri (Crime No. 99/2025),



and Sunny alias Tircha with 5 bottles of liquor (Crime No. 100/2025). Husni Police arrested narcotics suppliers Haji Panhwar and Iqbal Panhwar, recovering 10 liters of liquor each (Crime No. 403/2025). B-Section and

Hali Road Police arrested Mainpuri suppliers Dano alias Sajo Palar (300 packets) and Akhtar alias Akbar Sallo Jamali (500 packets). Operations continue, and records of the suspects are under verification.

Mirpurkhas Schools Ramp Up Battle Against Student Drug Abuse

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: A regional meeting of the Directorate of School Education for Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary levels was held under Director Muhammad Iqbal Kunbhat to address the rising trend of drug use among students. The meeting, attended by representatives from Narcotics Control, Health, Police, and district education officers, emphasized coordinated action at school, taluka, and district levels. Key decisions included forming screening committees, organizing awareness seminars and



parent-teacher meetings, strict monitoring of students, initiating rehabilitation for affected students, and reporting drug-related activities to law enforcement. Authorities also highlighted using WhatsApp

groups to engage parents and implementing all instructions from higher authorities. The meeting concluded with thanks to all participants for their cooperation and feedback.

Students and Parents Rise Up Against Teacher in Pithoro Village

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Pithoro village, Tehsil Pithoro, students and parents protested against a teacher, Sajjad Mughal, citing harassment and illegal fee demands. According to the protesters, the teacher, who comes from Mirpurkhas, allegedly forces each student to pay Rs 1,000 monthly and charges Rs 5,000 for new admissions. Students who fail to pay are reportedly barred from attending school. Many children have been deprived of education and are forced into labor. Protesters demanded the teacher to protect students' right to education.



tending school. Many children have been deprived of education and are forced into labor. Protesters demanded the teacher to protect students' right to education.

Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah investigate the matter and take strict action against the teacher to protect students' right to education.

Thul Burglary Attempt Turns Violent as Three Shot in Crossfire

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In a shocking incident near Thul, unknown burglars attempted to loot the house of Sahibzad Soomro in Village Jumo Dakhan, falling under the jurisdiction of C-Section police station. The residents resisted, prompting the intruders to

open fire. During the attack, Sahibzad Soomro, Abdul Razzaq Soomro, and minor Ehsan Soomro were injured and rushed to Larkana in critical condition. The culprits managed to escape. Police arrived at the scene and collected evidence, but no formal FIR has been registered yet.

UPS Vanishes from Central Eidgah Mosque in Bold Kandiaro Theft

By Usama Ayaz Abbasi

KANDIARO: A UPS worth Rs 20,000 was stolen from the Central Eidgah Mosque in Kandiaro. An FIR has been lodged at the local police station. The mosque's Imam, Saen Hafiz Muhammad Bachal Memon, and Maulana Faiz Muhammad Pirzad

said that previously a battery worth Rs 20,000 was also stolen and never recovered. Local residents blame habitual thieves in the area for nightly raids on homes and mosques. Citizens have appealed to SP Nausheero Feroze to recover the stolen UPS, warning of protests if it is not returned.

Sindh High Court Zeroes In on Delayed Promotions at Sindh University

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The Sindh High Court heard a contempt petition concerning the delayed promotion of 26 Sindh University employees from ex-cadre to IT cadre and the restoration of one-and-a-half years of service. The bench of Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon

and Justice Riazat Ali Sahar reprimanded officials for not implementing the 2022 court orders. Petitioners, including Nazir Ahmed Abbasi and Farrukh Hussain, demanded immediate compliance. University representatives cited syndicate approval and budget issues. Judgment has been reserved.

Badin Launches Aggressive Measles, Rubella and Polio Immunization Push



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A vaccination campaign against measles, rubella, and polio was launched at OPF School Badin by Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti, MPA Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, District Health Officer Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Abbasi, and Principal Amna Zahoor Abbasi. Speaking at the event, DC Yasir Bhatti said the government prioritizes chil-

dren's health and urged parents to ensure timely vaccination. MPA Haji Muhammad Mallah emphasized that these diseases are preventable and protecting children is the parents' responsibility. DHO Dr. Zahoor Abbasi said special teams will visit every household to vaccinate children, ensuring no child is left out. Parents, teachers, and health staff attended the ceremony.

Sujawal Police Ratchet Up Anti-Narcotics Campaign, Four Caught with Drugs and Liquor

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: District police in Sujawal have stepped up operations against drug traffickers, arresting four suspects and seizing over one kilogram of cannabis and 30 liters of illicit liquor. SHO Ladhyn Ghulam Mustafa Solangi caught Abdul Ghani Choudhry with 1,100 grams of cannabis. SHO

Chuhar Jamali Mumtaz Ali seized 10 liters of illicit liquor each from Roshan Ali Dars and Aqeel Ahmed during separate raids. SHO Jati Munir Huko arrested Mushtaq Ahmed Noor with 10 liters of liquor. Police stated that anti-narcotics operations will continue with increased intensity to curb illegal trafficking in the district.

Larkana Police Nab Three Dealers in Expanding Drug Crackdown

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Under the leadership of SSP Ahmed Chaudhry QPM, PSP, Larkana police achieved a major success in joint operations conducted by CIA Police and Allahabad Police in the Isai Maqam and Airways areas. Three drug dealers Tariq Jatoi,

Zohaib Abro, and Dilbar alias Intiaz Chaudhry were arrested, with approximately eight kilograms of hashish recovered. Investigations are ongoing to trace their associates, buyers, and local sellers. Cases have been registered against the arrested individuals, and further legal action is underway.

Commissioner Inspects Ancient 'Chanhoon jo Daro' to Spotlight Heritage Preservation

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Shahmir Khan Bhutto, visited the ancient site "Chanhoon jo Daro" near Nawabshah to review ongoing excavations and examine artifacts preserved in the site's museum. French archaeologist David Sarmiento briefed the Commissioner on the site's ancient civilization, excavation stages, and discovered antiquities. Commissioner Bhutto thanked the French ex-



perts and emphasized that the site is a vital center of Sindh's ancient civilization. He instructed relevant departments to prepare comprehensive plans for site protection, visitor management, and mu-

seum improvement, highlighting the importance of preserving historical heritage for future generations. He also showed keen interest in terracotta figurines, pottery, seals, and other artifacts.

Sindh University Leads Urban Heritage Walk Through Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, organized an Urban Heritage Walk for third-year Urban Anthropology students and select students from other years. The walk was led by course convener Madam Zahida, accompanied by faculty members Dr. Abdul Razaque Channa (Chairman), Dr. Rafique Wassan, and Dr. Muhabat Shah. The group visited two prominent heritage sites: Pakka Qila and Mukhi House. At Pakka Qila, anthropologist Nagesh Sehlo briefed participants on



the fort's 18th-century heritage in reflecting history, its role in power, community, and urban transformation, and conservation efforts. At Mukhi House, Madam Zahida explained the Mukhi family's social and political significance, including hosting notable figures like Jawaharlal Nehru. Faculty highlighted the importance of the experience.

HESCO Names 14th Feeder as Load-Shedding Free in Consumer Relief Initiative

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has announced the 11KV Bismillah (Extension) Feeder as load-shedding free, marking the 14th feeder in HESCO's history to achieve this status. The declaration was made by CEO Faizullah Dahri during a ceremony at Bismillah City Park. Dahri congratulated local consumers for their compliance and stressed a mutual commitment to prevent power theft, maintain losses below 20%, and ensure 100% recovery of dues. Technical details were provided by SE Operation Circle



Sohail Ahmed Shaikh, re-hwar and SDO Allama Iqbal Manzoor Elahi, for their teamwork. Community representatives Hanif Shah, Tauheed, and Naved Shaikh expressed gratitude, calling it a "long-cherished dream" realized through HESCO's service-friendly policy.

Police Job Hopefuls Erupt in Protest Over Delayed Offer Orders in Mirpurkhas

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Police waiting candidates staged a protest outside the local Press Club over the non-issuance of offer orders, with a large number of youth and women participating. Demonstrators, holding placards, demanded the implementation of the letter issued by CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on October 27. Speakers Umair Bhurgari, Zohaib Khaskheli, Abdul Munaf, and Ayaz Khaskheli



said that despite meeting all requirements and passing tests and interviews, candidates have not received orders. They urged CM Sindh, Home Minister Zia-ul-Has-

san Lanjar, and IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon to issue orders immediately, warning of intensified protests if demands remain unfulfilled.

Tando Allahyar Police Smash Major Drug and Illegal Liquor Network

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Following orders from IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razaq Dharejo directed SSP Saleem Shah and Tando Allahyar police to crack down on drug dealers, habitual criminals, and illegal liquor and gutka sellers. During the operation, police recovered 4,960 grams of cannabis, 420 liters of liquor, and 1,100 gutka packets, arresting six suspects. Five cases



were registered under government prosecution. Separate raids by SHO Pyaro Lund, SHO A-Section, and SHO B-Section also led to

the recovery of drugs and liquor and registration of additional cases against seven suspects involved in drug and alcohol trafficking.



