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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI AND HYDERABAD

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HYDERABAD Edition Vol. XII No 191 Regd. No. 120 visit us at

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Thursday, November 20, 2025, Jamadi-ul-Awal 28, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

PM Unleashes Sweeping 5-Year Overhaul to Fix, Fortify and Future-Proof Pakistan's Flood Defences

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved a 5-year flood management strategy — fix, expand and rebuild, Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik said on Wednesday. The minister revealed this during a press conference, alongside the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chief, outlining Pakistan's flood management strategy following heavy losses from recent floods. Malik said the 2022 floods caused damage equivalent to 9% of the country's GDP. Over the past three to four major floods, more than 4,500 people have died, and around 40 million were displaced. This year alone, 3.1 million people lost their homes, the minister said adding that the current drainage system cannot cope with the intensity of present-day monsoons. Malik said that the government has prepared a 250-day monsoon plan to deal with short-term challenges and will implement integrated measures over the next 200 days. "If similar floods occur



next year, we must be ready," he added. He said that a meeting chaired by PM Shehbaz made key decisions on a three-phase strategy of flood management. The first phase focuses on repairing damaged infrastructure, including dykes, flood gates, and other critical systems, within 200-250 days, before the next monsoon. He said that the PM directed early warning systems be immediately integrated at the district and tehsil levels. Officers at the AC and DC offices will screen incoming data, ensuring alerts reach vulnerable areas first. Malik further said that the PM also called for formulating plans to establish temporary schools and mobile healthcare units in flood-hit areas to prevent disruption to education and healthcare. The medium-term plan aims to expand existing drainage and flood management systems over the next three years. Meanwhile, the long-term strategy, spanning five years, envisions climate-resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding extreme weather events, he added. Malik emphasised that flood prevention and minimising loss of life should guide policymaking, adding that river floods, flash floods, drainage-related flooding, and coastal destruction were all highlighted during the PM-led meeting. —RT/Agency

New US Report Credits Pakistan with Military Edge Over India in May Conflict

US: A report presented to the United States Congress has acknowledged Pakistan's "military success over India" in the four-day war in May this year, stating that Pakistan used Chinese-made weapons to down Indian fighter jets, including French-made Rafales. The conflict was instigated by India after launching strikes inside Pakistan following a deadly attack that killed 26 people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgal town.



The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission report — reviewing US-China security and foreign affairs — highlighted the deepening defence cooperation between Islamabad and Beijing, stating that Pakistan employed advanced Chinese weaponry to enhance its military edge over India. The conflict saw Pakistan successfully employing China's modern weapons systems in active combat for the first time, including the HQ-9 air defence system, PL-15 air-to-air missiles, and J-10C fighter aircraft. The clash — during which Islamabad says it downed seven Indian fighter jets, including Rafales — became a notable "selling point" for China's defence sales efforts, the report added. It also noted that China offered to sell 40 J-35

fifth-generation fighter jets, KJ-500 surveillance aircraft, and ballistic missile defence systems to Pakistan in June. The report also emphasised the intensity of the conflict, observing that both countries struck targets deeper into each other's territories "than at any point in the past 50 years". The deadly conflict between the two countries began when India conducted missile strikes inside Pakistan during the night of May 5 and 6, which New Delhi claimed were aimed at "terrorist targets" in response to the Pahalgal attack. However, the strikes resulted in the martyrdom of several civilians and security personnel, while Pakistan, in addition to downing Rafales and other fighter jets, downed dozens of drones. Pakistan Armed Forces then launched a large-scale retaliatory strike, named "Operation Buntan-yun-Marsos", targeting over 20 Indian military sites across multiple regions. The Pakistan Air Force also used its JF-17 Thunder jets to destroy India's S-400 air defence system in Adampur by using hypersonic missiles. The clashes between the two nuclear-armed nations came to a close on May 10 after a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States. —RT/Agency

Trump Again Claims for the Umpteenth Time How He Single-Handedly Stopped a Pakistan-India War on the Brink of Eruption

WASHINGTON: Expressing pride in halting eight wars across the globe, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday claimed that he stopped a war from "restarting" between nuclear-armed neighbours, Pakistan and India. Addressing a joint press conference along with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is visiting the US for the first time in seven years, at his Oval Office, Trump said: "I've stopped eight wars... I've actually stopped eight wars." The US president said that he had done a lot of good with his office. He said, "We stopped India and Pakistan. I could go through the list... I'm very proud. I stopped one that was almost ready to start again."



"stopped one that was almost ready to start again." The US did engage and helped secure a ceasefire. Responding to a question, the US president said Pakistan and India are now "doing well". Moving on to Russia, Trump said: "I'm a little surprised at Putin. I's taken longer than I thought." Earlier this year, Pakistan and India engaged in a military showdown, the worst between the old foes in decades, which was sparked by the terrorist attack on tourists in IIOJK's Pahalgal area, which New Delhi alleged was backed by Pakistan. Islamabad denied involvement in the Pahalgal attack, which killed 26 men and offered to participate in a neutral probe into the deadly incident. During the clashes, Pakistan downed seven Indian fighter jets, including three Rafale, and dozens of drones. After at least 87 hours, the war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the US. —RT/Agency

US and Europe Turn Up the Heat, Urge Iran to Comply with UN Nuclear Watchdog



IRAN: Iran must "cooperate fully" with the UN's nuclear watchdog, according to a draft resolution submitted to the agency's board by Britain, France, Germany and the United States, and seen by AFP on Wednesday. Tensions between Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog have repeatedly flared in recent years, with relations being further strained in the wake of a 12-day war in June that saw Israeli and US strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities. Since the war, agency inspectors have not been granted access to key nuclear sites such as Fordo and Natanz, which were hit in the strikes in June, but they have been able to visit other sites. The draft, which is expected to be voted on by the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during its meeting this week, stresses that it is "imperative" for Iran to comply with its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. It also urges Iran to provide "access that the agency requests". Last week, the IAEA called on Iran to allow it to verify its enriched uranium inventories, especially its sensitive stockpile of highly enriched uranium that was "long overdue", according to a confidential report seen by AFP. "Iran has failed over the past five months to provide the IAEA with requested information regarding the status of its enriched uranium stockpiles and safeguarded nuclear facilities," the resolution reads. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that the country had no undeclared uranium enrichment sites. Araghchi added there was "no enrichment" taking place at present because the sites were damaged in the recent war with Israel. The assertion came after US media outlets, including the Washington Post and the New York Times, reported that Iran had accelerated construction at a secret underground nuclear site called "Pickaxe Mountain", or Kuh-e Kolang, near its Natanz facility. —RT/Agency

Dar Lands in Brussels to Launch Crucial Pakistan-EU Dialogue After High-Stakes Moscow Visit

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday arrived in Belgium to participate in the 7th Session of Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue after concluding Russia visit, where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.



According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the deputy premier was received by the Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU, Rahim Hayat Qureshi and other officers from the Pakistan Embassy. "Dar will co-chair the seventh session of Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue at the invitation of Kaja Kallas, the EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy," it said. The dialogue will review cooperation between Pakistan and the EU in all sectors under the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019, it added. The Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue is the highest level of institutionalised interaction between the two sides, the FO said. During the visit, the deputy premier will also participate in the 4th EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum. He will also hold a number of bilateral meetings and engagements with the senior EU officials on the sidelines of the Forum. Dar's visit to Brussels marks a "significant milestone in Pakistan-EU relations", the FO said, affirming that Islamabad remains committed to developing a "comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership" with the EU. Foreign Minister Dar was in Moscow to lead the Pakistani delegation at the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG). 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. —RT/Agency

Four Militants Eliminated in KP as Security Forces Intensify Targeted Operations

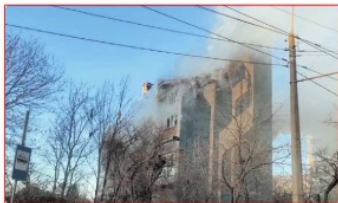
KP: Security forces killed four terrorists in separate engagements across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said in a statement on Wednesday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), multiple intelligence-based operations (IBO) were carried out between November 17 and 18, with the dead terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fina al Khawarij. Fina al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "On [the] reported presence of khawarij, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in Bajaur district," the statement read. "During the conduct of [the] operation, own troops effectively engaged the khawarij location and after an intense fire exchange, one khawarij was sent to hell." The ISPR said that two more terrorists were killed in IBOs conducted in the areas of Spinwam and Zakir Khel in North Waziristan, while another terrorist was killed in an IBO in Dera Ismail Khan District. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from Indian sponsored killed khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas," the statement added.



"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored khawarij found in the area, as [the] relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision 'Azim e Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee 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." —RT/Agency

Russian Barrage Devastates Ternopil as Deadly Strike Leaves Dozens Killed and Wounded

RUSSIA: At least ten people were killed and around 40 wounded after a heavy overnight Russian missile and drone attack took through a residential high-rise in western Ukraine, prompting neighbouring NATO states Poland and Romania to activate emergency air defence measures.



