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The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

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Money

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Sindh CM Slams Indian Defence Minister's 'Absurd' Claim on Sindh

KARACHI Edition Vol. XVI No 309 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Wednesday, November 26, 2025, Jumadi-us-Saani 04, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Pakistan Conducts All Strikes Openly, Never Targets Civilians: Lt Gen Chaudhry

Pakistan conducts all its attacks openly and never targets civilians, the army's spokesperson said, clarifying that the country follows clear principles in its responses.

"We are a state and respond only as a state," Inter-Services Public Relations Director-General (ISPR DG) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told journalists during a briefing on Tuesday.

The military spokesperson said Pakistan is "against terrorism, not the Afghan people," and urged the Taliban regime to make decisions like a state.

"The Taliban government should not act like a non-state actor.

How long will it remain interim?" he asked. "There is no good or bad Taliban in our view, and there is no distinction among terrorists," the ISPR DG stated.

He called for an immediate ban on non-custom-paid vehicles, noting that "many terrorism incidents have involved non-custom-paid vehicles." —RT/Agency

Security Forces Eliminate 22 India-Backed Terrorists In Bannu IBO

BANNU: Security forces, as part of ongoing anti-terror efforts, eliminated 22 India-backed terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

The operation conducted on November 24, was carried out on the reported presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists, also called "Fitna al-Khawarij," involved intense fire exchange between militants and security forces, as per the military's media wing.

The ISPR said a sanitisation operation had been

launched to eliminate any other Indian-proxy terrorist in the area and vowed continuation of the relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the vision "Azm-e-Istehkam" to root out the menace of terrorism.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have paid tribute to the security forces for the successful operation against terrorists.

In their separate statements, they commended the security forces for achieving significant successes counterterrorism campaign.

The President and PM said the entire nation stands resolute alongside the security forces in this war against terrorism.

The IBO comes a day after three terrorists were killed in an attack on Federal Constabulary (FC) headquarters in Peshawar, which also resulted in the martyrdom of three FC personnel. A suicide bomber, as per a preliminary police report, a suicide bomber approached the main gate of the FC Headquarters, covering himself. He detonated explosives at the checkpoint, martyring three personnel on the spot.Immediately following the blast, two more attackers entered the headquarters compound from a side gate. Both were armed with rifles and hand grenades. They advanced towards the motorcycle stand on the right side of the compound, intending to take hostages. Security personnel engaged the attackers in a firefight, killing both.Last week, eight Indian-proxy terrorists were killed in an IBO in Bannu, whereas before that 13 were neutralised in two separate KP operations in Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan.—RT/Agency

Navy Conducts Successful Test Of Ship-Launched Ballistic Missile

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has successfully carried out a test flight of an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-ship ballistic missile, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

According to the military's media wing, the advanced weapon system is capable of engaging both sea and land targets with high accuracy.

It features state-of-the-art guidance technology along with enhanced manoeuvrability for improved performance in complex operational environments.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, along with senior scientists and engineers, witnessed the test, the ISPR added.

The military's media wing said the achievement underscores Pakistan's growing technological competence and the Navy's commitment to safeguarding national interests.President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz, outgoing Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and the services chiefs congratulated the participating units and scientists on the milestone.Earlier on September 30, the Pakistan Army successfully conducted a training launch of the newly-inducted indigenously developed Fatah-4, a ground-launched cruise missile at a range of 750 kilometres.Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, this weapon system is capable of evading an enemy's missile defence system due to terrain-hugging features and engaging targets with high precision, the ISPR added,—RT/Agency

Fazl Rejects 27th Amendment, Calls It Threat To Democracy

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has rejected the 27th Constitutional Amendment by calling it a regressive step for democracy.

At a press conference in Islamabad, he stated, "We completely reject the 27th Constitutional Amendment as the decision has been unanimously endorsed by our Shura (council)."

He said earlier, the 26th Amendment was passed after thorough negotiations with the government. At that time, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was on board, and we considered their proposals carefully, implemented them, and that is why the 26th Amendment was approved with consensus."

He further criticized the current government, saying, "It is the government's responsibility to consult the opposition. However, this time, they have coerced members and claimed a forced and fabricated two-thirds majority, which is against democratic principles."

He also addressed the role of the judiciary, saying, "We were principled supporters of the constitutional court, but everything was done against parliamentary and democratic values."Criticizing the pardon extended to the president, he questioned the basis of this decision and said it was against the democratic norms.—RT/Agency

US, Russia Hold Talks On Ukraine In Abu Dhabi

WASHINGTON: US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll is meeting with a Russian delegation in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, US and British media reported, days after talks with Ukraine in Geneva aimed at ending the conflict.

Driscoll met the Russian delegation on Monday with talks due to continue on Tuesday, ABC News and the Financial Times reported, citing a US official.

The latest talks were previously undisclosed, and follow meetings held in Switzerland between US and Ukrainian officials aimed at resolving the war with Russia.