Jeay Sindh Mahaz Karachi Announces Sit-In to Demand Rights for Sindhi Workers

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Jeay Sindh Mahaz Karachi leaders, including Organizer Zameer Hajano and Malir President Faiz Hisbani, held a press conference at Malir Press Club announcing a sit-in on December 18 in front of Qasim Garments Factory. The protest will highlight alleged exploitation of permanent Sindhi workers being employed as temporary staff. The leaders also demanded the immediate arrest of Has-



sanian Hajano's killers in Ratohero and justice for his heirs. They warned that if their demands are not met by December 18, the protest would intensify. They stressed that the government must ensure workers' rights, job security, and protection from exploitation.

PAC Presses Karachi University to Adopt Open Merit and Flags Heavy Losses at Printing Press

KARACHI: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, directed Karachi University to review its Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan (KSP) admission policy and ensure all admissions follow open merit based on Sindhi domicile. The decision followed a review of university audit paras from 2021-2023. PAC expressed concern over the non-functional Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Chair, established with Rs 422 million, and urged immediate action. Additionally, the DG Audit reported Rs 281 million losses at Sindhi Government Printing Presses due to departmental printing externally. PAC ordered all departments to print official material through government presses to boost revenue.—RT

Toba Tek Singh DC Spotlights E-Biz Program as Game Changer for Transparent Public Services



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela stated that under Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, the E-Biz program is providing fast, transparent,

and easy services to citizens and the business community. During a detailed review of district applications, he noted that licenses, registrations, and NOCs can now be obtained online, saving time and effort. The program ensures tracking of every application, reduces corruption, promotes investment, and supports ease of doing business. The district administration is committed to fully implementing the CM's digital governance initiatives.

Alarm Over Illegal Mining in Sindh Spurs Urgent Calls for Environmental Safeguards

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Concerns have been raised over illegal mining of sand, gravel, and stone in areas of Sindh, including Malir,

Thatta, Jamshoro, and Mirpurkhas. Local residents and social leaders say ongoing extraction is affecting riverbeds, hills, and railway tracks. They have requested the Minerals and Mines Department and Sindh government to take timely measures to regulate mining activities, protect the environment, and ensure public safety.

BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

UC Noshera Residents Lash Out at Elected Leaders Over Neglect and Broken Promises

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: Raees Ali Bux Jamali of Union Council Noshera, Tehsil Bhag has expressed deep concern over the long-term neglect of the area by both current and former MPAs and MNAs. He said the local population lives in extreme hardship, lacking basic facilities. Schools are absent, leaving children without education, while health services are nearly nonexistent, forcing residents to travel long distances for minor treatments. Safe drinking water is also scarce, affecting women, children, and the elderly. He criticized elected representatives for enjoying luxury lives while misappropriating billions in development funds, leaving the community in poverty. Jamali warned that in the next elections, the public would hold such representatives accountable for their failures.



Yaqoob Sadiq Rallies Support for Mian Saeed Hassan with High-Profile Dinner Ahead of Press Club Vote

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Candidate for Patron of the Press Club, Yaqoob Sadiq, hosted a grand dinner honoring Mian Saeed Hassan, candidate for Press Club President. Prominent journalists and senior members attended the event. Yaqoob Sadiq assured his full support to Mian Saeed Hassan and emphasized collective efforts for the improvement, dignity, and welfare of the Press Club and its members.



Mian Saeed Hassan thanked him, promising practical steps for development, journalists' welfare, and positive initiatives if elected. The event concluded with participants pledging unity, mutual cooperation, and professional responsibility.

Malir Administration Cracks Down on Illegal LPG Shops

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Authorities in Taluka Murad Memon, Malir, conducted an operation against illegal LPG shops under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Anis Abbasi. Several unlicensed shops were sealed during the drive. The district administration warned that illegal LPG operations violate the law and



pose serious safety risks to the public. Officials emphasized that such actions will continue, and strict measures will be taken against any shop-keeper or institution found operating without proper licenses or safety compliance.

Gujranwala SDO Para Force Reclaims Encroached Land in Major Anti-Grab Operation



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: SDO President Para Force, Khushba Hussain, led a major operation against illegal occupants, reclaiming 10 acres and 54 kanal of land and returning it to the rightful owners. The action, carried out with her team including Investigation Officer Syed Zargham Abbas and Enforcement Officer Kamran Briar, targeted long-occupied land in Mughal Chak and Kahalwali Nizrag Chak. Hussain warned the occupation mafia against future encroachments. Citizens praised the operation for enhancing public convenience and ensuring justice.

cer Syed Zargham Abbas and Enforcement Officer Kamran Briar, targeted long-occupied land in Mughal Chak and Kahalwali Nizrag Chak. Hussain warned the occupation mafia against future encroachments. Citizens praised the operation for enhancing public convenience and ensuring justice.

FIA Gujranwala Nabs Three Key Human Traffickers in Targeted Crackdown

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Zone arrested three suspects, including the most wanted human trafficker listed in the Red Book,

during a major crackdown. Safdar Bashir, Imtiaz Ali, and Nazim Ali were apprehended from Mandi Bahauddin and other areas of Gujranwala. 2023 are registered against the suspects. FIA operations against human trafficking continue.

Safoora Town Set to Digitize Local Tax Collection for Citizens' Ease

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Municipal Commissioner Alamgir Junejo chaired an emergency meeting in Safoora Town to plan the digitization of local tax recovery. Officials from the local tax department attended, including Director Local Taxes Inshad Khakhsheli, Director Advertisement Tasleem Wasan, and Director Parks Ghaus Bux Khakhrani. The initiative, in collaboration with Click, will allow citizens to



pay taxes online from home. Commissioner Junejo instructed officials to submit two years of tax records and documents to speed up the process. He also emphasized

Nation Mourns as Sitara-e-Imtiaz Laureate Sir Mahfooz-ur-Rehman Dies

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Narowal is mourning after the death of Sir Mahfooz-ur-Rehman, a distinguished academician, who passed away due to natural causes. Renowned for his decades-long dedication to education, he played a pivotal role in shaping the academic and personal growth of countless students in the district. His relentless efforts earned him the prestigious Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Widely respected as a teacher, mentor, and



administrator, his loss is deeply felt across Narowal. Students, colleagues, and the community remember him as a guiding light whose contributions to education and character-building will be long cherished.

Narowal Administration Shuts Down Rice Mill in Aggressive Anti-Smog Action

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Acting on directives from Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza, the Environmental Protection Department carried out surprise inspections of 10 brick kilns and 7 rice mills to control smog. During the operation, one rice mill was sealed for failing to implement proper dust control measures, contributing to air pollution in the area. Deputy



Commissioner Raza face heavy fines and warned that smog poses immediate closure. Authorities urged residents to cooperate in reducing pollution and enforcing environmental laws will health.

REGIONAL TIMES: NATIONAL

CM Maryam Vows Full-Scale War Against Crimes Targeting Children in Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that crimes against children will be eliminated from the province. In her message on the International Day for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence, CM Maryam said that sexual exploitation, mistreatment, and violence against children are not just crimes—they are a rebellion



against humanity. "Children are my red line. I love them all, and it is our duty to protect every child," she said. She stated that those involved in crimes against children are the worst elements of society and will be completely rooted out from Punjab.—RT/Agency

Gujranwala Police Forge Stronger Security Strategy for Schools and Colleges



By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Following special instructions from City Police Officer Muhammad Ayaz Saleem, a high-level meeting was held at the Police Line Auditorium with heads of public and private educational institutions. SSP Operations Ghayoor Ahmed chaired the meeting, attended by SP Safe City Irfan-ul-Haq Silharia, Divisional SPs, Circle Officers, and management of Category A Plus schools. The meeting

focused on modern and effective security measures for students, teachers, and staff. Strict directives included active walk-through gates, ID checks, emergency alert systems, CCTV monitoring, armed guard attendance, and patrolling around institutions. Educational management was instructed to report suspicious activity promptly and coordinate closely with police. SSP Ghayoor emphasized that safeguarding institutions is a top priority and security SOPs must be fully implemented.

Narowal Officials Convene Crucial Session to Drive Clean Punjab Program

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Under directives of Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza, a crucial meeting on the "Clean Punjab Program" was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Gulam Sarwar. Representatives from local government, municipal committees, and relevant departments reviewed the ongoing cleanliness campaign in urban and rural areas. ADC Gulam Sar-



war instructed departments to improve sanitation arrangements, prioritize drainage and waste management, and fully utilize machinery and manpower. He also emphasized public awareness campaigns to promote hygiene. Discussions included effective waste collection, timely disposal, and monitoring of dumping sites to ensure a cleaner environment throughout the district.

Sheikh Rashid Slams Being Prevented from Performing Umrah Despite Court Orders

RAWALPINDI: Former federal minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Tuesday that he was not allowed to travel for Umrah despite a court order.