Ukrainian officials said the attack struck the upper floors of a multi-storey residential block in Ternopil, ripping away its facade as thick black smoke rose from the burning structure. An orange glow was seen through the haze as firefighters battled the blaze. Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko confirmed that all 10 fatalities occurred in Ternopil, adding that 12 children were among the 37 injured in the city. Authorities fear more people may still be trapped under the rubble. The attack formed part of a larger overnight assault in which Russia launched more than 470 drones and 48 missiles, hitting both energy and transport infrastructure across Ukraine. Energy officials reported that facilities were struck in at least seven regions, triggering emergency power cuts amid freezing temperatures. Usage restrictions were announced nationwide as authorities assessed the full extent of the damage. A Reuters witness in Lviv also heard explosions overnight, signalling that western Ukraine — traditionally considered safer — continues to face intensifying attacks. —RT/Agency

Washington Signs Off on \$700m Missile Shield Sale as Taiwan Ramps Up Defence



US: The United States confirmed the sale to Taiwan of an advanced missile system worth almost \$700 million which has been battle-tested in Ukraine, its second weapons package in a week bringing the total of \$1 billion, and reaffirmed support for Taipei. In the Indo-Pacific region, only Australia and Indonesia now operate the system, three of which the United States said last year Taiwan would receive as part of a \$2-billion weapons sale. The National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) medium-range air defence solutions, as they are called, are made by RTX and are a new weapon for Taiwan. The Pentagon said the company was given a firm fixed-price contract for procurement of the NASAMS units, with work estimated to be completed in February 2031. "Fiscal 2026 foreign military sales (Taiwan) funds in the amount of \$698,948,760 were obligated," it said in a statement on Monday. —RT/Agency

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives to a Far More Welcoming US Congress in Pivotal Visit

US: Lawmakers are set to meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) at the United States Capitol on Wednesday on the second day of a visit to the US that has aimed to tout stronger-than-ever economic and security ties with Washington while brushing off scrutiny of his human rights record. President Donald Trump gave bin Salman a lavish welcome at the White House on Tuesday and defended him over the



2018 killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents, which US intelligence agencies have concluded the crown prince approved. A handful of Republican members of Congress, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Rickens and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast attended a black-tie dinner at the White House for bin Salman on Tuesday, according to a White House official. —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Hyderabad Launches Sweeping Crackdown on Illegal Fuel Outlets and Road Cutting

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: In a major enforcement drive, the Hyderabad district administration launched back-to-back operations against illegal activities across the city and rural areas. Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, Zainul-Abideen Memon, teams led by Assistant Commissioner Taluka Hyderabad Rural, Gohar Masroor, conducted surprise inspections in Tando Hyder, Additional Husri, Tando Fazal, Tando Alam Marri, and Serri. During the operation, 11 illegal petrol and diesel outlets were sealed, while li-



censed fuel stations were checked for OGRA-notified prices, accurate dispensing measurements, and compliance with safety standards. Meanwhile, another operation was carried out in Resham Bazar, where Assistant Commissioner City, Babar Saleh Rahupoto, and DSP City halted illegal road cutting based on leaked information. Workers involved were taken into custody. Both actions highlight the administration's firm resolve to curb unauthorized practices, protect consumers, and maintain law and order across Hyderabad.

Abduction of Two Young Men Triggers Deep Tension in Kandiaro



By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: A shocking alleged kidnapping incident occurred in Kandiaro, where two youths, Abdul Sattar Lakho and Waqar Lakho, employees at a petrol unit in the Kaltarpur area were reportedly abducted by unknown men in a car. According to the family, the abductors forcibly took both men and their mobile phone loca-

tions later showed movement toward Saeedabad, creating fear and unrest among relatives and locals. Abdul Sattar's brother, Mashooq Ali Lakho, filed report at Kandiaro Police Station, stating that three car occupants abducted the youths. SHO Asad Nabi Khichi said police have begun technical investigation and are working to recover the abductees and arrest the culprits.

Sukkur Administration and Child Protection Authority Lead Striking Walk on Universal Children's Day

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: To mark Universal Children's Day, the Sukkur District Administration, in collaboration with the Sindh Child Protection Authority, organized an awareness walk promoting children's rights, education, and the elimination of child labor. Students, teachers, civil society representatives, and rescue officers participated, led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bushra Mansoor and Deputy Director Zubair Mahar. Attendees included Shabbir Memon, Azra Jamal,



Anwar Mahar, and education officers. Participants carried placards highlighting child rights, protection from violence, and compulsory education. ADC Mansoor emphasized enrolling working children in schools, while Deputy Director Mahar stressed raising awareness about children's legal rights. Books and awareness materials were distributed, with calls for stronger action to ensure child safety and education.

Parents' Day Ignites Celebrations at Surhan Public School Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: At Surhan Public School Thul, Principal Aziz Ahmed Ansari and Administrator Ghulam Sarwar Kandrani organized a vibrant Parents' Day ceremony. MPA Dr. Sohrab Khan Sarki, Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Sarki and other notable guests were warmly welcomed with traditional Ajraks and caps. Students presented tableaux against drugs and social evils, along with speeches, songs and national performances. Cer-



tificates were awarded to B Ed and M Ed graduates, while top-performing students received cash prizes, shields and trophies. Addressing the event, MPA Dr. Sarki praised the students' talent and urged parents to educate their children so they become valuable assets for the nation.

Karachi Bar President Amir Nawaz Warraich Mounts Fierce Opposition to Constitutional Amendments



S H A H D A D K O T: 28th aims to break Sindh. Karachi Bar President Advocate Amir Nawaz Warraich, addressing a reception hosted by Qambar-Shahdadt Kot Bar, said lawyers stand to protect Sindh's integrity and will not allow rulers to divide the province through amendments. He said the 26th and 27th amendments targeted the judiciary, while the proposed

DC Yasir Bhatti Rallies Brick Kiln Owners in Key Tando Bago Meeting

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: A meeting of brick kiln owners was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Tando Bago, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti. Addressing the attendees, he emphasized that brick kilns should be situated away from residential areas due to harmful byproducts that can lead to diseases. He warned against placing plastic bags near crushers, as they can cause eye damage and tuberculosis. DC Bhatti stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness



and transparency in kiln operations. Legal action will be taken against owners who violate regulations, and bricks must be sold at government-approved rates. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Tando Arain.

Mobile Voter Drive Supercharges Women's Registration in Hyderabad

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: District Election Commissioner Ahmed Nadeem Shaikh chaired a review meeting at GOR Colony to evaluate progress on the "Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration Campaign Phase-V (INVR-5)," aimed at reducing the gender gap in voter registration. Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) are actively visiting rural areas of Taluka Hyderabad (Rural), providing women easier access to CNIC and voter registra-



tion services. Officials discussed challenges, including network issues, reported by NADRA, which Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Saba Israr pledged to resolve. The campaign, active in 16 Sindh districts, involves coordinated efforts of Health, Local Government, Social Welfare, NADRA, and Information departments.

Sakhi Jam Datar Urs in Nawabshah Showcases Strong Call for Peace and Harmony



By Samad Ayaz Dahri
NAWABSHAH: During the 754th annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Asghar Ali Shah, popularly known as Sakhi Jam Datar, the Pakistan International Mashaikh Council organized a grand Peace Conference at the shrine's courtyard. Hosted by Sajida Nashin Faqir Naveed Hussain Wistro, the conference was attended by Sajida Nashins, Gaddi Nashins, eminent spiritual leaders, social figures, and devotees from across Pakistan. Speakers, including Syed Mustafa Hassan Shah, PIMC Provincial President Syed Sikandar Ali Shah, and other custodians, highlighted the teachings of Sufis in promoting peace, brotherhood, and interfaith harmony. They stressed introducing younger generations to these values to combat hatred and division.

Jamshoro Town Chairman Demands Swift Justice After Shocking Student Murder

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The city of Jamshoro is in shock after a student, Huzafa Pathan, was shot dead by armed assailants while resisting a street robbery. Town Committee Chairman Bilawal Qadir Shoro has urged immediate police action, writing to SSP Zafar Siddique Chhanga to address the deteriorating law and order. Chairman Shoro called the murder "deplorable" and highlighted that cit-

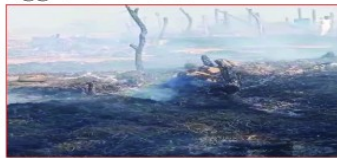


izens feel unsafe amid rising street crime. He demanded a crackdown on criminals, increased store public confidence patrolling, strategic deployment at vulnerable spots, covert operations, and pickets at city entry points to restore public confidence and the writ of the police.

Massive Blaze Ravages 18 Homes in Thatta Village, Dozens Struggle for Shelter

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: A devastating fire broke out in Gul Muhammad Palijo village near Gujo, Thatta, destroying 18 homes of the Sachwani Palijo community and leaving dozens homeless. The blaze spread rapidly, consuming valuables including gold, cash, grains, and livestock feed, causing losses estimated in millions of rupees. Residents, with no immediate help from authorities, struggled to



control the fire themselves. Families affected include Abdul Kareem, Mehar Ali, Shoukat Ali, Umeed Ali, Ali Muhammad, and others. Many are now sheltering under the open sky. The cause of the fire remains unknown. Local communities are appealing to authorities and relief agencies for urgent assistance with shelter, food, and financial aid.

Open Katchery in Thari Mirwah Delivers Rapid Relief to Public Grievances

By M Iqbal Somro

THARI MIRWAH: Following directions from the Sindh Chief Ombudsman, an open katchery was held under the supervision of the District Khairpur Regional Office in Thari Mirwah, with officers from all relevant government departments in attendance. Citizens raised numerous complaints against various official agencies. Several issues were immediately resolved during the session, while more



complex matters were referred to the stipulated time. High public participation reflected trust in government agencies and hope for regular grievance redressal sessions.

World Diabetes Day Sees LUMHS Unveil Endocrinology Institute and Major Awareness Seminar



By Munawar Chandio
JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) marked World Diabetes Day by inaugurating the new building of its Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetes. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan highlighted that Pakistan ranks third globally in diabetes prevalence, with nearly 30 million affected adults, half undiagnosed, increasing the risk of serious complications. During the seminar, Prof. Dr. Imran Ali Shaikh and Dr. Muhammad Saleem emphasized holistic care for diabetic patients, including healthy diet, physical activity, mental health support, and workplace well-being. The event drew doctors, faculty, students, and paramedical staff, showcasing LUMHS's commitment to diabetes awareness and preventive healthcare.

Fisheries Funds Misuse Inquiry Hits a Dead Halt

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A large-scale embezzlement inquiry involving a Fisheries Department project aimed at improving rural women's nutrition has seen little progress. Under the Livestock &

Fisheries initiative, funds worth tens of millions were released to provide fish and develop ponds, but beneficiaries reportedly never received support, and most ponds were never made functional. An internal inquiry held project in-

charge Abdul Latif Korai and others responsible, yet no action followed. After a citizen's complaint, Anti-Corruption authorities began probing the case, but the investigation remains slow, raising concerns about its outcome.