The Financial Times said the head of Ukrainian military intelligence Kyrylo Budanov would be present at the talks, without detailing the Russian officials.

"Driscoll has been involved with this peace process pretty hot and heavy in the past few days," a US official told the Financial Times, without being named.

"Obviously, Ukraine knows what's going on, they knew where he was coming" after Geneva, he added, according to the paper.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov neither confirmed nor denied the meetings.

"I have nothing to say. We are following the media reports," he told Russian state media.

The United States has been pushing Ukraine to accept its proposals to end the war, despite Kyiv saying the plan concedes too much to Moscow.

The US plan, originally made up of 28 points, would see Ukraine effectively cede its eastern Donetsk and Lugansk regions to Russia and slash the size of its military — demands that Kyiv has described as unacceptable.

Ukrainian, US and European officials met in Geneva on Sunday to draft an "updated" version of the plan, but the Kremlin responded on Monday that it would not accept European amendments.

Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.—RT/Agency

IMF Urges Pakistan To Strengthen Tariff Governance, Cut Discretionary Exemptions

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment Report on Pakistan, has called for strict implementation of the National Tariff Policy 2025–30.

The IMF asserted that reforms aimed at simplifying the tariff structure must continue.

According to the IMF report, the National Tariff Commission (NTC) needs to reduce its reliance on external consultants, while also limiting the influence of lobbying groups on its decision-making process.

The report further stresses the need to enhance the NTC's technical capacity, strengthen its institutional credibility, and minimize external interference. The IMF also urged measures to curb rent-seeking trends and ensure greater transparency.

The assessment notes that weaknesses in customs enforcement are undermining the impact of tariff reforms.

It recommends removing flaws within the customs system, abolishing Section 18-A of the Fifth Schedule, and restricting the use of exemptions granted under Section 19 of the Customs Act.

To ensure a coherent tariff structure, the IMF advises significantly reducing discretionary tax exemptions.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has accepted a key condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to conduct a special audit of supplementary grants issued over the past ten years,—RT/Agency

France's Macron Says Trump's Ukraine Peace Plan Needs Improvement

FRANCE: US President Donald Trump's peace plan needs improvement to make it acceptable for Ukraine and Europe, French President Emmanuel Macron told RTL radio on Tuesday.A 28-point US peace proposal made last week caught many in the US government, Kyiv and Europe off-guard and prompted fresh concerns that the Trump administration might be willing to push Ukraine to sign a deal heavily tilted towards Moscow."It's an initiative that goes in the right direction: towards peace. However, there are aspects of that plan that deserve to be discussed, negotiated, improved," Macron said. "We want peace, but we don't want peace that is effectively a capitulation."He added that only the Ukrainians could decide what territorial concessions they are ready to make."What was put on the table gives us an idea of what would be acceptable to the Russians. Does that mean that it is what must be accepted by the Ukrainians and the Europeans? The answer is no," Macron added.Ukraine's first line of defence in case of peace with Russia would be regenerating its own army, and there can be no limit on it, Macron said. He also said frozen Russian assets are in Europe, and Europe alone can decide what to do with them.The US plan would impose a limit on the size of Ukraine's army and give Washington some control of frozen Russian assets.A few hours before a video call of the so-called "coalition of the willing" countries offering to assist post-war Ukraine, Macron also gave details on what a reassurance force might look like "far away from the front line" once fighting stops.—RT/Agency

Faiz Hameed's Trial Not Yet Concluded, Says DG ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said on Tuesday that the trial of Faiz Hameed is not yet complete and that the matter remains sub judice. He declined to provide further details.

According to details, the DG ISPR said that the decision will be communicated once the process concludes. He emphasised that the military accountability system is stringent and urged the public to refrain from speculation regarding the court-martial.

"The proceedings against Faiz Hameed constitute a legal and judicial process, and any verdict will be announced in due course," he maintained.—RT/Agency

CJCSC General Sahir Pays Farewell To Field Marshal Munir

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza paid a farewell visit to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said that during the meeting, the field marshal commended General Mirza — who will retire on November 27, after completing his term — for his exemplary leadership, strategic foresight, and dedicated service to the Pakistan Armed Forces.

The ISPR added that during the farewell, Field Marshal Munir lauded the CJCSC's pivotal role in enhancing tri-services synergy, strengthening joint operational preparedness, and advancing Pakistan's national security objectives at the strategic level.—RT/Agency

Aleema, PTI Supporters Continue Sit-In Near Adiala Jail As Police Negotiations Stall

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder and ex-premier Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, is continuing a sit-in near Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after she was again denied a meeting with her incarcerated brother on Tuesday.

Earlier tonight, Islamabad Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) (Investigations) Rana Tanveer arrived at the scene to negotiate with Aleema and her sisters to disperse the protesters.

However, negotiations between the police and the party supporters failed, with the PTI adamant on continuing the sit-in. They are expected to continue the demonstration overnight.