Department and FIA. He added that the court

has adjourned the case until November 25. His lawyer, Sardar Abdul Razzaq, has fulfilled all constitutional requirements in the matter. Talking to the media, he said the judge remarked that a person who has served as a minister seventeen times is being stopped from performing Umrah. He said the final report will be submitted to the court next Tuesday.—RT/Agency

Toba Tek Singh Labour Cases Settled as Authorities Move to Protect Workers' Rights

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Labour Welfare Department, on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, has taken significant steps to protect workers' rights and ensure minimum wage compliance. Assistant Director Labour Muhammad Shehbaz successfully resolved long-pending labour "finding



cases" within one month, including four cases filed in March 2025, totaling Rs. 2,187,131. He emphasized that timely justice and strict enforcement of workers' rights remain the department's top priority, with field monitoring being further strengthened.

EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

When Hasina Fell — And Why Other Countries Should Pay Attention

The dramatic conviction of former Bangladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina is more than the downfall of a once-unshakable political titan; it is a stark warning for nations where power is hoarded, dissent is crushed, and democracy is reduced to a hollow ritual. Hasina spent years presenting herself as the guardian of stability, yet she governed through coercion, rigged mandates, and a suffocating personality cult. In the end, the very machinery she relied on to silence opponents delivered judgement against her — a reckoning she never imagined would come so swiftly.

Her fall was not born in courtrooms but in the fury of a people long denied their voice. Bangladesh's streets erupted because the social contract had been

broken beyond repair. A regime that dismissed criti-



cism, persecuted rivals, and bulldozed institutions eventually discovered that no autocrat is stronger than a nation pushed to the brink. The tribunal's verdict is simply the tail end of a collapse that began the moment the public rejected fear as a form of governance.

For Pakistan, the shockwaves from Dhaka carry undeniable relevance. We, too, know the perils of elections, the dangers of personalized rule, and the

fragility of institutions bent to serve individuals rather than the state. Hasina's abrupt political annihilation underscores a simple, universal truth: when rulers mistake authority for impunity, and when institutions surrender their independence, the fall — when it comes — is sudden, unforgiving, and irreversible.

Welcoming this verdict is not about endorsing vengeance; it is about reaffirming that accountability is inevitable. Bangladesh now faces the challenge of rebuilding democracy from the wreckage of authoritarian excess. Pakistan would do well to note that the people's patience, once exhausted, becomes a force no leader — no matter how entrenched — can withstand.

THE HEARTLAND



LUMHS Jamshoro Marks Global Antimicrobial Awareness Week with Key Events

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro marked International Antimicrobial Awareness Week with a seminar and awareness walk under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan. Speakers highlighted the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), caused by overuse and misuse of antibiotics, poor infection control, and limited devel-



opment of new medicines. Senior faculty, including Prof. Dr. Imran Ali Shaikh, Prof. Dr. Ashok Kumar Narsani, Prof. Dr. Samreen Memon, Prof. Dr. Ilyas Siddiqui, Prof. Abid Hus-

sain Chang, and Dr. Yusra Shafiqat, urged responsible antibiotic use, proper hygiene, and vaccination to protect public health and preserve life-saving antimicrobial medicines.

Hyderabad Chamber Pushes Academia-Industry Alliance to Power Research and SMEs

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Shan Sehgal, Vice President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), participated in a joint meeting organized by Isra University's ORIC Steering Committee, Corporate Advisory Council (CAC), and Industry Advisory Board (IAB). The meeting, attended by in-

dustrial leaders, faculty deans, and research experts, focused on strengthening academia-industry linkages. Sehgal emphasized that sustainable growth in research, innovation, and industry requires strong collaboration and that Sindh's industrial sector must connect with modern research to advance technology and support young professionals.

He highlighted the SME sector's need for access to research facilities, technical training, and joint projects. Sehgal announced that the Hyderabad Chamber will collaborate with Isra University to organize workshops, skill development sessions, and industry-academia initiatives, aiming to foster practical solutions and stronger partnerships.

Sita Road Police Capture Key Suspect in High-Intensity Operation



By Zain-ul-Abideen Samo

SITA ROAD: Under the leadership of SHO Khalid Hussain Lakher, police conducted a major operation in Sita Road, resulting in the arrest of Aslam Chandio, a resident of Andrian Targa village. According to police, the ar-

rested suspect was wanted in a dacoity case, and authorities had been searching for him for a considerable time. SHO Khalid Hussain Lakher stated that eliminating crime from the area is their top priority, and similar operations will continue to ensure law and order in the region.

Talhar Police Track Down and Arrest Two Drug Peddlers

TALHAR: Talhar police conducted an operation against drug dealers, arresting two individuals, Farman Dilwani and Dilawar Bhatti, and placing them in lockup. Authorities recovered desi liquor and mainpuri from their possession. The SHO stated that the operation



is being carried out under SSP orders to make the area drug-free. Citizens, however, expressed concern that arrested, urging action against influential drug main at large while suppliers to effectively curb narcotics.—RT

Sajal Baloch Gang Dismantled in Breakthrough in MNA Zulfiqar Behan Robbery Case

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Sindh Police have arrested key members of the notorious Sajal Baloch gang, responsible for the high-profile robbery at PPP MNA Zulfiqar Behan's residence in Naushehro Feroze. The gang, known for inter-provincial criminal activities, carried out detailed reconnaissance and gained access to the bungalow by pretending to be stranded foreigners, observing security arrangements before executing the robbery. Two members, Rehan Baloch and Irfan Haider Siyal, were apprehended, leading to the recovery of 1.5 kilo-



grams of gold, over PKR 50 lac in cash, and weapons including a Kalashnikov and pistols. The alleged mastermind, Jaisal Baloch, remains at large. The gang's sophisticated methods included using Google Maps, circumventing mobile networks, and generating fake robbery victims.

Sujawal Hosts Grand Dastarbandi Ceremony Marking Quran Completion

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A grand dastarbandi ceremony was held at the central Muhammad Mosque to celebrate Hafiz Abu Syfyan Memon, son of Hafiz Riaz Memon, on completing the memorization of

the Holy Quran. The event saw large participation from religious, social, and business circles. Special guests included Maulana Muhammad Ahmed Ladhani, Maulana Saadullah Hyderi, and Maulana Abdul Jabbar Hyderi, who congratulated Hafiz Abu Syfyan and his parents. Hafiz Riaz Memon honored guests with Sindh cultural symbols, including traditional patkas and lungis. Religious leaders praised parents for imparting Quranic education and prayed for the new Hafiz's bright future.

Lawyers Mount Protest Against 27th Amendment Outside Matiari Court

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Lawyers held a protest outside Matiari Court against the 27th Constitutional Amendment. The demonstration was led by Pearl Majidano, Ikhlash Qazi, Muhammad Yousef Kalhoro, and Zaheer Soomro. The lawyers stated that the amendment undermines the rights of the public and provinces and must not be accepted. They urged



citizens to support the protest, warning that if their demands are ignored, the demonstration could escalate to Islam-

abad. The protest is set to continue until the amendment is revoked.

Govt High School Jhando Marri Drives Cervical Cancer Awareness Among Girls

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A cervical cancer awareness program was organized at Government High School Jhando Marri under the leadership of DHO Dr. Bharol, Dr. Shahneela, and Headmaster Mevo Waryah. During the program, students received important information about cervical cancer prevention. Dr. Bharol and Dr. Shahneela urged parents to vaccinate



their daughters to protect them from this preventable disease and emphasized the importance of early awareness and precautionary measures.

Lawyers' Boycott Brings Courts to a Standstill Over 27th Amendment Controversy



SHAHDADKOT: In Shahdadt, courts of Qambar-Shahdadt district remained non-functional as lawyers boycotted proceedings in protest against the 27th Constitutional Amendment, following a call by the Sindh Bar Council and support from the District Bar Association. According to a statement issued by District Bar Association President Advocate Shafee Muhammad Khoso and General Secretary Advocate Sahandhar Kumar, the boycott will continue to press for the repeal of the amendment.—RT

Tando Allahyar DC Reviews Fast-Tracking of Tando Adam Double Road Project

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A meeting regarding the development of Tando Allahyar-Tando Adam Double Road was held today at the Deputy Commissioner's Office under the chairmanship of DC Tando Allahyar, Noor Mustafa Laghari. Officials from the Provincial Highways, Public Health Engineering, Sui Gas, HESCO, police, and other departments attended, along with local landowners including



Imdad Ali Nizamani, Chaudhry Asif Arain, and Pir Muhammad Baloch. During the meeting, the DC instructed Assistant Commissioners to remove all en-

croachments along the road and directed HESCO and Sui Gas to relocate electricity poles and gas pipelines to enable smooth commencement of construction work.

REGIONAL TIMES
SPORTS



Babar Azam Surpasses
Shahid Afridi's Unwanted
T20I Record



RAWALPINDI: Star Pakistan batter Babar Azam broke former captain Shahid Afridi's unwanted record during the first match of the home T20I tri-series against Zimbabwe here at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Babar, who scored a match-winning half-century in the home T20I series decider against South Africa earlier this month, could not stretch his form into the on-going tri-series as he fell for a three-ball duck.

The right-handed batter was outfoxed by Brad Evans's length delivery, which nipped back sharply after pitching and thudded into his back knee.