Pedestrian Left Critically Injured After Trawler Collision Near Daulatpur

By Aijaz Johio

DAULATPUR: A speeding trawler hit a pedestrian in front of Asghar Petrol Pump on the National Highway, leaving the man critically injured. Police

reached the scene and shifted him to Daulatpur Hospital, where doctors provided emergency first aid. The injured man remains unidentified, and while the trailer and its driver have been taken into custody, he may be referred to Nawabshah for further treatment. Police said no identification documents were found with him, and doctors report his condition as highly critical and un-

Aga Khan University Marks World Premature Baby Day in Mithi with Powerful Health Awareness Push

By Ghazi Nohrio

MITHI: Aga Khan University's Kangaroo Mother Care Project celebrated World Premature Baby Day at Royal Palace Hotel, Mithi, organizing an awareness seminar on the health of preterm and low-birth-weight infants. The event was attended by UNICEF's Dr. Shahla Tabassum, DHO Tharparkar Dr. Lekhraj Sarangani, pediatric specialists, government and NGO officials, paramedical staff, community midwives, and citizens. Speakers emphasized the importance of maternal health in ensuring healthy newborns and highlighted the project's success in improving care for preterm babies. DHO Sarangani stated that district authorities fully support



initiatives promoting maternal and child health. Experts called for wider implementation of the project across Tharparkar to reduce infant mortality and improve early-childhood care.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, November 20, 2025



Trump's Meltdown Shames America — And the World Watches in Alarm

The unhinging of Donald Trump is no longer a warning sign — it is an undeniable reality that grows more disturbing by the day. His latest outbursts, aimed at female journalists simply doing their jobs, expose a level of arrogance, hostility, and emotional instability that is not only deplorable but profoundly un-American. What does it say about the leader of the free world when he calls one woman reporter "piggy," labels another "terrible," and threatens to yank a major broadcast network off the air for asking questions about Jeffrey Epstein and Saudi human rights abuses?

Trump's tirade against Bloomberg's Catherine Lucy, whom he dismissed with a sneering "Quiet,

piggy," is not merely sexist — it is a chilling



glimpse into a presidency that brooks no scrutiny. When ABC's Mary Bruce pressed him about conflicts of interest, the Khashoggi murder, and Congress's decision to release Epstein files, Trump lashed out again, branding ABC "fake news" and threatening its broadcast license. He even attempted to shield Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman from tough questioning, snapping, "You don't have to embarrass our guest."

This is not strength. This is insecurity weaponized through power.

And it should alarm every American — and every democracy around the world — that the most powerful man on the planet believes he is above accountability. How many times will the American people excuse his misogyny, his rudeness, his disdain for the press, and his utter lack of humanity? His second term already feels suffocatingly long, defined not by leadership but by grievance and vengeance. If this is only the beginning, then may God help America — and the world — endure the next three years. The shame is no longer Trump's alone. It is the shame of every institution and citizen that continues to give him a pass.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Press Club Digri Awards Social Workers for Outstanding Humanitarian Service

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Press Club Digri organized an awards ceremony to recognize individuals serving humanity in various fields. The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by senior journalist Talib Hassan Arain, and the program was compered by Syed Ali Shah. The chief guest was Vice Chairman UC Pabben, Ramzan Arain. Awards were presented to Dr. Mohiuddin Qaimkhani,



Ashraf Qaimkhani of honored with traditional Al-Khidmat Foundation, social personalities members. The event emphasized encouraging social workers and strengthening the spirit of community service. Guests were also

Arson Devastates Crops in Garhi Hassan as Villagers Demand Immediate Justice

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Near Garhi Hassan, in the village of Haji Waheed Bugti, unidentified armed men set fire to a farmer's five-acre crop field and fled, causing losses worth millions of rupees. Locals, including Qutbuddin Bugti, Pehrudin Bugti, and Fayaz

Behlkhani, stated that the land had been leased for the past three years and suspected a dispute within the Khoso community might be behind the attack. They urged SSP Jafield and fled, causing losses worth millions of rupees. Locals, including Qutbuddin Bugti, Pehrudin Bugti, and Fayaz

MPA Heer Sohu Inspects Key Development Projects in Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A key meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Sajawal and Sindh government spokesperson MPA Heer Sohu was held at the DC office to review ongoing development projects in the district. Engineers and contractors briefed officials on project progress, including the Dilshad Zanwar Water Supply Scheme and Sattian Sharif Drainage Scheme, scheduled for completion by December 7, 2025. MPA Sohu expressed concern over delays in the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Family Park, directing immediate resumption and strict monitoring. She emphasized timely completion of all projects, including pure block schemes in Sujawal, Banno, Laikpur, and Daro, prioritizing public welfare.



Manzoor Hussain Wassan Dismisses Sindh's Division Claims, Promises Jobs and Development

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Former Provincial Minister Manzoor Hussain Wassan, speaking to the media in Town Fakirabad, stated that Sindh is not like a "Bombay bakery" to be divided easily. He warned against rumors suggesting the province would be split, saying no mother in Sindh would tolerate such an idea. Wassan emphasized that the PPP has always fought for Sindh's interests and no one



can divide it. He added that developmental projects in Kotdiji are progressing rapidly, and the party aims to provide basic facilities to every village and town, while ensuring employment opportunities for educated youth.

Tharparkar Couple Issues Urgent Plea for Protection in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDU MUHAMMAD KHAN: Jamila, a resident of Kaloi in Tharparkar, and her husband Ayaz Ali Lund, held a press conference at Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club, seeking protection from authorities. Jamila stated that after her marriage, they have been threatened and harassed by her



family. She appealed to the IG Sindh and other officials to take immediate steps to ensure their safety and protect their lives.

Talhar Citizens Push Hard for Action Against Encroachments

TALHAR: Residents of Talhar are facing difficulties due to encroachments on a major city street. The Assistant Commissioner and

Mukhtiar, with the Town Committee, had planned an operation to address the issue, but it was not completed. Citizens have requested the administration to take timely action to remove the encroachments and ensure smoother access, improving daily convenience for the public.—RT

Bribery Network Busted in Mirpurkhas Licensing Branch

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Mirpurkhas' new Driving Licence Branch in-charge, DSP Syed Aijaz Shah, has shut the doors on bribery

and political influence soon after assuming charge. His strict actions against illegal licences and irregularities have upset influential circles across the district. Transferred for his honesty, DSP Shah says he has always served with integrity. Citizens believe his measures have financially raised hope for a corruption-free, transparent licensing system.

Young Nurses Association Rises in Protest Demanding Paid Internships



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Young Nurses Association (Student Wing) of the Female College of Nursing Larkana held a protest demanding paid internships for nursing students. Carrying placards and raising slogans, students including Bakhtawar Soomro, Soniya Chandio, Emman Chandio, and Sabra Rind urged authorities to recognize their contributions. They stated that nursing students work day and night in hospitals during internships, playing a vital role in improving healthcare services. The protesters called on the Sindh Chief Minister, Health Minister, Secretary, and Nursing Director to immediately implement paid internships, acknowledging the students' hard work and responsibilities in the healthcare system.

Sujawal Joint Meeting Tackles Alarming Surge in Child Labour



By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A joint meeting, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Abdul Kareem Sangrasi, was held at Darbar Hall to address the increasing issue of child labour in the district. The meeting, convened under the Labor and Human Resource Department Sindh's November 17, 2025 directive, highlighted Sajawal as the most affected district in the province according to the Child Labour Survey 2023-24. Officials discussed statistics, ongoing schemes for child protection, education, financial assistance, and rehabilitation, and devised a district-level roadmap. ADC Sangrasi emphasized coordinated action by all departments to eradicate child labour and mandated progress reporting in the next meeting.

Hyderabad Lawyers Rise in Protest Against Controversial Constitutional Amendments

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Lawyers of Hyderabad District and Sessions Court staged a protest against alleged violations of Pakistan's Constitution and amendments. Advocates including Faisal Mughal, Shafi Pirzado, Dhani Bakhsh Solangi, and others carried placards demanding constitutional supremacy and protection of citizens' rights. Participants warned that political pressure and arbitrary



amendments undermine democracy, rule of law, and institutional independence. Legal leaders emphasized their commitment to defending judicial autonomy and constitutional rights, stating that the lawyer community will continue raising its voice against unconstitutional actions and threats to democratic principles.

Anti-Corruption Team Storms Gambat Market Committee Over Suspected Irregularities

By Munawar Shah

GAMBAT: In a major operation, the Anti-Corruption Circle raided the Gambat Market Committee office, seizing key files, financial records, employee service books, and payment documents.

The raid, conducted under a Sindh High Court order following a petition by employee Mohammad Peril Junejo, involved Market Committee Secretary Abdul Majeed Chandio, Legal Advisor Syed Imtiaz Shah, and committee member Mehr Narejo. Preliminary findings suggest possible irregularities in salaries, pensions, and budget use. The Anti-Corruption team has initiated a full audit and investigation, and if allegations are confirmed, further legal action and arrests may follow.

Influential Group Accused of Violently Attacking Local Shopkeeper

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: A local shopkeeper, Safdar Rangrez, alleged that he was brutally attacked by influential individuals at his shop. Safdar told reporters that four months ago he had rented a house from Allah Diyo Qureshi Rajput, but in the third month, undue



pressure was applied, and the house was forcibly vacated. During the eviction, he claimed he was mercilessly beaten, causing financial loss and risking his life. He further alleged ongoing blackmail by the group over the past four months. Safdar Rangrez has urged SSP Mirpurkhas, DIG, and senior authorities to take immediate legal action and ensure his protection.

SPORTS



PCB Rolls Out Updated NOCs for Players Heading to Global Leagues



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has released an updated list of No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) for national players taking part in upcoming international cricket leagues.

Several top and emerging cricketers have now been cleared to participate in the Abu Dhabi T10 League and the ILT20.

The PCB confirmed that national players have been granted NOCs to participate in the T10 League in Abu Dhabi, with permissions valid until November 25.

Players who received NOCs for the tournament include Fakhar Zaman, Hassan Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khawaja Nafi, Asif Ali, and Salman Irshad.