A livestream by the PTI from earlier this evening showed a massive crowd sloganeering, with riot police present in the area.

Aleema and her sisters — Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan — were stopped at Factory Naka by police, upon which PTI supporters started sloganeering and staged a sit-in. Majlis Wahdaat-i-Muslimeen (MWM) Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas also joined the demonstration.

At Factory Naka, Aleema told reporters that she would stay at the sit-in site until she was allowed to meet Imran and questioned the presence of a large number of police personnel.

"At this time, it is the law of the jungle; they (authorities) should be concerned that if they do not proceed according to the constitution and law, Pakistan will face the law of the jungle."—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Jamshoro Revenue Team Triumphs as Four Officers Crack SPSC Mukhtiarkar Exam

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Four employees from the Jamshoro Deputy Commissioner's Office have successfully passed the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) Mukhtiarkar exam, marking a major milestone for the district's revenue administration. Their achievement qualifies them for promotion to the key position of Mukhtiarkar, a crucial role responsible for land record management, revenue collection, and judicial functions at the taluka level. The successful officials include Ghulam Asghar Junejo, a Tapedar from Manjhand; Pervez Ahmed Korejo, Senior Computer Operator at the Assistant Commissioner Office Kotri; and two Junior Clerks, Imran Bhurt and Muzaffar Chandio, the latter serving in Sehwan. A joint ceremony was held at the DC Office to honor the achievers and celebrate the retirement of Shahbaz Khaskheli. Union leaders and administration representatives presented the honorees with Ajrak shawls, flower garlands, and bouquets in recognition of their contributions and success.

Provincial Ombudsman Storms Shaheed Fazil Rahu Badin with Open Katchery Drive

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Regional Director of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, Abdul Wahab Memon, held an open court at the office of Assistant Commissioner Shaheed Fazil Rahu. Citizens raised complaints related to education, revenue, police, water supply schemes, town office, NRSP, irrigation, and public health. Abdul Wahab Memon assured residents that every genuine issue would be addressed, following the directives of Provincial Ombudsman Muhammad Sohail Rajput. Citizens highlighted teacher shortages in schools, lack of government dispensaries, poor hospital facilities, and ineffective policing. The Ombudsman also inspected the civil hospital, a non-functional filter plant, and the dilapidated Tehsil Education Office, issuing directives to improve services. Officials including AC Muhammad Atif Shafiq, ADHO Dr. Rasool Bux Memon and DSP Abdul Rahim Khaskheli were present.

MQM Pakistan Delegation Presses CMO Tando Allahyar on Exploding Sewerage Crisis

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A delegation of MQM Pakistan district members, including former Hakparast councillors Muhammad Azam Qaimkhani, Iqbal Qureshi, and Shehbaz Aziz Qaimkhani, met Chief Municipal Officer Wali Muhammad Khosa at his office. The delegation expressed concern over sewage-related filth spreading across the city, particularly near Ghani Park in front of Hussaini Mosque, which has caused inconvenience for worshippers and students for the past eight days due to a blocked sewer line. CMO Wali Muhammad Khosa assured the MQM delegation that the issue would be resolved on a permanent basis within a couple of days. Vice Chairman Saleem Khanzada and journalist Mustajab Rehman Madni were also present.

Sindh University Laar Campus Bids Emotional Farewell to Prof. Khalil-ur-Rehman Kumbhati

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Sindh University Laar Campus organized a farewell ceremony at Jamkhano Hall to honor Director Prof. Khalil-ur-Rehman Kumbhati on completing his tenure. Professors, staff, and students attended in large numbers. During the event, the English Department presented him with flowers, Ajraks, and mementos. Faculty members praised his contributions, including completion of development projects, efforts to grant autonomous chartered university status, revival of the computer lab, and introduction of B.Ed and other programs. In his address, Prof. Kumbhati thanked everyone for their support and expressed hope that the campus would continue to grow and provide better higher education opportunities for Badin's youth.

SAU and Seventeen Hyderabad Feeders Elevated to Load-Shedding Free Status

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In a major relief for students and residents, HESCO officially declared the Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam and its residential colony as zero load-shedding zones. The announcement was made by HESCO Chief Faizullah Dahri during a ceremony at the Dr AM Shaikh Auditorium. Vice Chancellor Engr Prof Dr Altaf Ali Siyal highlighted how frequent power outages disrupted academic and research activities affecting over 4,500 hostel students.

HESCO also declared 18 feeders across Hyderabad, including SAU feeder, load-shedding free. An ethical MoU was signed to ensure smooth electricity management, and honorary shields were presented to HESCO officials for their services.

BISE Shaheed Benazirabad Drops 9th and 11th Class Exam Results

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board Shaheed Benazirabad announced the annual exam results for 9th and 11th classes 2025, checked for the first time under the e-marking system. In the 9th class, Science group saw 34,830 students pass out of 51,274, while the General Private group had 33 out of 105 successful candidates. For 11th class, Pre-Medical recorded 23,555 passes, Pre-Engineering 8,519, Pre-Computer Science 561, Pre-Commerce 166, Humanities Regular 777, and Humanities Private 251. Board Chairman Dr. Asif Ali Memon congratulated the successful students and noted that results are also available on the board's website.