With this, the 31-year-old registered his ninth duck in T20Is, going past Afridi on the unwanted list of Pakistan batters, jointly led by Saim Ayub and Umar Akmal.

Most ducks for Pakistan in T20Is

Manchester United Legend
Identifies Leading Contender
to Replace Casemiro

Manchester United legend Paul Scholes has named Eliot Anderson as a potential replacement for Casemiro at the club.

Scholes believes that the 23-year-old has impressed him as a good England's defensive midfielder, but United would need a bit more as well to get to their desired stage.

Speaking on The Good, The Bad & The Football podcast, Scholes said that Casemiro will not extend his stay after his contract expires at United.

"He has been a great player and I think he's actually been better this year than he was possibly last year. I think you've got to take his age into account and I think he'll probably move on after his deal is done," Scholes said.

Casemiro's contract will expire at the end of the season, but Manchester United have an option to extend it by a year.

Talking about the Brazilian's replacement, he added that Anderson is a good player and he could solve the problems of the Red Devils after Casemiro leaves.

"Eliot Anderson is a really good player. Look, I think they need a bit more than Anderson to get to where they want to be, to challenging, but, no, I think he's a really good player. When he was at Newcastle I thought he was a really good player," Scholes added.

"I thought he was more of an attacking midfielder and I didn't see him in this role that he's playing for England as a number six. But he looks a really good player, I think he's athletic enough as well and, yeah, I think he would be a really good signing but we'll see,"—Agency

World No 1 Carlos Alcaraz
Withdraws From Davis
Cup in Major Blow

Reigning US Open champion and current World No. 1, Carlos Alcaraz, announced on Tuesday that he has withdrawn from the Davis Cup Finals in Bologna because of an injury, saying that he is going back home 'heartbroken'.

The Spaniard's injury worsened during the ATP Finals, particularly during his loss to Jannik Sinner in the final on Sunday.

His subsequent withdrawal from the Davis Cup is a significant setback for the organisers, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) stated. Alcaraz confirmed that he would not be attending the Davis Cup due to Oedema in his right hamstring.

The Spanish star conveyed his deep disappointment in an Instagram post.

"I'm so sorry to announce that I won't be able to play for Spain in the Davis Cup in Bologna," Alcaraz said.

"I have oedema in my right hamstring and the medical recommendation is not to compete. I've always said that playing for Spain is the greatest thing there is, and I was really looking forward to helping us fight for the Davis Cup. I'm going home heartbroken. The world number two, Sinner, also withdrew from the tournament last month. Another member of the Italian team, Lorenzo Musetti, will also miss the tournament. He withdrew for family and health reasons.—Agency

Kids Corner



Name: Saddam Hussain S/o Allah Rakhio Laghari
Location: Village Bambho Laghari
About Me: I love my parents and Pakistan!

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

Fabio Wardley Secures Full WBO
Championship, Eyes Moses Itauma
Clash Next



Fabio Wardley has become the full-fledged WBO heavy-weight champion after Oleksandr Usyk vacated the belt and could face Moses Itauma next, international media reported on Tuesday.

Usyk won the WBO heavy-weight title in 2021 by defeating Anthony Joshua and successfully defended it four times. The WBO had earlier ordered him to face interim champion Joseph Parker this year, but no agreement was reached.

Parker was then beaten by Wardley on October 25 and claimed the WBO interim heavy-weight title, becoming the mandatory challenger against Usyk.

The fight was decided in

the 11th round with Wardley knocking Parker out at London's O2 Arena.

Following the victory, Wardley challenged undisputed heavy-weight champion Usyk, alerting the Ukrainian that facing him will be no easy task.

After Parker's victory, Wardley's promoter, Frank

Warren, said that the talks with Usyk's team had already begun. It was anticipated that the match would take place in the first half of 2026 between the boxers, but the Ukrainian decided not to fight.

With the belt vacated, Usyk lost the status of undisputed world heavy-weight

champion. However, he remains the reigning champion of the WBA, WBC, and IBF.

In December 2024, he defeated Britain's Daniel Dubois to reclaim the IBF title and become the undisputed champion once again.

Earlier, in May 2024, Usyk defeated Tyson Fury to secure a four-belt title, though he later relinquished the IBF belt due to mandatory fight obligations.

The WBO emphasised that Usyk's departure represents a respectful pause rather than a farewell.

"The doors of the WBO will always remain open to Oleksandr Usyk and his team," WBO President Gustavo Olivieri said.—Agency

Brazil Coach Sets Firm
Fitness Deadline for
Neymar Ahead of
World Cup



Brazil's coach Carlo Ancelotti has given a six-month period to Neymar Jr to prove his fitness ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026, scheduled in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Neymar, 33, has not featured for Brazil in two years, with injuries hampering his ability to perform consistently since returning to Santos last year after a stint in Saudi Arabia. In a press conference on Monday, Ancelotti said that, fortunately, the Brazilian forward has recovered from his injury and he is in his plans for the World Cup.

He added that Neymar has six months to prove his fitness and make a place in his final squad.

"I thought Neymar was just a topic in Brazil, but I see it's a global issue," Ancelotti said. "Fortunately, he recovered from his injury."

Now he has six months to play. "Neymar is on the list of players who could be at the World Cup. Now he has six months to make the final list. We just have to observe him and other players to avoid making mistakes in the final selection." The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward last wore the famous yellow jersey in October 2023, when he suffered serious knee ligament damage that has plagued comeback attempts.

Ancelotti, who became Brazil's coach in May, said that Neymar has enough time to return to his best form and represent his country again. "The Brazilian Championship stops on December 7, then he can take a vacation, but then he'll have the Brazilian Championship again to show his quality and, obviously, his physical condition," he said.—Agency

Button Reveals the One
Hamilton Surprise That
Shocked Him During Their
2010 Partnership



Former Formula One champion Jenson Button has said that Lewis Hamilton was surprised after finding that McLaren was supporting the former more when he joined them in 2010.

Button revealed that he used to spend more time with engineers to build a strong team around himself.

Button won the world championship with Brawn GP in 2009 and moved to McLaren one year later. He was paired with 2008 F1 champion Hamilton there.

The 45-year-old has revealed that he quickly adjusted in the British team and received their support. Even though his teammate had already become an influential individual.

Speaking with Sky Sports, Jenson Button shared his journey with Lewis Hamilton as a team-

mate. They raced together at McLaren from 2010 to 2012 until the seven-time world champion left for Mercedes.

After explaining how it was to go up against one of the brightest stars at the time, Button opened up about a thing that surprised Hamilton in 2010.

"The thing that probably is a lot stronger with now than in 2010 is the mental side of things. You know, it was a lot more difficult back then. I think he felt that it was his team, and I came in and didn't make it my team, but I spent a lot more time with the mechanics and the engineers to build a team of people around me," said Button.

"And I think he was surprised by that and that they were supporting me as much as they were him."—Agency

Asjad Iqbal Floors India's Advani to Storm
Into Snooker World Cup Semi-Finals



KARACHI: Pakistan's seasoned cueist Asjad Iqbal outclassed India's Pankaj Advani 4-0 in the World Cup of Snooker quarter-final here at the Active Oman Sports and Entertainment Hub in Muscat on Tuesday.

Asjad got off to a blazing start to the knockout fixture as he registered a sensational break of 81 to clinch the opening frame 100-0.

Advani managed to offer some resistance in the subsequent frame, scoring a total of 37 points, but Asjad moved 2-0 up by piling on 92.

The third frame saw Asjad registering another 50-plus break (68) and effortlessly won it 117-16 to move one within victory.

He denied Advani any chance to force a comeback

and won the decisive fourth frame 83-21 to round up a perfect 4-0 victory, which propelled him into the semi-finals, where he will square off against France's Nicolas Mortheux, who booked his place in the Final Four by defeating Hong Kong China's Nansen Wan 4-1.

For the unversed, Asjad Iqbal defeated another Indian opponent, Hussain Khan, 3-0 in the round of 32.

Interestingly, after the match, both players showed sportsmanship by shaking hands and also hugged each other, which is a rare occurrence due to India's politicisation of sports, which emerged from the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 in

September.

The arch rivals met thrice in the continental tournament, and Indian players noticeably avoided post-toss and post-match handshakes with their Pakistan counterparts.

The controversy did not remain limited to the men's events, as a similar situation occurred at the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, where both teams' captains, Harmanpreet Kaur and Fatima Sana, avoided shaking hands at the toss. The handshake controversy between the arch-rivals resurfaced on Sunday during the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2025 clash between India

'A' and Pakistan Shaheens, as captains Jitesh Sharma and Irfan Niazi skipped the customary handshake at the toss.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
ENTERTAINMENT



Dasha's Austin Hits
One Billion Spotify
Streams, Trailing
Only Taylor Swift



Dasha has made new history in the country music industry, as she has officially joined the Spotify Billionaires club with her song, Austin.

"I still can't wrap my head around this. 'Austin' changed my life, and now just two years after I put it out on my own ... it's officially hit a billion streams on Spotify," the Not at This Party hitmaker said in a statement.

She further said, "All I've ever wanted is to make music that helps people feel like the strongest, most badass version of themselves."