Three players cleared for ILT20

The board also announced NOCs for three cricketers to join the ILT20 League, scheduled from December 2 to January 4.

Additionally, players granted NOCs for franchise commitments include Zaman Khan, Abbas Afridi, Irfan Khan, Azam Khan, and Shahnaaz Dhan.

Top stars received NOCs earlier. The PCB noted that several leading players—Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Afridi, Shadab Khan, Haris Rauf, and Hassan Ali—had already been issued NOCs before the latest update.—Agency

Arshad Nadeem Strikes Gold Again as Pakistan Rules Riyadh Javelin Final



Pakistan shone at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh as Arshad Nadeem defended his javelin gold with an 83.05m throw, remaining the only athlete to cross 80m. Despite looking unhappy with most attempts, the Olympic champion of stayed untouchable throughout. Muhammad Yasir Sultan delivered late drama, unleashing a superb 76.04m final throw to grab silver, edging past Nigeria's Samuel Adams. Kure. Pakistan's powerhouse duo turned the thrilling showcase of dominance.—Agency

Men's Under-19 World Cup 2026 Fixtures Unveiled with Harare Sports Club Set for Grand Final



The 16th edition of the Men's Under-19 World Cup is set to take place from January 15 to February 6, 2026. The ICC announced the fixtures for the tournament on Wednesday, with 16 teams participating in the event to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Tanzania will be making their debut in the competition, which will also see Japan featuring in it for the second time after they last played in it in 2020. The 16 teams have been divided into four groups of four teams each. Group A includes India, Bangladesh, USA and New Zealand; Group B comprises Zimbabwe, Pakistan, England, and Scotland; Group C has defending champions Australia, Ireland, Japan and Sri Lanka; and Group D has Tanzania, West Indies, Afghanistan, and South Africa. While each team plays the three other sides in its group during the first round of the tournament, the top three ranked teams from each group progress to the Super Six.—Agency

Starc Gears Up to Shoulder Heavy Load as Australia's Senior Strike Weapon

The last man standing of Australia's big three, Mitchell Starc, says he may take on a little bit of extra responsibility as the senior man in their new-look pace attack. But he believes Scott Boland's experience and Brendan Doggett's form will hold them in good stead in the opening Ashes Test in Perth.

Starc, 35, is Australia's ironman having not missed a Test through injury since he broke his finger on Boxing Day in 2022. He reached his 100th Test and took his 400th Test wicket in Australia's last Test match in July. He will lead the attack in the absence of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood in Perth and remarkably will be the only one of Australia's quicks to have bowled in a first-class game at Perth Stadium, with Boland and Doggett having only



played BBL matches at the venue.

But Starc is confident both men will handle the big occasion at the start of the series. "I think we're all pretty clear on what our roles are," he said on Wednesday.

"Obviously I've got a little bit more experience there. Scotty's been around for a fair while now, so it's not like I'm telling him what to do. We've got Patty in the sheds with us anyway. So yeah, I may take on a little bit of an experienced role, if you like. But we've all been around the traps for a while, so it's just staying together as a group."

Starc believes Doggett will be able to handle the pressure of an Ashes series as he seems certain to debut as Australia's third quick in the attack. Starc first met Doggett in 2018 when they toured the UAE together for a series against Pakistan and believes he has come a long way since his first tour with Australia's Test squad.

"Brendan was a lot younger and rawer then," Starc said. "We knew what he was about, and since then he's made the change to South Australia. I think he's come in red-hot. He's had a good couple of weeks. We as a group know what he's capable of, and the skills that he presents. And being a little bit older than back in 2018, he's probably a little bit more comfortable in his own skin and around the group. So really excited if he gets his opportunity this week to see what he can do on a Test arena. Having had him around the group for a while over the years, I think he's certainly in a great headspace."

Starc and Doggett put on a clinic in the Perth Stadium nets on Wednesday morning under overcast skies after Australia's training was delayed briefly due to a lightning strike.—Agency

England Inject Bashir Into 12-Man Squad for High-Stakes Perth Clash

England have deferred their decision on whether to hit Australia with an all-pace attack in the first Ashes Test at Perth's Optus Stadium after confirming a 12-man squad featuring both Mark Wood and Shoaib Bashir.

Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum still have designs on letting their fast bowlers loose on what is expected to be the fastest pitch of the series. Wood is deemed fit, having recovered from a tight hamstring sustained in the warm-up match with the Lions last week. While he is expected to make the final XI, England are giving themselves time before deciding whether to go all-in with their seamers.

Wood bowled for 40 minutes at the Perth nets during Tuesday's training session, and sent down just two overs on Wednesday afternoon, before taking part in light fielding drills on the outfield with physical preparation coach Pete Sim. He then had a long look at the pitch with stadium curator Isaac McDonald.

Wood would be one of five players in the XI with previous Test experience in Australia, along with Stokes, Joe Root, Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope. The 35-year-old was also the standout quick on the 2021-22 tour, taking 17 wickets at 26.64. That includes a career best 6 for 37 in the last Test of that tour, a day-nighter in Hobart, when England also opted to field an XI without a specialist spinner. It was the second time they had done so in that series after the second Test in Adelaide (also a pink-ball match), which was acknowledged as an error in hindsight when seamer Ollie Robinson resorted to sending down a few overs of offspin.

You have to go back to Boxing Day 1998 for the last time England fielded an XI for a red-ball match in Australia without a specialist spinner. They also did not field one in their last Test in July, against India at the Kia Oval, with Bashir out with a finger injury and Liam Dawson, his replacement for the fourth Test, dropped.

Bashir's characteristics—a high release point and knack of overspin—suits Australian pitches, something Stokes and McCullum raved about when bringing him into the set-up at the start of 2024 for the tour of India.

It is worth noting that Nathan Lyon averages 20.86 at this ground, with 29 dismissals from five Tests, though is obviously a far more accomplished and seasoned operator than Bashir, whose 68 dismissals have come at 39.00 in his 19 Tests so far.—Agency



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Ngidi Bolsters South Africa Squad Ahead of Second Test Against India

Fast bowler Lungi Ngidi has been added to South Africa's squad for the second Test against India in Guwahati which starts on Saturday.

Ngidi's inclusion suggests Kagiso Rabada, who missed South Africa's sensational victory in Kolkata with a rib injury, is a doubtful starter again. The visitors' other fast bowling options on tour are Marco Jansen, Corbin Bosch and Wiaan Mulder.

Ngidi joined the team at their Kolkata hotel on Tuesday before their scheduled departure to Guwahati on Wednesday.



Ngidi has played 20 Tests in his career so far, but only three since making a comeback in Cape Town against India in January 2024. His last red-ball appearance was the World Test Championship final against Australia in June. He has played just one Test match in India, going wicketless in Ranchi in 2019.

Ngidi does have overs in his legs having been part of South Africa's ODI and T20I series in Pakistan in October and November. Last week, he played a game for Titans in the CSA T20 Challenge.

At Eden Gardens, South Africa's quicks sent down 40 overs and returned six wickets as the team registered their first Test win in India since 2010. That Kolkata pitch provided enough assistance for the seamers but it is still unclear what the conditions in Guwahati will be like given the venue has never hosted Test cricket before.—Agency

Wilson and Litchfield Power Thunder to First Win of the Season



Sydney Thunder 154 for 1 (Wilson 55*, Litchfield 50*, Voll 43, Mills 1-19) beat Perth Scorchers 150 for 7 (Mack 79, Bates 1-18) by nine wickets.

Sydney Thunder have breathed life back into their WBBL season, recording their first win of the summer with a convincing nine-wicket victory over Perth.

Set 151 to win at Sydney's Drummoyne Oval, Tahlia Wilson's unbeaten 55 from 44 balls helped Thunder cruise to victory with ten balls to spare.

Phoebe Litchfield then finished the game with a big six to bring up her 35-ball half-century, while Georgia Voll hit 43 from 31 at the top.

Beaten in their first three games, Thunder remain seventh on the table but are now back in the hunt ahead of their clash with last-placed Brisbane on Friday.

After being given a life early when Freya Kemp put down a sitter when on five, Thunder opener Wilson was clinical from there on.

She sat at the other end while Voll was the main aggressor, before taking over the innings when the right-hander was caught behind.

Leading run-scorer in the 50-over WNCL last summer, Wednesday's knock marked only Wilson's third half-century in 80 WBBL games. Earlier Katie Mack threatened to make the Thunder pay for a missed chance of their own, when the opener was dropped first ball at slip by Heather Knight before reaching 79.—Agency

Perth Curators Brave Storms as Pitch Drama Intensifies Ashes Mystery



Given the hyperbole, with unseasonal weather adding another layer of drama, there is much intrigue over an expected fast and bouncy Perth Stadium surface ahead of the first Test.

However, Australia quick Mitchell Starc remains pessimistic of a pitch which the local tabloid newspaper, in its latest effort to needle England ahead of the series, has dubbed a 'Green Monster'.

The teams in recent days have been preparing in the nets behind the massive ground, with the practice sessions notable for sharp and rapid bounce. Whether conditions can be replicated on a drop-in surface that was put in just four weeks ago remains unknown, although the groundstaff do remain hopeful.

"The wickets out the back have had a bit of sideways, and up and down," Starc told reporters. "I'm not going to pretend I know how to read wickets until they're played on. A fair bit has been made about the colour of it and that it's going to be a green mamba. I think it's probably ready to go now, so I don't expect to see it do as much as you all anticipate it to do."

Having opened in 2018, and missing two international cricket seasons due to Covid, Perth Stadium is still a relatively new Test venue with no consistent trend established yet.

In last year's India Test, similarly played in late November, both first innings were over within four sessions before the pitch then flattened on days two and three, before unevenness started to come through via large cracks. The year before, against Pakistan, batting was treacherous in the fourth innings thanks to those same cracks, although that Test was played in the oppressive conditions of mid-December.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT



Larsa Pippen Hints Jeff Coby May Be Nearing a Major Commitment



Larsa Pippen has revealed that her boyfriend, Jeff Coby, may be getting ready to propose.

Back in July, the reality star shared with PEOPLE Magazine that the couple had been openly discussing their future and preparing to take the next step in their relationship.