GMG Memorial Expands Free Healthcare with Second Clinic at Guru Mangal Gur Ashram

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: GMG Memorial, in collaboration with Pooj Panchayat, Guru Mangal Gur Sangeet Seva Mandli, and Kohsar Welfare Trust, organized the second phase of its free medical clinic at Guru Mangal Gur Ashram. Renowned doctor Bhojomal A. Khialani examined over 120 patients from various areas of Kohistan as well as Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Adam, Matli, and Badin. Community leaders reviewed the arrangements, while volunteers appreciated the clinic's successful management. The Ashram also served langar to all visitors, and Kohsar Welfare Trust thanked Dr. Bhojomal for his dedicated service.

Fatima Fertilizer Pushes for Ten Percent Wheat Boost at Kot Ghulam Muhammad Seminar

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: Fatima Fertilizer organized a one-day seminar at Fatah Garden under the theme "Increasing Wheat Production by 10%," attracting a large number of local farmers.

The event was chaired by Director General Agriculture Extension Sindh, Allah Warayo Rind, with special guests including Division Director Muhammad Usman Jagirani, Development Manager Abdul Samad Abro, and Town Chairman Ali Hassan Qaimkhani. Agricultural experts advised farmers to adopt modern techniques to increase wheat yield by at least 10%, highlighting proper soil preparation, balanced fertilizer use, selection of quality seeds, and careful crop management. Farmers were also advised on storage and threshing to prevent losses. Attendees appreciated the seminar and urged continued guidance from the company.

Mayor Hyderabad Engages ADB Delegation on Overhauling City's Infrastructure

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro held a key meeting with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation, including Dr. Abdul Rehman and Pir Hussamuddin Mangrio, along with other technical team members. CEO Hyderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation Tufail Ahmed Abro also attended. The discussions focused on Hyderabad's infrastructure, water and sewerage systems, transportation, sanitation, environment, and the city's master plan. The ADB assured technical cooperation to support sustainable development.

Mayor Shoro emphasized modern solutions to meet the city's growing needs, while the delegation appreciated HMC's Giritiatives and stressed collaborative planning for infrastructure improvement.

Daulatpur Residents Rise Up Over Suspension of Mirpur Sakro Girls School Headmistress

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Residents of the Jokhio community staged a protest in front of Daulatpur Press Club against the suspension of Mirpur Sakro Girls' High School Headmistress, Gulnaz Jokhio, demanding justice and a transparent inquiry. Led by Hafiz Muhammad Nawaz Jokhio, Singhar Jokhio, Makram Jokhio, and others, the demonstrators alleged false accusations were made against Gulnaz Jokhio, aiming to tarnish her career. Protesters condemned attempts to misuse religious sentiments, emphasized communal harmony, and urged Sindh Education Minister Sardar Shah to form an impartial committee for fair investigation.

PPP Leaders Visit Dadu to Offer Heartfelt Condolences

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Dadu district president, MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, condoled the death of Education Office clerk Abdul Majeed Thahim, meeting his family to offer sympathies. Separately, party leaders visited Surajabad, Dadu City, to mourn the passing of Abdul Rahim Dawach's father, offering prayers and condolences. Party leaders present included Imdad Hussain Dawach, Taluka President Lala Aijaz Chandio, Chairman Khalil-ur-Rahman Khuharo, Mumtaz Jokhio, Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Dadu Khalid Hussain Mirani, Shahmir Khan Chehwan, Pir Amir Ali Aslam Chehwan, Tahir Laghari, and other party workers.

Provincial Minister Launches Major Awareness Drive on Workplace Harassment in Kotri Industries

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Provincial Minister for Women Development, Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali, has directed the initiation of special awareness sessions in Kotri industrial areas as part of the upcoming 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. During her visit to Jamshoro and Hyderabad, she instructed the Women Complaint Cell to educate female workers about their rights and legal protections under the Sindh Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act. Incharge Syeda Qurat ul Ain Shah confirmed coordination with labor authorities and unions to maximize outreach. The campaign aims to empower women, raise awareness about complaint mechanisms, and ensure safer workplaces across Sindh.

National Press Club Sakrand Honors the Legacy of Late Masood Ahmed Umrani

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: In a heartfelt tribute, the National Press Club Sakrand team visited the grave of former Press Club Sakrand President, late Masood Ahmed Umrani, at Munim Shah Cemetery near Sukkur. Members laid floral wreaths and recited Fateha in his memory. Founding members, including Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Kanwar Mansoor Shahzad, Sohail Ahmed Chandio, Imran Shaikh, Abid Hussain Bhatti, and others prayed for the departed journalist.