"'Austin' was written in pure rage, but it somehow turned into this beautiful source of community and empowerment. I'm the luckiest girl in the world," continued Dasha.

The Love Me Till August songstress added, "I have the best team, the best family and friends, and now a billion streams on my first breakout song ... that's the juiciest cherry on top."

For those unversed, Dasha released her breakthrough hit, Austin, on November 17, 2023.

Ariana Grande
Teases Whether
Wicked 3 Is
Moving Forward



Ariana Grande is spilling the beans on a potential new part for Wicked.

The singer turned actress recently shared a new video on her Instagram account to dish out a conversation in a panel about her upcoming work.

Ariana was spotted chatting with her Wicked: For Good costar Cynthia Erivo in the clip.

"You mentioned 'farewell tour.' If we've learned anything from Cher, we can count on there always being another farewell tour," Grande quipped. "So I

don't think anyone's going anywhere."

"Was that a confirmation of Wicked 3 just now?" a moderator on the panel then asked Grande.

"No, no, I don't know," Grande added. "I mean, first of all, I know that there's a great peace that's coming along with this coming out and I think there's a peace that's felt, because people will finally get to know the full truth of these women."

The actress then added that she is "really relieved people will finally get to see and know and love"

Irina Shayk Shares
How Motherhood
Transformed
Her Confidence



Irina Shayk is sharing some insights into her journey of motherhood and how she gained more confidence after becoming a mom.

The Russian Fashion model, who shares an 8-year-old daughter, Lea De Seine, with ex-partner Bradley Cooper, opened up about how motherhood has uplifted her confidence.

"To be a woman in power," the dotting mom-of-one remarked. "You have to feel comfortable in your own skin."

Referring to her debut in the iconic Pirelli Calendar, she continued, "To be part of the Pirelli Calendar — I'm literally in the right time in my life."

"I'm a mother and I

know who I am. I know what I stand for..." Irina added.

She further revealed how she teaches her daughter self-love. "I just feel like there are so many beauty standards out there that of course I try to protect my daughter from."

Elsewhere during the conversation, she also shed some light on co-parenting with Bradley amid their high-profile careers.

"She has very, very little digital access, almost down to none," Irina detailed.

The model revealed that she prioritizes "building community, friends and just giving love."

"This is the best thing that you could give to your kid, raising them in a loving family," she noted.

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



Minister Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar Holds Public Gathering to Tackle Local Problems

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Sports, Youth Affairs, Inquiries, and Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh, Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, held a public meeting with residents of Khangarh Sharif at Mahar House. During the meeting, locals raised concerns regarding development needs, lack of basic facilities, and improvement in government services. Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan



Mahar appreciated the suggestions of the participants and assured that the Pakistan Peoples Party leadership remains committed to public welfare, developmental projects, and provision of essential services. He emphasized prioritizing the resolution of public issues and took immediate steps to address several concerns of the residents on the spot.

Teen Missing for Two Weeks Found Safe as Noshad Meghwar Returns Home



By Ghazi Nohri

MITHI: Noshad Meghwar, a youth from Mithi who was allegedly kidnapped 14 days ago from Ghotki, has been safely recovered by the police from a hilly area near Sukkur. DSP Ghotki Anwar Shaikh and SHO Section confirmed that after the abduction, police conducted a technical investigation and arrested several suspects. The kidnappers had demanded Rs 5 million from the victim's family. After his recovery, Noshad told local media that he was abducted in a car from Ghotki city and left near Sukkur. Police said further action against the criminals is ongoing.

Shahid Soomro Aligns with Rehman Welfare Organization to Boost Local Welfare



By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Social leader Shahid Soomro officially joined Rehman Welfare Organization at its central office in Citizen Colony, Qasimabad. He was welcomed by Chairperson Apa Bushra, Vice Chairperson Mehmood Ali Memon, and other social leaders. Soomro praised the organization's work helping underprivileged people amid rising inflation and announced his commitment to support and improve the organization's initiatives for serving humanity.

Shahdadpur Development Push Gains Speed Under PPP Stewardship



By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Former Provincial Minister and PPP MPA Shahid Abdul Salam Tahim, along with Municipal Committee Chairman Barrister Ali Murtaza Rahman Tahim, have accelerated development and construction projects across Shahdadpur. Works include sewerage lines, CC and pure blocks, carpet roads, and other infrastructure improvements, earning public appreciation. The Pure Block road from Ali Chowk to Abdul Salam Tahim Flyover has resumed construction, while bypass carpet roads from Suhni Mai Cantt to Hardas Porah Chowk are ongoing. Chairman Ali Murtaza Tahim emphasized PPP's commitment to public service and inclusive development. Municipal Officer Farqan Memon and others were present during site visits.

Hyderabad Court Clears Hakim Soomro in Three-Kilo Hashish Case

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad court has ordered the acquittal of Hakim Soomro, who was arrested for allegedly possessing 3 kilograms of hashish, citing lack of evidence. In a detailed five-page verdict, Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Ghaffar Khoso directed the release of the accused. The court stated that no concrete evidence was presented by the police to prove Soomro's involvement in the case. Soomro's lawyer, Advocate Siraj Siyal, represented him during the proceedings. The accused was initially arrested by Panhri Police on May 7, 2025, and the case has now been closed following the court's decision.

Thatta Court Acquits Four Ex-MERF Staffers in High-Profile Medicine Theft Case

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: The Civil Judge Court of Thatta has dismissed the alleged medicine theft case at Civil Hospital Thatta, declaring it bogus and acquitting four former MERF NGO employees. The accused including Warehouse Incharge Nooreen Meharissa Abbasi, Supply Officer Niaz Brohi, and Warehouse Helpers Shakeel Narejo and Kamran Brohi were previously terminated by MERF after the alleged disappearance of medicines worth millions. Senior Advocate Ejaz Jumani argued that the issue involved record tampering, not theft, and should fall under Anti-Corruption jurisdiction. After reviewing the evidence, the court found no proof of wrongdoing and acquitted all four, emphasizing the need for thorough investigations.

Kotri Industrial Zone Reels Under Mounting Infrastructure Failures

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: Kotri Industrial Zone, the second-largest in Sindh and a vital part of the country's economy, is facing infrastructure challenges due to administrative delays. Roads leading into the zone have potholes, uneven surfaces, and scattered debris, making daily commuting difficult for workers and drivers. Local industry leaders, including Mian Tauqeer Tariq, Yasir Iqbal Malik, and Khalil Baloch, expressed concern, noting that businesses are finding it increasingly challenging to operate smoothly. Industries also face water shortages, and many machines are over 40 years old. Workers report difficulties and growing unemployment. Stakeholders urge authorities to improve facilities to ensure safer, more efficient operations.

Larkana Lawyers Stage Protest Against 27th Constitutional Amendment



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The District Bar Association of Larkana organized a gathering today honoring Sindh Bar Council member and lawyer leader Advocate Amir Nawaz Waraich, along with other prominent lawyers. Addressing the event, Advocate Waraich criticized the 27th Constitutional Amendment, calling it against the Constitution and Sharia, saying it undermines justice and democracy. He warned that courts have become ineffective and impartiality is at risk. Waraich further condemned the government's alleged misuse of legal processes to intimidate citizens protesting the amendment. He emphasized that lawyers across Sindh, including those in Sukkur, strongly oppose the amendment, asserting that public unity is vital to protect justice and democracy.

Hyderabad Marks Universal Children's Day with Strong Call for Rights and Education

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: A function was organized at Government Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah Primary School, Pakka Qila, by Bhai Khan Welfare to mark Universal Children's Day. MPA as chief guest, stressed that children are the nation's valuable assets and urged government, parents, teachers, and society to nurture them through education and training. Speakers, including Principal Professor Shakeel Akhtar, Headmaster Mirza Mansoor Ahmed Baig, and Bhai Khan Welfare leaders, highlighted the importance of children's rights, protection, education, sports, and free facilities. Attendees called for awareness against abuse, forced labor, and neglect, emphasizing a collective effort for a brighter future.

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH Request for Bids Goods (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
Contract Title: Equipment for Local Government Department
Loan No./Credit No.: 89980-PK
RFB Reference No.: PK-LGD-522620-GO-RFB

1. The Government of Pakistan has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for **Equipment for Local Government Department**. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the **Direct Payment disbursement method**, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing.

2. The Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK), Local Government Department now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Goods consisting of following**.