"I feel like we're on a really good path right now," Pippen said at the time. "We get along with everything. He's been asking me what shaped stones I like, so I've been giving him little hints."

"We haven't really talked about the size, but we just talked about [how] I like the brilliant cut or an oval," she continued, calling those shapes "really cute."

Now, as per the latest report by PEOPLE Magazine, Pippen has been actively helping the athlete choose the perfect ring.

During a recent confessional at BravoCon, she revealed that she has been showing the 31-year-old professional basketball player examples of what she loves.

"I have shown Jeff different rings and things like that," she shared, noting that she has been clear about her preferences whenever her beau plans to pop the question.

Ariana Grande Reflects on Stepping Back from Music with One Last Hurrah



Ariana Grande has made a shocking confession about her musical career.

Recently, the Wicked: For Good star made an appearance on the Good Hang with Amy Poehler podcast, where she reflected on what the next decade of her life could look like.

"I think the last 10 to 15 years will look very different to the ones that are coming up," Grande, 32, said.

She even addressed her future plans and hinted that she may be slowing down after her next run of shows.

"I don't want to say any definitive things. I do know that I'm very excited to do this small tour, but I think it might not happen again for a long, long, long time," she said of her upcoming Eternal Sunshine Tour.

Nonetheless, Grande emphasized that she plans to give this tour everything she has.

"It's going to be beautiful and I'm so grateful that I—I think that's why I'm doing it because I'm like, 'One last hurrah.' For now," she said.

Lady Gaga Opens Up on Silent Mental Health Struggle at the Height of Her Career



Lady Gaga is now in a much stable place after facing a severe mental health crisis that pushed her to the edge, revealing that therapy and her fiancé helped during the darkest times of her life.

As per a report by RadarOnline.com, the singer went through severe panic attacks on her recent Mayhem Ball tour, causing her to cancel her world tour earlier and seek a therapist.

In a recent chat, the 39-year-old singer, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, looked back at her unstable mental health during her peak career years.

"There was one day that my sister said to me, 'I don't see my sister anymore.' And I canceled the tour," Gaga shared.

She went on to say, "There was one day I went to the hospital for psychiatric care. I needed to take a break. I couldn't do anything... I completely crashed. It was really scary. There was a time where I didn't think I could get better... I feel really lucky to be alive."

"I know that might sound dramatic, but we know how this can go," she added.

Gaga further noted that her unstable mental health even affected her major career milestones.

"I did A Star Is Born on lithium," she confessed.

"I see all the fans and the music is so loud and it's very dramatic... and for 90 seconds, I have to talk myself out of a panic attack," the A Star Is Born actress added.

Face of the Day



My name is Humayoun Sheikh and I'm a Young Gaming Enthusiast from Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Bus-Dumper Crash in KN Shah Claims Two Lives and Injures Over 25

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic accident occurred when a passenger bus collided with a stationary dumper near Lidhano Bus Stop. Two men, 30-year-old Barkat Ali Manganhar and his

40-year-old brother Man Manganhar, died on the spot. Over 25 passengers, including women, children, and men, were injured, among them Amanat Ali Manganhar, Sher Dil Khoso, and Nazir Khoso. The injured were rushed to

Larkana Trauma Center by police and locals, where they are receiving medical care. Families said the group was returning from a wedding in Dadu when the collision occurred, causing widespread shock in the community.

Open Katchery Confronts Mounting Issues of Salaries, Pensions, and GP Funds

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Regional Director Sindh Ombudsman Ali Akbar Jagirani held an open katchery at the District Accounts Office, emphasizing timely payment of salaries, pensions, GP fund, and other dues for serving and retired government employees. He instructed officials to address any obstacles and ensure compliance with government rules, including the provision of dou-



ble pension after 72 years upon completion of required documents. Around 10-12 applications were received from employees, including Muhammad Aslam Tunio, Amanullah Bugti, and Ejaz

Ali, concerning pensions, GP funds, and other entitlements. Immediate directives were issued for resolution. District Accounts Officers Altaf Hussain Mangi and Abdul Fatah Soomro were present.

MNA Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman Visits Ghulam Muhammad Banglani to Offer Condolence

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Member of the National Assembly and spiritual leader of the Sarwari Jamaat, Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman, visited the residence of Ghulam Muhammad Banglani to offer condolences on the passing of his cousin, Amanullah Khan Banglani. He recited



Fateha and prayed for the departed soul. The condolence visit was also at-

tended by Dr. Maahir Mujhid Jejean, Consul General of Karbala-Najaf, Iraq, posted in Karachi. During the visit, Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman and the Iraqi Consul General held discussions on matters of mutual interest, highlighting the spirit of co-operation and friendship between local and international dignitaries.

Heartbroken Kotri Youth Takes His Own Life

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: A young man from the Christian Colony area of Kotri, 22-year-old Sunny

son of Munir Masih had committed suicide by jumping into the Karachi Canal 4 days ago due to frustration from unemployment, caus-

ing him to drown in the water currents. Chaos erupted at home when the young man's body reached home.

Burst Water Pipelines Trap Mirpurkhas Residents in Severe Hardship

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Residents of Gulshan Colony (UC-10) and Ismail Shah Colony (UC-11) in Mirpurkhas are facing severe difficulties due to broken

freshwater pipelines. In Gulshan Colony, water is continuously being wasted, while in Ismail Shah Colony, water shortages are severely affecting daily life. Locals have urged the Mayor,

district administration, and water supply authorities to urgently repair the damaged pipelines and restore water supply immediately, warning that delays may force them to protest.

Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation Workers Declare Office Shutdown in Protest

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Retired and active employees of Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation have decided to close all offices from Thursday until their demands are met. The decision came during a consultative meeting at Jinnah Hall, attended by a large number of employees. Key demands include increased salaries and pensions, payment of five months' pending dues, and enforcement of High Court orders on promotions. APCA Division Presi-



dent Mazhar Abbasi urged all staff, including those from towns, vehicle stations, and fire

stations, to join the protest. Leaders emphasized unity to ensure employees' rights are secured.

Kandiaro Couple Seeks Urgent Protection Amid Love Marriage Threats

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Residents of Dhani Bux village, Mazhar Ali and his wife Rima Rajpar, approached Hyderabad District and Sessions Court seeking protection. The couple, who married after mutual consent, claim Rima's family members, including Arshad, Khairan, and Amir Ali Rajpar, are threatening their lives. Speaking to the media, they demanded immediate security and intervention. They have formally requested protection from the DIG, SSP



Nausheero Feroze, and SHO Kandiaro, urging authorities to ensure their

safety and provide justice against threats arising from their love marriage.

Buffalo Theft Sparks Tense Standoff After Thieves Are Captured in Jhol

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: Two stolen buffaloes from Jhol police jurisdiction were recovered in Sinjhora after locals tipped off police. One suspect, Ghulam Haider Laghari, was ar-

rested, and the buffaloes handed over to Jhol police. However, tensions escalated when the suspect's house was allegedly entered by police and private individuals, resulting in a villager being injured.

MQM Pakistan Leaders Press Sui Gas SDO Over Exploding Bills in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: MQM Pakistan district in-charge Raees Ahmed Khanzada, along with leaders Muhammad Azam Qaim Khani, Iqbal Qureshi, and Ghulam Nabi Shah, met Sui Gas SDO Habib Hussain Laghari to highlight citizens' grievances regarding excessive November bills. The dele-

gation reported inflated charges due to faulty meters and additional surcharges, causing financial strain on households. SDO Habib Hussain Laghari assured the MQM delegation that consumers can submit a request with the relevant bill at the office, and their complaints will be re-viewed and resolved promptly to ensure fair billing.

Bilawal Reaches Khangarh to Condole with Mahar Brothers

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived at Gohar Palace in Khangarh via helicopter to offer condolences on the death of the mother of PPP MNA Sardar Ali Gohar Khan Mahar, PPP MPA Ali Nawaz, also known as Raja Khan Mahar, and the paternal aunt of Provincial

Minister Sardar Muhammad Baksh Khan Mahar. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed grief and was accompanied by Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah. Strict security arrangements were in place inside and outside Gohar Palace. After offering condolences, Bilawal departed for Sukkur by helicopter.

Sujawal Residents Demand Action Over Failing Population Department Services

By Samiullah Memon

DARRO: Residents of Sujawal have expressed concerns over the functioning of the district Population Depart-

ment. Citizens say many of the services remain inactive, with services limited to paperwork, causing inconvenience. Some staff behavior has also been questioned.

Tando Allahyar Police Target Drug Dealers in Firm Operation

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Police in Tando Allahyar carried out operations against drug traffickers, habitual criminals, and illegal substance suppliers. During the raids, 13,350 gutka packets, 100 kg raw

material, and two vehicles were seized. Two suspects, Naseem Ahmed and Prem, were arrested, and three cases were registered. Authorities emphasized continued efforts to control the drug trade and maintain public safety.

SAS Johi Unveils Two New Books in Vibrant Literary Gathering

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: Sindhi Adabi Sangat Johi celebrated the 60th birthday of a renowned writer on November 18 with the launch of his books 'Gorak Mathi' and 'Johi Ja Jurfel'. Chaired by Azad Anwar Kandhro, the event featured special guests Mustafa Dost and Lala Rafiq Zaur, while honorary attendees in-

cluded Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Sharafuddin Panhwar, Manzoor Akash Solangi, Ghulam Mustafa Mangnejo, Tabid Bukhari, Rajab Azad Solangi, Asad Kori, Ashiq Dadri, Rashid Laghari, Comrade Qurban Kokar, and many others. The ceremony, coordinated by Sangat Secretary Ghayal Laghari, drew prominent literary figures from across the region.

Crumbling Primary School Puts Students in Serious Danger

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Government Primary School in Talio Junejo village, the ancestral home of Sindh's Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, is in a critical state due to negligence by the Works and Education Department. Built in 1995, the school serves over 80 children from grades one to five but has only a single classroom and



one teacher. Lack of furniture forces students to sit on the floor in cold weather. Locals demand immediate reconstruction and provision of basic facilities to ensure a safe learning environment and protect the children's future.