They recalled Umrani as a fearless and honest senior journalist whose dedication brought critical issues to light, leaving a lasting void in Sakrand's journalistic community.

Rehman Deserving Welfare Holds Key Meeting and Distributes Food Among Qasimabad Children

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Rehman Deserving Welfare organized a meeting at its Qasimabad office under the chairpersonship of Apa Bushra Arain. Before the meeting, food was distributed among underprivileged children. Prominent social figures, including Shahid Soomro, Farzana Qureshi, Ali Sher Lund, Dr. Latif Memon, Sajjad Khan, Rafiq Rajput, Maliboob Ali Memon, Khalid Rai, Majeed Soomro, and Naveed Memon attended.

Membership forms were filled, and discussions on formal registration of the organization took place. Chairperson Apa Bushra Arain emphasized the organization's mission of serving humanity, caring for poor children, and continuing social welfare activities, expressing gratitude to all social workers supporting the cause.

PPP Hyderabad Division Marks 58th Foundation Day with Strategic Meeting

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In observance of the 58th Foundation Day of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Hyderabad Division leaders convened a meeting at Rizvi House, Gulistan-e-Sajjad, chaired by PPP Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro. Key participants included PPP Hyderabad Division President Ajiz Dhamrah, General Secretary Gianchand Israni, MNAs Sadiq Memon and Syed Tariq Hussain Shah Jamot, Provincial Minister Shafqat Shah Shirazi, MPAs Rehana Laghari, Jabbar Khan, Dr. Mohan Lal Kohistani, Syed Aijaz Shah, and Mayor Kashif Shoro, along with other party leaders. The meeting focused on party activities, organizational matters, and commemorative events marking the party's foundation day.

World Bank Calls for Powerful Coordination to Fast-Track SWAT Project Implementation

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: World Bank Task Team Leader Francois Onymes urged all institutions to work together for the effective implementation of the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) Project. Speaking at a review meeting at the SIDA Secretariat, he emphasized expediting preparations for Akram Canal lining and advancing canal modernization. Irrigation Project Director Jamal Mangan reported that tenders for Akram Canal rehabilitation are under evaluation, while NESPAK has begun work on approved canal studies. Agriculture Director Liaquat Bhutto said Hari Card issuance has started and the farmer subsidy program will be expanded.

Farmers Erupt in Nawab Wali Muhammad Over Illegal Water Diversion by Influential Landowner

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Farmers staged a protest against the irrigation authorities at the head of the Kamoran Lundki branch, accusing an influential landowner of diverting water to his lands by deliberately creating water shortages in other fields. Protesters including Raza Muhammad Rahu and Wajid Ali Rahu told media that, to irrigate the powerful landowner's fields, the authorities blocked water flow, forcing them to take matters into their own hands using cranes to irrigate their crops from RD 69 to RD 74 for their livestock and sustenance. Farmers demanded strict action against the corrupt irrigation officials, accusing the Rohri Division engineers of issuing fake records for personal gain.

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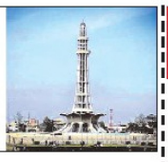
NATIONAL



Security forces foil Jaffar Express sabotage attempt in Balochistan

NASEERABAD: Security forces on Tuesday foiled a major sabotage attempt targeting the Jaffar Express after an explosive device was found planted on a railway track in Balochistan's Naseerabad district.

According to police officials, unidentified attackers had planted the bomb on the track near Dera Murad Jamali in an attempt to strike the Quetta-bound Jaffar Express, which was travelling from Lahore.

The explosive device was discovered shortly before the passenger train was due to pass through the area.

Security forces and police responded swiftly, defusing the device and averting a potential disaster. The train was stopped at the Dera Murad Jamali railway station for safety, the station master confirmed.

Police said approximately 3.5 kilograms of explosive material had been planted on the track within the limits of the Sadar police station. The Bomb Disposal Squad safely defused the device. Officials noted that the train was only minutes away from reaching the site when the bomb was discovered.

This was the latest in a series of attacks targeting the Jaffar Express.—RT/Agency

CM KP appears before ECP in code of conduct hearing

ISLAMABAD: The election commission of Pakistan reserved its decision over charges of code of conduct violation against Chief Minister KP Sohail Afridi and adjourned the hearing.

The next hearing of the case will be held on December 04.

Advocate Ali Bukhari said that the charges against CM Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi are non-maintainable. He said the chief minister's reply will be submitted in the election commission.

Ali Bukhari said that the chief minister didn't visit Haripur. In his argument he said that the notices issued to the CM while he visited Havelian, Abbottabad. "We have also been issued a notice from the DRO and summoned," lawyer said.

"Chief Minister of Punjab was not summoned, ministers and others were not summoned but only fine imposed on them," Ali Bukhari said. "Chief Minister Sohail Afridi talked in other district, and he was issued notice," lawyer argued.