Lot	Details	Quantity
	High End Laptop	8
	Laptop	14
	Desktop Computer with UPS and LED 23 Inch	25
	Routers	10
	IP PABX	3
	IP Phones	12
	Microsoft Office	30
	Color Printer, Heavy Duty	4
	Printers 3 in 1	12
1	Scanners	6
	Video Conferencing System	3
	Portable Storage Media 2 TB	10
	Portable Storage Mediat 256GB	20
	Paper Shredder	10
	Projector Screen	2
	Projector	2
	Installation, Testing & Commissioning	1
	LED Screen 55 Inch	10
	Power Extension Wires	20
	Standing AC 24000 BTU	8
	AC 18000 BTU	20
	AC 12000 BTU	10
	Photocopier 30 PPM	3
	CCTV IP Camera + NVR +2 TB Storage	25
2	Bracket Fans	15
	Water Dispensers	5
	Fridge	4
	Microwave Oven	3
	Electric Kettle	15
	UPS Skva with Battery Back up	6
	Hand Dryers	6
	DSLR Camera with Tripod	3
	Wall Clock	8
	Installation, Testing & Commissioning	1

Bidders may bid for one or more lots as mentioned in the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) of the Bidding Documents but evaluation of the Lots will be done individually.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the **World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016, Revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations")**, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Competitive and Livable City of Karachi, Program Director, CLICK, info@click.gos.pk and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0930 to 1630 hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of PKR 10,000/- in favor of "Program Director CLICK". The method of payment will be cash only. The document may also be collected in person. Bidding documents can be seen at <https://click.gos.pk/tender>.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before **02:30 p.m. on 19th Dec, 2025** and must be accompanied by a security of Bid Security of 2% of the total bid value or an equivalent amount must be in the form of Pay orders / Bank Guarantee / demand drafts in a freely convertible currency.
8. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of bidders' representatives and anyone who chose to attend at **02:30 p.m. on 19th Dec, 2025** at the address given below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected.
9. The address referred to above is:

Deputy Project Director
Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
1st Floor, DMC South Office, Haqqani Chowk,
Araam Bagh, Karachi, 75600, Pakistan.
Tel: +92-21-99218874-5 INF/IKR/3836/25

Mirpurkhas Police Launch Sweeping Anti-Drug Drive, Eight Suspects Rounded Up

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Under the directives of SSP Dr. Sumair Noor Channa, Mirpurkhas police carried out successful operations against drug dealers, arresting eight suspects, including a wanted criminal, and recovering harmful substances such as Gutka, desi liquor, whiskey, and other narcotics. The operations were conducted across various areas, including Phuladion, Sindhri, Gareebabad, Dilbar Khan Mahar, Mahmoodabad, Degree, and Jhudo. Police registered multiple cases under relevant sections of the Gutka Control Act and PEHO Act, with further investigations ongoing. Citizens appreci-



ated the proactive crackdown, aimed at curbing drug abuse and maintaining law and order.

HUJ Dadu Elects New Leadership Team for 2026 Term

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Under Senior Vice President Wali Muhammad Lund, Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) elected new office-bearers for 2026. Dadu district elected Gul Khan Bhand as President, Qurban Bugio as General Secretary, Yaseen Rajo Korejo as Senior Vice President, Muhammad Yunus Solangi and Suhail Soomro as Vice Presidents, Mehboob Pirzado

and Barkat Ali Bughio as Joint Secretaries, Qazi Ismail Pirzado as Treasurer, Javed Laghari as Press Secretary, with working committee members Muhammad Rafiq Channa, Jameel Ahmed Maheesar, Gul Hassan Nodani, Akbar Panhoo, Dhani Bakhsh Brohi, Abdul Waheed Maheesar, Mumtaz Mengal, Ali Raza Channa, Jan Wahid Bughio, Shah Nawaz Soomro, Nizam Shaikh, Muhammad Jafar Bugio, and Irfan Badr Suhoor. Dadu taluka elected Allah Bakhsh Khushk as President, Ali Gul Chana as Senior Vice President, Taj Muhammad Shaikh as Vice President, Mumtaz Ali Bhand as General Secretary, Mukhtiar Soomro and Asif Panhwar as Joint Secretaries, Ejaz Samoon as Treasurer, Habibullah Qurban Khoso as Press Secretary, and working committee members Qurban Memon, Nazish Panhwar, and Shaikat Mallah.

SABS University Signs MoU with Chalo Technologies to Transform Campus Transport

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: SABS University of Art, Design and Heritage Jamshoro signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chalo Technologies Pvt. Ltd. to modernize the university's transport system. The agreement was overseen by the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Arabella Bhutto. Under the MoU, advanced systems will be installed in university buses, including vehicle tracking, CCTV surveillance, Wi-Fi for route monitoring,



direct access, and an admin portal for performance data. This initiative aims to enhance the safety of students, faculty, and staff, while improving transparency and efficiency in the university's transport operations.

Jati Govt High School Plot Secured After Media Pressure and AC's Swift Intervention

By AS Tahim

JATI: In Jati, the old Government High School plot came under encroachment by local mafia member Darata Ramadan Samijo, who had started construction. Following media coverage, Higher Secondary School Principal Hussain Azad Memon visited the site, strongly protesting the construction and appealing to elected representatives, administration, and citizens to protect the plot. Assistant Commissioner Jati, Rizwan Alam Shaikh, took immediate notice and halted the construction. Ramzan Samejo was brought to the AC office,



where in front of journalists and citizens, he issued a written apology and oath not to encroach again. The AC accepted the apology and released him, emphasizing respect for educational institutions.



Murad Unveils 'Light Upon Light'—A Dazzling Fusion of Faith, Art & Spiritual Illumination

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the "Light Upon Light" exhibition at Keel Gallery, praising its powerful blend of creativity and spirituality. Curated by Alifia Abbas Ali and organised by RadiantArts under Dawat-e-Hadiya, the exhibition showcases global artists interpreting the Qur'anic metaphor of divine light through calligraphy, sacred geometry, textiles and installations. Touring 19 displays, Shah lauded the Dawoodi Bohra community's cultural efforts, saying such initiatives



enrich heritage, promote harmony and inspire youth. This marks RadiantArts' first exhibition in Karachi.—RT

Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab Fires Back at Mustafa Kamal

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab criticized Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal for acting like the opposition and constantly attacking him, saying Kamal should instead secure a federal package for Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. Wahab invited him to work together, urging, "End the fights and clean Karachi." He also referred to Kamal's remarks



about contaminated water move walls of three major parks to make greenery visible.—RT/Agency

Sindh HR Delegation Applauds Karachi's High-Tech Policing

KARACHI: A Sindh Human Rights Department delegation led by Rajvir Singh Sodha visited Karachi's Safe City Project and the Sindh Police Complaint Management System (CMS). DIG Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh hosted the team, while SSP Syed Muhammad Ali Raza Shah briefed them on real-time surveillance, command-center operations, and digital complaint handling. The delegation praised the systems for boosting transparency, ac-



countability, and public safety. Sodha announced upcoming awareness campaigns, as both departments reaffirmed their commitment to stronger human-rights protection and efficient grievance redress.—RT

Karachi Set to Roll Out Double-Decker and New EV Buses Next Week

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that double-decker buses and newly inducted electric buses are expected to arrive in Karachi by next week. He shared the update while chairing a high-level meeting on ongoing transport projects in the city. During the meeting, officials briefed the senior minister on the progress of the Yellow Line BRT and Red Line BRT development works. Updates were also pro-



vided on the launch of the EV taxi service and the second phase of the Pink Scooters Scheme. Sharjeel Memon said the government is preparing to launch routes for double-decker buses along with new EV bus routes to provide improved commuting options for Karachi residents.—RT

KATI Presses PM and CM to Turn Karachi Development Promises Into Rapid Action

KARACHI: KATI President Muhammad Ikram Rajput welcomed commitments by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Karachi's transport and infrastructure upgrades but stressed urgent and transparent implementation. He praised plans for the Karachi



Cantt Station overhaul

and KCR's inclusion in CPEC, noting that modern rail and road corridors are vital for industrial productivity and exports. Rajput urged prioritizing key routes, cutting logistical hurdles, and easing taxes to boost investment, job creation, and Pakistan's global competitiveness.—RT

School Bus Crashes Near Kala Pul but All Students Escape Unhurt

KARACHI: A school bus heading for a picnic collided with the iron railing near Kala Pul in Karachi today, police said. The accident occurred after the driver reportedly lost control due to brake failure. The bus was carrying students and staff from a private school in Korangi 25 Number. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. Eyewitnesses said the bus swerved violently before hitting



the bridge railing. After the crash, the driver fled the scene. Traffic police quickly arrived and secured the area. A lifter has been called to remove the bus and clear the highway. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident and have urged drivers to exercise caution.—RT/Agency

Governor Sindh Calls for Stronger Child Protection on World Prevention Day



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, on the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence, emphasized that children are the nation's future and must be protected at all costs. He said societal awareness is crucial to eliminate crimes against children and highlighted government ini-

tatives for their safety. A dedicated cell at the Governor House has been established to register complaints and provide assistance to victims of child sexual abuse and violence. Tessori described violence against children as a grave violation of human rights and called for collective efforts to safeguard their mental and physical well-being.—RT/Agency

New Traffic Law Forces Karachi Dumper Owners to Install Mandatory Trackers



KARACHI: Following the enforcement of Sindh government's regulations on heavy traffic, dumper owners in the city have begun installing tracking devices in their vehicles. According to Liaquat Mehsud, President of the Dumper Association, trackers have been installed in 600 dumpers, and the control system has been handed over to the IT branch at the DIG Traffic office. Under the new policy, dumpers equipped with trackers will be allowed to operate within Karachi's city limits only during nighttime hours. However, during daytime, these vehicles will be permitted to run in designated industrial zones, including Korangi Industrial Area, New Karachi Industrial Area, SITE Area, Qasim Port, and Keamari Port.—RT/Agency