DEO Liaquat Ali Naich Visits Schools, Stresses Urgent Need for Quality Education

By Javed Laghari

DADU: District Education Officer Liaquat Ali Naich visited several schools in Maki Masjid, including Government Primary School and Government Girls School. During the visits, he interacted with students, asked questions and observing



classes. Praising Headmaster Ghulam Yaseen Chando, Naich commended teachers Abdul Qadir Soomro, Abdul Jabbar Alkani, Abdul Karim

Chandio, Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Mushtaq Ali Husaini Gopang, Rafiq Ahmed Chando, Ali Nawaz Panhwar, and Ahmed Ali Sheikh for their dedication. He emphasized teachers' crucial role, encouraged continuous efforts for student learning, and assured support for anyone working to improve education.

Dadu Prepares Grand Celebration for 58th Anniversary of Pakistan Peoples Party

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan Peoples Party is all set to celebrate its 58th founding anniversary with enthusiasm across district headquarters. In Dadu, full preparations have been made to mark this his-

toric day, dedicated to honoring the sacrifices and people-oriented politics of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. On the occasion, PPP Dadu President and Sindh Assembly member Barrister Pir Majeeb-ul-

Haq, General Secretary, MPA Fayaz Butt, Mir Saddam Balhro, and Information Secretary will address a public gathering. Citizens are invited to join the celebrations and reaffirm their commitment to democracy, equality, and justice.

Legal Community Rallies Around Wahab Munshi in Solemn Condolence Visit

HYDERABAD: Renowned legal figure and President of the Larkana High Court Bar Association, Athar Abbas Solangi, accompanied by Advocate Jan Muhammad Abbasi and his team, visited Munshi House to extend their heartfelt condolences. They met columnist and High Court advocate Abdul Wahab Munshi and Noman Munshi, offering prayers



for the departed soul of pressing profound solidarity with the grieving family.—RT

OFFICE OF LAND ADMINISTRATION & REVENUE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (LARMIS), REFORMS WING & SPECIAL CELL, BOARD OF REVENUE, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Office of Land Administration & Revenue Management Information System (LARMIS), R&S Wing, Board of Revenue Government of Sindh, invites tender under Single Stage - Two Envelope Procedure under SPTRA 2010 (amended till date) through EPADS from all interested companies for the following tender under Land Administration & Revenue Management Information System (LARMIS) R&S Wing, Board of Revenue, Sindh:

Tender Title	Bidding Procedure	Bidding document Reference	Document Fee
"Hiring of the Services of Private Security Company for Provision of 54 Security Guards (02 For Each Peoples Service Centers, LARMIS across Sindh) Reforms Wing & Special Cell, Board of Revenue Sindh".	Single Stage- Two Envelope	https://bor.sindh.gov.pk/https://portal.sindh.aprocure.gov.pk/	Rs. 3,000/-

NOTE: Scope of work alongwith detailed specifications of the assignment are available in the Tender Document which can be purchased from the Office of the Secretary-Cum-Director LARMIS, Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh, adjacent Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Clifton, Karachi or the same can be downloaded from the SPTRA web portal <https://portal.sindh.aprocure.gov.pk/>.

Instructions:

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain the bidding documents for the tender item from the Office of Secretary-Cum-Director LARMIS, R&S Wing, Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh, adjacent Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Clifton Karachi, Tel: +92-21-99251367-68 / Fax: +92-21-35305586 from Tuesday, 18th November, 2025 during office hours. i.e. from 09:00 PM to 05:00 PM on payment document fee of Rs. 3,000/- (non-refundable) for the tender item separately in the form or Pay order/Demand Draft in favor of Secretary-Cum-Director LARMIS, Board of Revenue, Sindh. Further information / clarifications may also be obtained from the same office.
- The bidding document can also be downloaded from the website of SPTRA, EPADS i.e. <https://portal.sindh.aprocure.gov.pk/> or the website of Board of Revenue Sindh, i.e. <https://bor.sindh.gov.pk/> in which case document fee must be submitted along with the bid. Only the bids submitted with the document fee will be considered as eligible for participation in the bidding process.
- Bidders applying for tender should submit / upload their bids on SPTRA EPADS web portal i.e. <https://portal.sindh.aprocure.gov.pk/>. The original bids security or Rs. 810,000/- in the form of Pay Order / Demand Draft which should be dropped submitted along with the original bid duly signed and stamped must be delivered/dropped/submitted at the Office of the Secretary-Cum-Director LARMIS, Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh, adjacent Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Clifton, Karachi, Tel: +92-21-99251367, on or before Tuesday 9th December, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.
- The proposals submitted against the subject RFP / Bid will be opened by the Procurement Committee on same day, i.e. Tuesday 9th December 2025, at 12:30 PM, in the Committee room of Office of LARMIS Administration Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh, adjacent Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Clifton, Karachi, Tel: +92-21-99251367 in presence of all the bidders, or their representatives, who may choose to be present.
- All bids received will be opened and evaluated in the manner prescribed in the evaluation criteria of bidding document in accordance with SPP Rules 2010.
- Only bids offered on the prescribed tender form issued by the office of the Secretary-Cum-Director LARMIS, R&S Wing, Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh, shall be accepted. However additional sheets may be attached if necessitated.
- Conditional tender / application will not be entertained.
- Office of LARMIS Administration, R&S Wing, Board of Revenue Sindh may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal under Rule 25 (i) of SPP Rules 2010.
- The procuring urgency shall announce the results of bid evaluation in the form of a report, giving justification for acceptance of a bid or proposal, subject to the relevant provision of SPTRA RULES 2010.
- This notice can also be seen in the website of SPTRA EPADS i.e. <https://portal.sindh.aprocure.gov.pk/> as well as in the website of Board Revenue Sindh, i.e. <https://bor.sindh.gov.pk/>.
- Please note that in case of any emergency situation posing a natural calamity or declaration of public holiday by the Government of Sindh, the bid submission and opening timelines would be extended to the next working date.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FINANCE)
LARMIS, R&S WING, BOARD OF REVENUE SINDH

INF-KRY No: 3860/25



Sindh Unveils Pink BRT Bus as Bold Expansion and Inclusive Transport Agenda Takes Shape

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that the province has become the first in Pakistan to introduce a dedicated bus for women within a BRT system. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, he said the Pink Bus service, operating from Numaish to Surjani Town, has begun and is receiving an encouraging public response. Memon stated that the government is now planning to extend the Pink Bus initiative to the Orange Line as well. He urged other provinces and the federal government to allocate separate seats for women on public buses and said a fixed ratio will be introduced to ensure dedicated women-only buses across all services.—RT



Taha Ahmed Khan Slams Sindh Government Over Crumbling Sanitation Services

KARACHI: MQM Pakistan's Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the Sindh Assembly, Taha Ahmed Khan, has criticised the provincial government for what he termed a persistent failure to provide basic sanitation facilities to thousands of families across the province. Issuing a statement on World Toilet Day, he said that despite various programmes, a large number of people in Sindh are still compelled to defecate in the open. He said open defecation poses serious risks to children's health, women's dignity, and overall public safety, yet the issue has never been prioritised by the government. He added that even with initiatives such as the World Bank-supported 'Safa Suthro Sindh' programme and commitments under SDG-6, Sindh has not been able to achieve open-defecation-free status. Taha Ahmed Khan said no development model can succeed without basic sanitation.—RT

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Quetta Traffic Violation Triggers E-Challan to Karachi Man Whose Car Was Stolen 28 Years Ago

KARACHI: Residents are reporting a surge in e-challans issued for traffic violations committed by vehicles registered in other provinces. A recent incident involving a Karachi five-star hotel has revealed a major flaw in the system after it received an e-challan for a car stolen nearly 28 years ago.



According to traffic police officials, the violation was not committed by the Karachi-registered vehicle but by a car registered in Quetta. Investigations found that the number plate of the Quetta vehicle was identical to the number plate of the car stolen in Karachi decades ago. The offence—

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Sindh High Court Halts KMC from Imposing Municipal Tax in Cantonment Zones

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has restrained the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) from collecting municipal taxes in cantonment areas. The decision came during a hearing regarding the collection of municipal charges through electricity bills from residents of Malir Cantonment Board.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that the Malir Cantonment Board is already levying a conservancy tax, while KMC had also added municipal charges to electricity bills, effectively making residents pay the same tax twice. Advocate Usman, representing the petitioner, emphasised that dual collection by two authorities is unlawful.

The court directed K-Electric to stop including municipal taxes in electricity bills for cantonment areas. It clarified that the authority to collect municipal taxes in these areas rests solely with the respective cantonment boards, reinforcing the legal distinction between municipal jurisdictions.—RT/Agency

Delhi Tops World Pollution Chart as Lahore and Karachi Suffocate Under Toxic Air

KARACHI: According to the latest Air Quality Index (AQI), Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted city, with particulate matter levels reaching 410 µg/m³, placing it in the "hazardous" category. In Pakistan, Lahore

recorded 362 µg/m³, making it the second most polluted city globally, also classified as "hazardous." Karachi ranks third, with particulate matter measured at 181 µg/m³, which falls into the "unhealthy" category for residents.

The Air Quality Index categorises air pollution levels as follows: 101–150 is considered harmful for sensitive groups, 151–200 is unhealthy, 201–300 is very unhealthy, and 301 or above is classified as hazardous.—RT/Agency

Pedestrian Loses Life in High-Impact Motorcycle Crash on Shahrah-e-Pakistan

KARACHI: A pedestrian lost their life in a traffic accident near the water pump area on Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Karachi, officials confirmed. According to rescue authorities, the incident occurred when a high-speed motorcycle collided with the victim, causing fatal injuries.

The pedestrian died on the spot due to the impact, while the identity of the deceased has not yet been confirmed. Rescue teams promptly transferred the body to a nearby hospital for further procedures.