"We have come to your point and will decide the matter," chief election commissioner said. "My question is if both the cases run simultaneously," the lawyer asked. "The DRO has also summoned on November 27," lawyer said.—RT/Agency

Customs seizes non-custom paid vehicles worth Rs 81 million

QUETTA: The Collectorate of Customs (Enforcement) Quetta on Tuesday seized non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles worth approximately Rs81 million after foiling a major smuggling attempt.

According to a news release, the operation marks a significant success in the department's ongoing efforts to curb the illicit movement of vehicles in the region.

Acting on credible information from the Chief Collector (Enforcement), Islamabad, a customs team carried out a targeted raid at a godown located along the Main RCD Highway in Mastung.

During the raid, officers recovered 11 NCP vehicles parked inside the premises. The seized vehicles include four Prius cars, two Aqua cars, one CH-R, one Honda Vezel, one Nissan 350-Z, one Corolla Fielder, and one Prado Jeep.

All vehicles have been taken into custody for further legal action under the Customs Act, 1969. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has applauded the Quetta Enforcement team for its vigilance and professionalism.

FBR reaffirmed its commitment to combating smuggling, protecting national revenue, and ensuring the promotion of lawful trade across Pakistan.—RT/Agency

PML-N offers representation to PPP in Punjab government offices

ISLAMABAD: The ice between the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has begun to melt, as the Punjab government has decided to offer 'political space' to the PPP in the province.

According to PPP sources, the Punjab government has formally reached out to the party, with the contact made through Marriyum Aurangzeb.

The provincial government has assured the PPP of representation in various government institutions.

Sources added that the Punjab government has asked the PPP to submit names for appointments to provincial boards.

The PPP has also been offered representation in provincial committees, while names have been sought for the appointment of law officers as well.

The Punjab government has further assured that development funding for PPP will be resumed. PPP sources confirmed that the government will release development funds for its MPAs.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Showcases Governance & Rights Reforms as CM Meets EU GSP+ Mission

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday welcomed the European Union's GSP+ Monitoring Mission in Karachi, presenting wide-ranging reforms in human rights, labour rights, governance, climate resilience and social protection. The seven-member delegation, led by Mr Sirgio Baliberia, praised Sindh's "encouraging and impactful progress" across multiple sectors.

During the meeting, the EU team appreciated Sindh's achievements, including child labour reduction from 20.6% to 10.3%, training of 2,000 police officers under the Torture & Custodial Death Act 2022, improved labour inspections, transgender inclusion measures, and strong institutional reforms. The mission also lauded Sindh's climate response, noting the increase in mangrove cover to 265,000 hectares and the expansion of clean energy projects.—RT

Ahmed Yar Kariro Takes Charge as Manghopir Municipal Commissioner

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: Newly appointed Municipal Commissioner Ahmed Yar Kariro formally took charge of his office during an administrative ceremony at Manghopir Town on Monday. Upon his arrival at the Town Office, he was warmly received by Chairman Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Vice Chairman Rana Muhammad Arif, and senior departmental officers. Chairman Brohi welcomed him with a floral garland and assured complete cooperation on behalf of the Town administration.

Expressing gratitude, Municipal Commissioner Ahmed Yar said he was pleased to join Manghopir Town and praised Chairman Brohi's reputation as an active, honest, and field-oriented public representative who personally monitors development projects and public issues. He vowed to work with commitment to strengthen the Town's administration, enhance performance, and ensure timely service delivery.

Chairman Brohi briefed the Commissioner on ongoing projects, including sanitation improvements, road carpeting, patchwork, drain cleaning, sewerage repairs, and streetlight restoration. He highlighted priorities such as strict staff attendance, financial transparency, modernized tax collection, and prompt grievance redressal.

Rawalpindi police arrest three over viral haircutting and assault video

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police on Tuesday arrested three suspects and registered a case after a video showing massage centre owner cutting hair of a girl, went viral on social media.

In the viral video, the massage center owner can be seen cutting the woman's hair while other individuals, including another woman, stand nearby.

Initially, the Federal Police conducted a preliminary investigation, but since the incident occurred in Rawalpindi, the matter was referred to the local police.

Chief Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Khalid Hamdani subsequently formed a dedicated police team and issued directives to take action in accordance with the law..—RT/Agency

U.S. Consul General Goodman Cheers Team USA Victory at Over-40s T20 World Cup

KARACHI: U.S. Consul General Charles Goodman attended the USA vs. Sri Lanka Over-40s T20 World Cup match at National Bank Stadium, joining over 500 English Access students from Sindh. He engaged in a pre-game discussion with veteran sports reporters and provided live commentary. Following Team USA's win, Goodman congratulated the players, presented trophies, and praised Sri Lanka's efforts. Led by Captain Muhammad Farrukh and Vice-Captain Zeshan Muhammad, Team USA's participation highlights cricket's growth in the U.S. and strengthens international sports diplomacy.—RT

Islamabad to introduce free public Wi-Fi

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is set to receive free internet services at public places, but users will be required to verify their identity before logging on.