Rangers Capture Karachi Suspect Linked to Illegal Arms, Drugs and Multiple Crimes



KARACHI: Rangers carried out a raid in Docks Colony, Keamari, and arrested a suspect involved in illegal arms trading, drug dealing, and other criminal activities. The suspect, identified as Ismail, was found in possession of four 30-bore pistols, two loaded pistols (30-bore and 9mm), 11 magazines, weapon parts, and 160 bullets. Authorities also recovered 760 grams of hashish, 398 grams of ice, and 82 grams of heroin from the suspect. According to a

Rangers spokesperson, Ismail was used to smuggle weapons from Dara Adam Khel to Karachi for sale. During interrogation, the suspect reportedly confessed to involvement in robberies, snatching, and multiple drug-related incidents. The spokesperson added that Ismail had previously been arrested and served time in jail. The operation highlights ongoing efforts by Rangers to curb organized crime and illegal drug and arms trade in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Gunfire at Karachi Car Showroom Over Extortion Demand

KARACHI: An unidentified attacker opened fire at a car showroom on New M.A. Jinnah Road, Shikarpur Colony, Karachi, after the owner refused to pay Rs. 5 million in extortion. ARY News reported. The showroom owner had received threatening messages from an unknown number demanding the money and warning of serious consequences. The incident highlights rising criminal intimidation in the city and has sparked concern over the safety of local businesses.—RT

Seventeen-Year-Old Girl Found Dead on Defence Phase 5 Rooftop Sparks Alarm

KARACHI: Police in Karachi are investigating the death of a 17-year-old girl, identified as Zainab, whose body was discovered on the roof of a flat near Badr Commercial Street in Defence Phase 5. According to authorities, Zainab, originally from Sialkot, had been married one month ago and had recently come to Karachi to stay at her husband's maternal aunt's residence. Her husband, a law enforcement officer, was reportedly not at home at the time of the incident. Police have recorded statements from his aunt and cousin as part of the ongoing investigation.

Officials have not disclosed the cause of death, emphasizing that the inquiry is still underway. Authorities are urging residents to refrain from speculation as forensic and procedural investigations continue.—RT/Agency

Sharjeel Celebrates People's Victory as PPP Sweeps Azad Kashmir

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon phoned newly elected Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to congratulate him, calling the PPP's win a triumph for the Kashmiri people. He said Kashmiris have long backed the PPP's vision of development, peace and stability. Memon added that the party's leadership—from Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir



to President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto—has always prioritized Kashmiri rights and welfare. He said the victory reflects respect for Kashmir's political freedom and the people's aspirations.—RT

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar Lauds Major Police Breakthrough in High-Profile Robbery Case at MNA's Residence

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar praised Naushahro Feroze police for swiftly arresting key suspects involved in the robbery at PPP MNA Zulfiqar Behan's ancestral home. He lauded SSPs Rohail Khoso, Adeel Chandio and Shabir Sethar for a professional, coordinated operation that also uncovered illegal weapons and linked suspects to other major



crimes. Lanjar thanked Punjab Police for assistance in arrests made in Khanewal and approved appreciation certificates, calling the action a landmark in law-and-order and inter-provincial cooperation.—RT

DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah Showcases Advantages of Karachi's Smart Signals

KARACHI: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah said that the introduction of smart traffic signals across Karachi is proving instrumental in improving traffic flow and reducing congestion in several major corridors of the city. Speaking to media, he noted that these AI-enabled signals adjust timing based on real-time traffic density, helping cut



waiting times and easing bottlenecks during peak hours. He added that the smart system is directly high-resolution cameras linked with the city's E-stalled at intersections.—RT

Pakistan Debuts International-Standard Bunkering Service at Karachi Port

KARACHI: Pakistan has formally launched its first international-standard bunkering service at Karachi Port, marking a significant advancement in the country's maritime sector. According to the Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, the new service will provide ships with fuel supply systems that meet global benchmarks—an achievement he described as a major milestone for Pakistan's shipping and port industry. Media reports indicate



that several international companies have already expressed strong interest in acquiring bunkering licences, a development expected to generate billions of rupees in revenue for national ports in the coming years. Chaudhry said the initiative was launched on the special day of the Prime Minister and will greatly enhance Karachi Port's regional competitiveness.—RT

Young Artists Shine Bright: Karachi's Children Champion Burns Prevention Through Art

KARACHI: The Friends of Burns Centre, with ZVMG Rangoonwala Trust, hosted the Children's Poster Contest & Exhibition 2025 at Karachi's Rangoonwala Community Centre, emphasizing burns prevention awareness. Chief Guest Anwar Maqsood praised the young artists' creativity, while actor Behroze Sabzwari awarded prizes. FOBC Acting President



Fawad Ateeq Barry highlighted the organization's mission of free treatment and community education. Judges lauded participants' originality. Winners included Adil Khalil and Shahryar Fazil in junior and senior categories. Co-founder M. Abdullah Feroz thanked all for making the event a success.—RT

White Car Linked to String of Thefts Across Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Johar

KARACHI: Police have reported a spate of thefts in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Johar areas, allegedly carried out by criminals using a white car. Over the past week, the suspects reportedly stole five

vehicles and managed to escape. Authorities said the culprits wore caps and masks to conceal their identities during the robberies, which mainly occurred between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Police are still searching for the stolen vehicles, which have not yet been recovered. A police spokesperson urged residents to remain vigilant, report any suspicious activity, and provide details that may help in the investigation.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Member of the National Assembly, hosted a lovely dinner reception in honour of US Consul General Charles Goodman at his Karachi residence. Diplomats, Ministers, parliamentarians and their spouses attended, including the Consul Generals of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan and Kuwait, Deputy Head of US Mission Peter McSharry, Honorary Moroccan Consul General Ishtiaq Baig, MNAs Javid Hanif, Sanjay Pervani and Arshad Vohra, Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Memon and Saeed Ghani, and leading businessmen Arif Habib, Akram Wali Mohammad and others distinguished dignitaries.—RT

GLOBAL

SALAM Makes History — Pakistan's First Musical Tribute to Sheikh Zayed Unveiled in UAE

UAE: A landmark cultural moment emerges as Pakistani singer Soni Majed releases SALAM, the UAE's first-ever Pakistani musical tribute to H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Launched for the UAE's 54th anniversary and Eid Al



Ittihad, the song honors Sheikh Zayed's humanitarian legacy and vision. Created by Imrana Majed with music by Samran Warsi, SALAM symbolizes the Pakistani and Asian community's gratitude for the UAE's unity, opportunity, and shared values.—RT

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

—Albert Einstein

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 2025

MBS Tells Trump Saudi Investment in US Will Surge Toward One Trillion Dollars



US: Donald Trump on Tuesday hailed Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman \$1 trillion investment pledge as the US president laid on a lavish welcome at the White House.

Trump moved to consolidate his growing bromance with the Saudi leader, who is at the Oval Office for the first time in seven years, giving him a parade of soldiers on horseback and a military flypast featuring F-35 jets that he said "Washington

hammered said in the Oval Office.

A grinning Trump asked him to confirm the figure, to which the Saudi royal replied: "Definitely."

Rose Garden tour Trump pulled out all the stops for the Saudi prince, giving him treatment normally reserved for a state visit to the White House, despite the fact that he is not a head of state.

He welcomed bin Salman, who is widely known as MBS — on the South Lawn of the White House as cannon fire boomed out, before they watched the noisy flypast by US military jets.

The 79-year-old Republican then showed the prince a new gallery of presidential portraits by the Rose Garden — including one portraying his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden as an autocrat. —RT/Agency

ECC Signs Off Major Grants to Power Critical Security and Defence Initiatives



ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Tuesday approved grants pertaining to Pakistan's security and defence.

In a post on social media platform X, the finance ministry said Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the ECC that was attended by federal ministers, special assistants to the prime minister, secretaries, and senior officials from relevant divisions.

It said the ECC approved "several strategic grants and reforms aimed at strengthening Pakistan's security framework, defence capabilities, food security, and petroleum sector operations".

According to the ministry's statement, a technical supplementary grant of Rs100.3 million was approved for the maintenance of defence equipment used by the federal civil armed forces.

A technical supplementary grant of Rs841.56m was also approved for enhanced border management, internal security and law and order. Further, a technical supplementary grant of Rs50 billion was also approved for defence services projects.

The ECC also decided to establish a new special purpose vehicle, with initial paid-up capital of Rs1,000,000, to take forward the winding up of Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation, along with "measures to incentivise foreign participation in offshore oil and gas exploration, including licence extensions and working interest assignments".

Finnin meets delegation representing group founded by tech entrepreneurs

Separately, Finance Minister Aurangzeb held a meeting with a high-level delegation representing Dialog, an invite-only network founded by tech entrepreneurs Peter Thiel and Auren Hoffman.