Traffic authorities have advised motorists to drive cautiously, particularly in busy areas like Shahrah-e-Pakistan.—RT/Agency

PTI Condemns Alleged Assault on Imran's Sisters and Calls for Nationwide Demonstrations

KARACHI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership in Sindh on Wednesday strongly denounced an alleged physical assault on the sisters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, describing the event as a severe breach of law and human rights, and announced a nationwide protest to be held on November 21. At a press conference at Insaf House in Karachi,

PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh detailed the incident, stating that Imran Khan's sisters were visiting their brother when they were reportedly manhandled.—RT

PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh detailed the incident, stating that Imran Khan's sisters were visiting their brother when they were reportedly manhandled.—RT

Saeed Ghani Rallies PPP for Grand Yaum-e-Tasees Jalsa in Karachi

KARACHI: PPP Karachi Division, led by Saeed Ghani, finalised preparations for the party's Yaum-e-Tasees on 30 November. Senior leaders, including Waqar Mehmood, Rauf Nagori, and Dr Sharmila Faruqi, paid tribute to the sacrifices of PPP leaders and workers who upheld democracy and constitutional rights. The meeting reaffirmed PPP's identity as a historic movement for justice and public welfare, resolving to hold a massive Karachi jalsa with renewed passion and unity.—RT



Karachi Mayor Vows KFUR Project Will Be Completed by Year-End on University Road

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has stated that the KFUR project on University Road is expected to be completed by the end of this year. During a night visit to Gulshan-e-Iqbal, he received a briefing from senior officials on the ongoing installation of water pipelines under the KFUR initiative.



The mayor explained that the first phase of the project, extending from WAPDA Kanjhar to Churia, has been completed, while the second phase is progressing rapidly through collaboration between the government and KWSIP. He added that the University Road section of KFUR is linked with the Red Line BRT, and the government has prioritised the project to ensure timely completion.—RT

through collaboration between the government and KWSIP. He added that the University Road section of KFUR is linked with the Red Line BRT, and the government has prioritised the project to ensure timely completion.—RT

Mustafa Kamal Warns New Provinces Could Become Unavoidable Without Local Government Overhaul

KARACHI: MQM Pakistan leader and Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal has stated that the creation of new provinces may become inevitable if his proposed amendments regarding local governments are not supported. He explained that discussions about new provinces arise only when the people's rights are not being ensured.



When asked how a new province could be created given the Pakistan Peoples Party's majority in the Sindh Assembly, Kamal replied that just as numerous constitutional amendments are being made, changes could also be introduced in the law governing the creation of provinces.—RT/Agency

When asked how a new province could be created given the Pakistan Peoples Party's majority in the Sindh Assembly, Kamal replied that just as numerous constitutional amendments are being made, changes could also be introduced in the law governing the creation of provinces.—RT/Agency

Qasim Naveed Leads High-Stakes Mission to Attract Turkish Investment Into Sindh



Karachi: In a high-powered meeting at the Sindh Investment Department, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Investment and Public-Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar held strategic discussions with Turkey's Consul General Ergul Kadak and Commercial Attaché Murat Ozmen, signalling a fresh surge in foreign investment prospects for Sindh.

City, Marble City Karachi, and Khairpur Special Economic Zone, highlighting vast opportunities across education, energy, agriculture, IT, water recycling, trade, and infrastructure.

Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar briefed the delegation on major projects including Dhabaji Special Economic Zone, Karachi Education

Secretary Investment Sindh Raja Khurram Shahzad, Additional Secretary Behzad Memon, Deputy Secretary Aftab Buzdar, CEO SEF Khizar Pervez, CEO SEZA Faisal Mubeen, CLICK Project Director Asif Kareem, senior officers Adnan Sheikh and Hamid Shams, and others also attended.—RT

Karachi Police Bust Motorcycle Lifting Gang in Timuria Operation

KARACHI: Karachi police have arrested members of a gang involved in motorcycle lifting from the Timuria area, officials confirmed. Acting on the directives of SSP District Central, Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui, the SHO Timuria led a targeted operation against the suspects.

During the raid, police apprehended the gang members and recovered several stolen motorcycles along with open motorcycle parts from various locations. Authorities stated that cases have been registered against the accused, who have now been handed over to the investigation department for further inquiry.—RT/Agency

Algeria to Host Global Summit on Colonial-Era Crimes Across Africa

KARACHI: Algeria will host the International Conference on the Crimes of Colonialism in Africa from 30 November to 1 December 2025, in line with African Union Assembly Decision 903(XXXVIII) adopted in February 2025. The event, organized under the leadership of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, aims to celebrate and implement the African Union Theme of the Year 2025: "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations."



Pir Mazhar and Mustafa Qureshi Share Warm Reunion as Film Icon Recovers in Karachi

KARACHI: Former Senior Sindh Minister and PPP Central Executive Committee member Pir Mazhar ul Haq visited his close friend, veteran film star and national icon Mustafa Qureshi, at his Karachi residence to inquire about his health. Qureshi, celebrated for his decades-long contribution to Pakistani cinema, recently recovered from a foot fracture. The meeting reflected deep respect, friendship, and admiration for the legendary actor's resilience and enduring legacy.—RT



Gulshan-e-Maymar Road Project Sees Rapid Acceleration Under Chairman Nawaz Ali Brohi

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: The construction of the road from Sector Q to Kareem Shah Mazar in Gulshan-e-Maymar UC-12 is progressing swiftly under the direct supervision of Chairman Manghopir Town, Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi. During a site visit, the Chairman personally inspected the quality of materials, including sub-base, crushing, and base course, emphasizing that public funds must be used transparently and no substantial work will be tolerated.



Accompanied by Vice Chairman Rana Muhammad Arif, UC-12 Chairman Hilal

Rehmani, and local representatives, he directed the contractor to adhere to international standards, ensuring a durable road foundation. Safety measures, alternative traffic routes, and public convenience arrangements were also reviewed to minimize disruption during construction.

instructed regular inspections, laboratory testing, and stakeholder monitoring to maintain quality control. Residents were urged to report any issues promptly. He reaffirmed the Town administration's commitment to transparency, quality, and public welfare in all development projects.

Sindh Moves Toward Free Customized Bikes for Special Persons and Transgender Individuals

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that the provincial government is developing a free customised bike scheme aimed at supporting special persons and the transgender community. Speaking at a press conference, Memon said the initiative is part of the government's broader effort to make transport more inclusive and accessible for all citizens.



He highlighted that Sindh is the first province in Pakistan to dedicate a bus exclusively for women within a

BRT service. The newly launched Pink Bus on the Numaish-Surjani Town route has received positive public response. He added that a Pink Bus service will also be introduced on the Orange Line shortly. Memon urged other

provinces and the federal government to allocate separate seats for women in public buses, stating that the government must ensure that a Pink Bus service transport solutions that address the needs of every segment of society.—RT

Electricity Tariffs Poised to Drop Under New Monthly Fuel Price Adjustment

KARACHI: Electricity bills for consumers across Karachi and other parts of Pakistan are expected to decrease under the monthly fuel price adjustment (FPA). According to media reports, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has submitted a request to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) to reduce electricity rates by 65 paise per unit for October.



NEPRA is scheduled to hold a hearing on the matter on 27 November. This proposed reduction follows a

similar adjustment in September, when electricity was made 48 paise per unit cheaper under the monthly FPA mechanism. Officials noted that these monthly adjustments

are part of ongoing efforts to reflect changes in fuel prices in electricity tariffs, helping to ease the financial burden on consumers while ensuring transparency in power pricing.—RT/Agency

FPCCI Praises Steps to Ease Container Logjams and Cargo Chaos at Karachi Ports

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has welcomed recent steps announced by Customs Appraisement South to resolve operational bottlenecks at Karachi ports. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh appreciated the facilitative and consultative approach of the Federal Board



of Revenue (FBR) in addressing issues that have long hindered trade efficiency.

The stakeholders' meeting included representatives from FPCCI, Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA), All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA), chief collectors, terminal operators, and off-dock terminal officials.—RT

Massive Container Backlog Cleared at KICT as KCAA Reports Sharp Operational Gains

KARACHI: The Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA) has confirmed that the recent container backlog at Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT), which had caused significant delays, has been successfully resolved. Sheikh Waqas Anjum, General Secretary of KCAA, said the improvement resulted from effective coordination between KCAA, Pakistan Customs Appraisal (West), and KICT management. He noted that continuous engagement with all stakeholders was crucial in addressing the issue promptly.

KCAA appreciated the efforts of both the Customs Department and KICT management in restoring normal operations. The association also stressed the need for sustained efficiency to prevent similar backlogs in the future.—RT

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Pakistan-Indonesia Trade Hits \$4.2 Billion as Both Nations Eye Deeper Economic Synergy

KARACHI: Trade between Pakistan and Indonesia has reached US\$4.2 billion in 2024, with bilateral trade from January to September 2025 standing at US\$2.92 billion, up from

US\$2.69 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a strong upward trajectory, according to Indonesian Consul General Drs. Mudzakir M.A. Speaking at the Karachi Chamber

of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Dr. Mudzakir highlighted the vast untapped potential for diversification across textiles, halal products, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods.—RT

Karachi Mayor Announces Industrial Water Recycling Plan to Sustain Factory Operations

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has announced plans to start recycling treated water for industrial use across the city. During a meeting with industrialists at Site Area, Haroonabad, the mayor toured the facility's sewage treatment plant operated by Site Limited and received a briefing from Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, CEO of the Karachi Water Corporation, on the facility's

operations. Mayor Wahab stated that the objective of the project is to provide industries with a reliable and sustainable water supply.—RT

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

—Albert Einstein

THE REGIONAL TIMES

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Ceasefire in Tatters: 25 Killed as Fresh Strikes Rock Gaza

GAZA: At least 25 Palestinians were killed in a deadly wave of four Israeli airstrikes across Gaza on Wednesday, shattering hopes tied to the fragile ceasefire that has held—barely—since October, according to Gaza health authorities.

Medics on the ground described a night of chaos and devastation. Ten people were killed in Gaza City's Zeitoun suburb, where a missile slammed into a building belonging to Muslim religious authorities that had been sheltering displaced families. Two more died in Shujaiya, while the remaining victims were re-



ported in two separate strikes in Khan Younis, one of which targeted a UN-run club, also housing families uprooted by the war.