The National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) has finalized the standards for providing free Wi-Fi, as the government pushes to complete the initiative at the earliest.

Under the new system, anyone wishing to use free public Wi-Fi will have to enter their name and mobile phone number. A digital log will also be maintained to record which user accessed the internet from which specific public location.

According to sources, the NTC has been instructed not only to provide the facility but also to ensure strict cyber-security measures to safeguard users and public networks.—RT/Agency

Severe Gas Shortage Forces Karachi Residents to Cook on Firewood

KARACHI: People in Karachi are forced to cook on firewood as the city is facing severe gas loadshedding even before the onset of winter season.

According to details, in PIB Colony and surrounding areas, gas shortages have persisted for the past 20 days, disrupting daily life and leaving citizens distressed.

With stoves turning cold well before winter, residents have been compelled to rely on firewood or expensive cylinders to manage their household needs.

Protests have erupted in Jahangir Road, Jamshed Quarters, Martin Quarters, and PIB Colony, where residents, already suffering from the simultaneous suspension of water and gas, raised slogans demanding restoration of supply, shouting vide gas.—RT/Agency

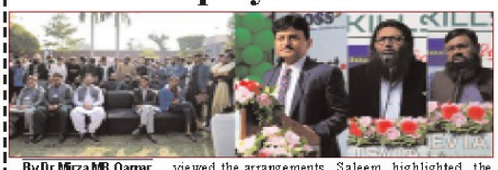
FPCCI Urges Fast-Track Visas, Stronger B2B Links to Boost Pak-Oman Trade

Karachi: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has urged swift facilitation of business visas and enhanced B2B linkages with Oman to unlock the full potential of bilateral trade. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh emphasized the need for streamlined procedures as Pakistan prepares to organize a major Single Country Exhibition in Oman in January 2026, in coordination with the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI).

Highlighting Oman as a strategic partner and gateway to the GCC, Africa, and Europe, Sheikh said the exhibition aims to showcase Pakistan's diversified exports, including IT, engineering, agriculture, and textiles, while creating high-volume business interactions.—RT

Central Punjab

Job Fair 2025 organized in Gujranwala to boost youth employment



By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: To strengthen the city's industrial identity and provide employment opportunities, Toyota organized Job Fair 2025. Commissioner Gujranwala Syed Naveed Hyder Sheerazi reviewed the arrangements, including stalls, industrial participation, and security. Major companies such as Super Asia, Boss, Coca-Cola, Sonex, Devlins, and Haier registered around 1,000 youth, offering 100 skilled students jobs. Director Toyota Imran Saleem highlighted the fair's role in connecting skilled manpower with industries. The Commissioner praised the event and directed special attention to youth guidance, noting the administration's full support for youth empowerment.

Jinnah Road police arrest motorcycle theft gang in Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Jinnah Road Police Station successfully arrested two members of the Abdi motorcycle theft gang, recovering six stolen motorcycles and PKR. 30,000 in cash. Acting under the directives of CPO Muhammad Ayaz Saleem, SP Civil Line Imran Khan and SDPO Satellite Town Mahmood ul Hasan Rana supervised SHO Abdul Rahman Doga and his team in tracking the suspects using CCTV and scientific methods. The accused, Abid and Hasan, admitted to stealing motorcycles from streets, markets, and parking plazas. Investigation is ongoing, while residents and organizations praised the police for their swift action.

Mobile phone scams on the rise in Pakistan

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Fraudsters are using new mobile phone scams to deceive citizens, pretending to be bank officials or law enforcement officers. They extract personal information to steal money from bank accounts or hack WhatsApp by tricking victims with secret codes. Many people have lost large sums, while police and telecom companies remain largely unresponsive. Social and business communities are urging the government to take urgent measures to curb this growing wave of fraud.

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Deputy Commissioner Bolan completes physical verification of government employees

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

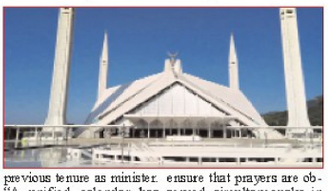
BOLAN/BHAG: Deputy Commissioner Bolan, Captain (R) Jumadad Khan Mandokhail, completed the physical verification process of employees from the Buildings & Roads (B&R), Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Irrigation Departments. During the visit, he reviewed staff attendance and their performance. The Deputy Commissioner stated that the purpose of conducting employee verification is to ensure regular attendance and improve efficiency within government departments. He emphasized that transparency in public-interest development projects and ensuring staff presence are top priorities of the district administration. He directed all employees to perform their duties with honesty and responsibility, warning that strict action will be taken against those showing negligence.