In a handout, the ministry said the delegation was led by Ambassador Ali Jehangir Siddiqui and also included UK House of Lords Member Simon Stevens, Austrian MP Veit Valentin Dengler, Norwegian MP Himanshu Gulati, Jigsaw Chief Executive Officer Yasmin Green, Xbox-Microsoft Vice President Fatima Kandar and others. —RT/Agency

Bannu Blast Backfires as Terrorist Dies When Own IED Detonates Mid-Attack



BANNU: Terrorists' bid to blow up a bridge in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district failed on Tuesday when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated prematurely while it was being installed, police said.

Amir Khan, the spokesperson for the District Police Office in Bannu, told Dawn that two terrorists intended to blow up Doghoda

terrorist had also been initiated, he said.

A search operation was also under way to track down the other terrorist, he added.

Today's incident comes around a month after law enforcers foiled an attack by terrorists at a police station in Bannu.

According to police, terrorists belonging to Fima-al-Khawarij — a term the state uses for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — had tried to attack the Baka Khat police station from a distance in the October 19 incident.

But, police personnel opened fire on them after detecting their movement, preventing the terrorists from coming near the police station. Eventually, the terrorists fled, a police statement said. —RT/Agency

Man Cleared After 39-Year Ordeal as 100-Rupee Bribe Case Finally Crumbles

INDORE, Madhya Pradesh: Jagdishwar Prasad Audhia, a former clerk in the undivided Madhya Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation, has been acquitted by the court nearly 39 years after being arrested in 1986 on charges of accepting a 100-rupee bribe.

Speaking to the media, Audhia expressed mixed emotions. "The High Court has declared me innocent, but the certificate of acquittal hardly compensates for the enormous burden my family and I have carried for nearly four decades," he said. He revealed that he was unable to educate his children, arrange their marriages, and suffered

the loss of his wife due to lack of proper medical care. Additionally, strained relationships with relatives left lasting scars.

"I ask, who will restore all that I have lost?" Audhia questioned, highlighting the human cost of prolonged legal delays in India's justice system. —RT/Agency

TTAP Erupts in Streets, Warns 27th Amendment Has Slammed Every Door to Justice



ISLAMABAD: The joint opposition alliance, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTAP), on Tuesday held a protest rally against the 27th Constitutional Amendment, marching from Parliament House to the Supreme Court.

TTAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai and other leaders, including Allama Raja 27th Constitutional Amendment, marching from Parliament House to the Supreme Court.

bers of parliament, lawyers, and workers, participated in the demonstration before dispersing. The TTAP alliance also announced observing a nationwide "Black Day" to protest what it termed the "ongoing constitutional violations" in the country.

Speaking to newsmen, Allama Abbas said that the march symbolised their struggle for the "protection" of the Constitution, adding that all roads to justice have been "closed" in Pakistan.

"We walked from parliament to the Supreme

Court to highlight how all avenues of justice have been closed for the people of Pakistan," he stated.

Allama Abbas said the unanimously agreed-upon Constitution has been turned into a "contested document". He said that no legislation should contradict the spirit of the Constitution.

The TTAP leader went on to say that freedom of expression is being "suppressed" in Pakistan.

"People have been silenced, fundamental human rights are being

violated, and we will not remain quiet as long as we live," he remarked.

Announcing future course of action, Allama Abbas said that they would observe "Black Day" across the country next Friday, with supporters wearing black arm-bands. He added that a national conference is also being convened as part of the ongoing movement.

It is to be noted here that last week, parliament passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment with a two-thirds majority, changing the judicial structure and military command. —RT/Agency

Pension Query by Four Judges Sparks Storm of Resignation Speculation



ISLAMABAD: Following the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment, empowering the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) to transfer high court judges across provinces without their consent, fresh indications have emerged that as many as four high court judges may be contemplating resignation.

Well-placed sources told The News that these four judges have recently approached their respective high court's accounts department to seek detailed information regarding their post-retirement entitlements.

Their queries, all made verbally, relate to pensionary benefits, the exact dates on which such benefits become due in two of the cases, the status of their accumulated leave balances, and the depreciated value of the official vehicles currently in their use if they opt to purchase them now.

According to sources, these inquiries have triggered strong speculation within judicial circles that the four judges — already understood to be on the government's list for transfer after the passage of the 27th Amendment — are actively weighing the option of stepping down instead of being reassigned to new provinces or regions. —RT/Agency

Raja Faisal Rathore Sweeps Into Office as New AJK PM After Dramatic Ouster



MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Raja Faisal Rathore was sworn in as the new prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, a day after securing the assembly's vote to replace the ousted Anwarul Haq.

Rathore was administered the oath by AJK Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Lateef Akbar during a ceremony in Muzaffarabad, which was attended by Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governors.

Moreover, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, senior party leader Faraz Talpur and other civil-military officials were also present at the oath-taking ceremony.

After being sworn in, the newly elected AJK PM thanked the PPP's top leadership, including President Asif Ali Zardari and Talpur, for entrusting him with the premier responsibility.

"I pay tribute to the Pakistan Army, who are defending us by sacrificing their lives," Rathore said in his speech. He further said that the PPP has taken the responsibility of restoring the relationship with the people. —RT/Agency

FM Dar Holds High-Level Talks With Putin and Li Qiang at SCO Moscow Summit

MOSCOW: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday met with senior Russian and Chinese leadership at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

The SCO is holding its Council of Heads of Government summit in Moscow from November 17 to 18. Taking place under Russia's rotating presidency, the high-level meeting follows the landmark Tianjin summit three months earlier and comes at a pivotal moment for Eurasian economic connectivity in a shifting global order.

At the heads of government gathering, Dar met Russian President Vladimir Putin, along with other SCO heads of state and senior officials. In a post on X, the FO said that Putin welcomed leaders to the summit in the Russian capital.

He also emphasised the importance of strengthening regional economic cooperation under the SCO, highlighting its role as a key platform for connectivity, stability, and mutually beneficial development across the region."

Pakistan Says It Has Turned Page on Bitter Past, Reaches for Renewed Ties With Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman on Tuesday said that Pakistan had moved past its "bitter memories" and urged the forging of a new future with Bangladesh amid the recent warming of ties between the two countries.

Ever since a popular uprising in Bangladesh toppled Sheikh Hasina's government in August last year, there has been a thaw in ties between Islamabad and Dhaka, with trade and bilateral relations seeing a marked improvement.

Fazl is currently on a visit to the country and called for strong-er ties, telling a large religious gathering that one, and God willing, we will remain one. Relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be strengthened by the spirit of goodwill," he added.

Fazl added that Islam is a religion of peace and security, but the United States is spreading chaos across the world. He maintained that internal divisions among Muslims give enemies an opportunity to attack.

"Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Pakistan has always worked for the protection of the rights of all people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, beyond sectarian and denominational lines."

On the occasion, prominent political and social leaders from various political and religious parties were also present.

"Muslim Ummah cannot be divided, and no worldly power can break these bonds," reiterated the JUI-F chief. —RT/Agency

After Trump U-Turn, US House Races Ahead on Explosive Epstein Vote



US: The Republican-controlled US House of Representatives will vote on Tuesday on forcing the release of investigative files on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, with passage seen as all but guaranteed after President Donald Trump dropped his long-standing opposition.

Trump's reversal late on Sunday came days after a House petition gathered enough support to force a vote, a rare instance of House Republicans defying the president's wishes.

Until the weekend, Trump and his staff had lobbied hard to prevent any further release of files from the criminal investigation by the US Department of Justice into Epstein, a wealthy New York financier who was, for a time, friends with Trump.

"House Republicans should vote to release the Epstein files, because we have nothing to hide," the Republican president wrote late on Sunday on social media, calling the matter a "hoax" perpetuated by Democrats.

Democrats, and even some of Trump's supporters, say there is nothing hoax-like in the release of authentic Justice Department records. Epstein was convicted

on Florida state and federal charges related to his sexual abuse and trafficking of teenaged girls. He died in a federal jail cell in Manhattan in 2019 in what was ruled a suicide, a few weeks after he was arrested on new federal charges of sex trafficking children.

California Representative Robert Garcia, the senior Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said Trump failed in his effort to quash the House's Epstein investigation and changed course because "he's panicking and has realised he is about to lose this Epstein vote."

Trump reverses position Trump's change of heart came about because he had grown exasperated with Republicans' fixation on the Epstein files and wanted them to focus on the cost of living and other issues that matter more to voters, a senior White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Slams Escalating Israeli Aggression in West Bank and Al-Aqsa



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday strongly condemned the ongoing violations by Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers in the occupied West Bank, including repeated raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyards and provocations against worshippers.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said the pattern of storming Al-Aqsa and targeting worshippers has become routine, adding that such actions constitute a blatant breach of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The spokesperson said it is imperative to ensure the sanctity of holy sites in line with international law and the historical status quo.

The statement stressed that ongoing human rights abuses in Palestine underscore the need for urgent international attention.

Pakistan called on the global community to take "urgent and effective measures" to protect holy sites, prevent further settler violence and incursions, and uphold UN resolutions.

Reiterating its longstanding stance, Pakistan reaffirmed support for a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution. —RT/Agency