The Israeli military said its forces had struck Hamas positions after members of the

group allegedly fired on Israeli troops, accusing Hamas of violating the nearly six-week-old US-brokered ceasefire. Israeli officials reported no injuries among their forces.

But the renewed bombard-

ment has highlighted what many feared: the ceasefire may be holding in name only. Both Israel and Hamas have traded accusations of breaking the truce—part of President Donald Trump's much-publicized 20-point post-war plan for Gaza—while each insists the other is responsible for escalating tensions.

Witnesses, medics and local media noted that all three attack sites lay well beyond the so-called "yellow line," an informal boundary designed to separate Israeli and Palestinian zones during the ceasefire. The strikes on civilian-used buildings, including shelters for dis-

placed families, deepened the sense of insecurity among Gaza residents who have been cautiously returning to what remains of their neighborhoods.

The October 10 ceasefire, halting a brutal two-year conflict, had sparked cautious optimism. It enabled hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to re-enter northern Gaza, reconnect with relatives and begin sifting through the wreckage of their former homes. Israeli troops withdrew from several urban positions, and aid deliveries—long obstructed during hostilities—had increased significantly. —RT/Agency

Trump Stuns Washington: Announces Saudi Arabia as New "Major Non-NATO Ally"

WASHINGTON: In a dramatic turn at a lavish black-tie White House dinner, former US President Donald Trump electrified the room on Tuesday by revealing that Saudi Arabia would be formally designated as a "major non-NATO ally." The unexpected announcement, delivered with Trump's signature flair, instantly grabbed global attention.

Trump told attendees that the move would elevate military cooperation between Washington and Riyadh to "even greater heights," framing the designation as a milestone the Saudi leadership had been keenly anticipating.



With a hint of showmanship, he added that the decision had been kept under wraps specifically to make the night more memorable, calling it "a little secret for tonight." The designation—previously granted to only 19 nations—grants privileged access to US military technology, defense cooperation, and strategic support,

though it does not constitute the security guarantees provided to NATO members. Trump highlighted the importance of deepening defense ties in a rapidly shifting geopolitical environment, suggesting the step would further solidify the long-standing partnership between the two nations. —RT

Air India Scrambles to Access Chinese Airspace as Pakistan Ban Deepens Financial Crisis

NEW DELHI/HONG KONG: Air India is lobbying the Indian government to convince China to let it use a sensitive military airspace zone in Xinjiang to shorten routes as the financial toll from a ban on Indian carriers flying over Pakistan mounts, a company document shows.

The unusual request comes just weeks after direct India-China flights resumed after a five-year hiatus following a Himalayan border clash between the nations.

Air India has been seeking to rebuild its reputation and international network after a London-bound Boeing Dreamliner crashed in Gujarat in June, killing 260 people and forcing it to briefly cut flights for safety checks.

But that effort is being complicated by the closure of Pakistan's airspace to Indian carriers since their diplomatic tensions erupted in late April.

For Air India, the country's only carrier with a



major international network, fuel costs have risen by as much as 29% and journey times by up to three hours on some long-haul routes, according to the previously un-

reported document submitted to Indian officials in late October and reviewed by Reuters. The Indian government is reviewing Air India's plea to diplomatically ask China to allow an alternative routing and emergency access to airports in case of diversions such as Kashgar and Urumqi in Xinjiang, aiming to reach US, Canada and Europe faster, the document

said. "Air India's long-haul network is under severe operational and financial strain [...] Securing Hotan route will be a strategic option," it added. The airline, owned by Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, estimated the Pakistan airspace closure's impact on its profit before tax at \$455 million annually—a significant amount given its fiscal 2024-25 loss stood at \$439 million. The Chinese foreign ministry said it was not aware of the situation and referred Reuters to the "relevant authorities". —RT/Agency

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Russia Steps Forward Offering Mediation in Pakistan's Conflicts with India and Afghanistan



MOSCOW: Russia on Wednesday offered its help in mediating Pakistan's conflicts with India and Afghanistan, amid ongoing tensions between the neighbouring countries.

Ismael's relations with India have remained tense since the four-day war in May, while the Afghan Taliban regime also drew Pakistan into a brief skirmish last month. Speaking during a discussion organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Russia's Ambassador to Islamabad, Albert Khorev, said that his country stood ready to mediate the conflicts between Pakistan and India, as well as between Pakistan and Afghanistan. "We also share mutual concern about re-

gional security, especially the situation in Afghanistan, and support continued cooperation to ensure peace, counter terrorism and contribute to social and economic development," he added.

Khorev maintained that Russia views Pakistan as an important regional partner, saying that the country held significance in Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to establish the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

He said that the initiative proposed that "regional problems should be solved by regional actors." The Russian envoy was of the view that tensions in relations between South Asian countries were "often provoked by external states". —RT/Agency

Pakistan Greenlights Artificial Island Plan to Supercharge Offshore Oil Exploration



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is planning to construct an artificial island in Sindh to enhance its oil exploration work, as the country seeks to maximise the use of its natural resources.

Islamabad has intensified its drilling efforts after US President Donald Trump expressed interest in the country's oil reserves and a recent study indicated the presence of significant yet-to-be-found hydrocarbons in offshore basins. State-owned energy company, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), has now announced plans to construct an island about 30 kilometres off the coast of Sindh near Sujawal, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Citing the company's General Manager, Exploration and Core Business Development, Arshad Palekar, the publication reported that the launchpad would stand tall at a height of six feet, preventing high tides from interrupting round-the-clock exploration work. Palekar, on the sidelines of an oil and gas conference in Islamabad, said that PPL was undertaking the project—a first for Pakistan—inspired by Abu Dhabi's successful use of artificial islands for drilling. The PPL official said that the island's construction work will be completed in February, with operations planned immediately after. —RT/Agency

Pakistan and Malaysia Move to Lock In Ambitious New Era of Digital Collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have agreed to deepen cooperation in the digital sector.

The understanding came during a meeting between Federal Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Malaysia's Minister of Communications Ahmad Fahmi bin Mohamed Fadli on the sidelines of the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Both sides appreciated the strong bilateral ties and the longstanding strategic partnership between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan's digital vision aligns closely with Malaysia's MyDigital Blueprint, noting that both countries share goals for building a modern, technology-driven economy. She proposed launching a



Pakistan-Malaysia Digital Policy Dialogue and asserted cooperation in talent mobility and skills development in fields such as artificial intelligence, data science and the Internet of Things.

Pakistan's AI policy formulated after consultations: Shaza Fatima

Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima has said Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy had been formulated in a comprehensive manner after consultations.

Addressing an event in

Islamabad, she said the government will focus on its implementation and execution. She said we have to embrace the technology to take the country forward on the path of progress and development.

At present, there does not exist any AI-specific regulatory structure in Pakistan, however, number of initiatives including laws/rules/policy etc in the ministry attempts to address the potential challenges associated with use of AI.—RT/Agency

Justice Mandokhail Says ROs Were Right to Classify 41 Candidates as Independents in Key Reserved Seats Case

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has observed that returning officers (ROs) correctly prepared lists of 41 independent candidates during the 2024 general elections, as it was PTI's decision-makers who "compelled" them to contest in that manner.

Justice Mandokhail, a member of the now-defunct Constitutional Bench (CB), made the observation in his additional note in the reserved seats review case. In its June 27 ruling, the CB, by a majority of seven judges, had overturned the earlier SC judgment of July 12, 2024 that had granted reserved seats to the PTI.

While seven judges had accepted all review petitions filed by the ruling coalition parties, three others—including Justice Mandokhail—had partially allowed them, and two had rejected the pleas outright on the first day of the hearing.



Justice Mandokhail had maintained his original July 2024 order of giving 39 seats to PTI, but reviewed the majority judgment to the extent of 41 seats. In his note uploaded on the SC website on Tuesday, the judge detailed the reasoning for his ruling and how the CB could not include all judges who were part of the original bench due to the post-26th Amendment scenario.

"Apparently, it was the PTI's decision-makers' decision, which compelled the 41 candidates and others to submit their nomination papers

independently," Justice Mandokhail wrote, adding that the majority of the original SC bench did not "consider this important aspect of the case".

The judge noted that to the extent of those 41 candidates, the ROs "correctly prepared [a] list of contesting candidates while drawing Form-33, showing them as independents" and those 41 individuals then joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) by exercising their right provided under Article 51 (6d) of the Constitution.—RT/Agency

PTI Condemns Brutal Assault on Imran's Sisters and Calls for Nationwide Black Day

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Wednesday strongly condemned the Punjab government for unleashing "a reign of terror" on party founder Imran Khan's sisters, party leaders, lawyers, and workers outside Adiala Jail, describing the act as utterly intolerable and completely unacceptable.

The party announced that the opposition alliance would observe a countrywide "black day" on Friday to demand the restoration of the Constitution, the rule of law and "real freedom," as Imran repeatedly stated that the nation was left with no choice but to choose between freedom and death.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Imran's sisters—Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi—as well as Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen (MWM) Chairman Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas and other party leaders, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja condemned the acts carried out on Tuesday night and issued a stern warning to the authorities. He stated that the PTI continued to urge those in power to abandon their "reckless arrogance" and act responsibly before it was too late.—RT/Agency

Punjab Forms Special JITs to Probe Escalating TLP-Linked Cases

LAHORE: The Punjab government has constituted 12 joint investigation teams (JITs) to probe cases against the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

A notification issued by the provincial Home Department said seven JITs will investigate the cases in Lahore, whereas five will cater to those registered in Sheikhpura.

The JITs, which include representatives of the police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and intelligence agencies, will look into cases registered under terrorism and other serious provisions.

The development comes in response to the request for JITs by the police which



have said that more than 2,000 miscreants belonging to the TLP have been arrested in relation to 75 cases against the proscribed religious-political party.

The development is taken against the backdrop of the federal government's decision to declare the TLP a proscribed outfit under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) last month.

The move followed a series of fierce demonstrations by the TLP that erupted last month after police dismantled a protest camp in Muridke, leading to confrontations that resulted in the death of a police station house officer (SHO) and three others, including a passerby.—RT/Agency