Deputy Commissioner visits primary schools in Jaffarabad

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan visited Government Girls and Boys Primary Schools Haji Noor Khan Bugti to review teaching activities and check teacher attendance. He met with students and assessed ongoing educational programs. Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Huzoor Bakhsh Bugti, District Education Officer Ayesha Bugti, and other officials, he emphasized ensuring teacher attendance and taking strict action against absentees. Khalid Khan highlighted that under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), dilapidated school buildings are being renovated, with further development proposals under consideration

Uniform prayer times to start in Islamabad, Rawalpindi



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf has confirmed that uniform prayer times will be implemented in Islamabad and Rawalpindi starting January 1.

The initiative aims to standardize the timing of Azan and congregational prayers across the twin cities.

Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said that around 80 percent of the preparations were completed during his previous tenure as minister. "A unified calendar has been prepared after nearly six months of work," he added.

The new schedule will ensure that prayers are observed simultaneously in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi, creating a synchronized religious timetable for residents.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Enough is Enough: Pakistan Cannot Tolerate Another Afghan-Bred Atrocity

The latest brazen terrorist attack on the Federal Constabulary Headquarters in Peshawar — once again with unmistakable fingerprints pointing across the border — is not just another tragic incident. It is the final warning shot in a long, painful pattern of violence bleeding into Pakistan from Taliban-run Afghanistan. The KP Police Chief's clear indication that the attackers were likely Afghan citizens only reinforces what Pakistanis have known for months: the so-called government in Kabul has become a permissive host, if not an active incubator, of terrorist safe havens.

Monday's assault, which claimed the lives of three brave FC personnel and injured 12, showed how deeply entrenched and coordinated these networks have become. Investigators revealed that the assailants had no Pakistani citizenship records, spent the night inside Peshawar before launching the attack, and arrived on a motorcycle now under forensic analysis. The swift response of the KP Police — killing two attackers before they could unleash mass carnage — deserves praise. But heroism alone cannot compensate for a failed regional security environment.

What is new today is not the violence — it is the rising fury of the Pakistani people. Public patience has evaporated. The nation now sees the pattern with painful clarity: terrorists slip in, strike soft and hard targets alike, and melt back into the Afghan shadows under a regime either unwilling or incapable of reining them in.

The world, too, has begun sounding the alarm. The UN Security Council, the EU, and multiple nations warn that the Taliban's growing rogue behavior threatens not only Pakistan but global stability. Islamabad cannot afford to vacillate any longer.

This is the moment for a decisive, all-or-nothing strategy. Pakistan must secure its borders, dismantle cross-border terror networks, and make it unmistakably clear that the era of one-sided restraint is over.

The blood of our martyrs demands nothing less.

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Thatta Court Rejects Bail in Makli Harassment Case as Main Accused Vanishes

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: In the case of alleged harassment and firing at female students of a private school in Makli, the Sessions Court Thatta rejected the bail pleas of the main accused, Sajjad Halo, and co-accused Bahar Ali Halo. Following the court's decision, Sajjad Halo reportedly fled the premises. The incident occurred two weeks ago when students were returning from a picnic, and miscreants on motorcycles allegedly chased, harassed, and fired at them. CCTV footage of the event had gone viral. The FIR was filed at Makli Police Station by students' parents. Police are still searching for the third accused, Ali Sher Halo.

Johi Administration Leads Rally Condemning Indian Defence Minister's Provocative Remarks

By Roshan Ali

JOHI: Assistant Commissioner Johi Adnan Azhar, along with Mukhtiarkar Johi Muhammad Musa Pirzado, Tapedar Shahid Ali Rind and others, led a protest rally from the Revenue Office against India. Chanting "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pak Army Zindabad," the rally marched through the town and reached the National Press Club. Addressing participants, AC Johi condemned the recent statement by India's Defence Minister Ranjeet Singh claiming that Sindh could become part of India, calling it a "delusional dream that will never come true." He said Sindh is an integral part of Pakistan, and Pakistan of Sindh. He praised Pakistan's nuclear strength, the role of scientists, the Pakistan Army, and the nation's unity, stating that any aggression from India would be met with a firm response. He urged Indian leadership to speak responsibly and refrain from provocative remarks.

Majlis-e-Aza in Qazi Ahmed Pays Respects to Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra (SA)

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: On the night of 5th Jamadi-ul-Thani, in commemoration of the martyrdom of Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra (SA), a majlis of mourning was held at the residence of Talib Hussain Jokio for the spiritual reward of the late Ghulam Mehdi Jokhio. The program began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Du'a Tawassul recited by Hafiz Zafar Ali. Zawar Qurban Mallah recited eulogies (manqabat), and Maulana Noor Hussain delivered a speech.

Mourners from Matami Sangat, Anjuman Wafa Abbas, and Anjuman Karwan-e-Moula Sajjad Ali, along with other devotees, participated. The program concluded with Du'a Khair led by Maulana Ameer Hussain Sajidi.

Gas Shortage in Mirpurkhas Sparks Alarming Concerns Over Unsafe LPG Outlets

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: The ongoing domestic gas shortage in Mirpurkhas has caused severe disruption to daily life, forcing government employees, office staff, and schoolchildren to leave home without breakfast. Amid the crisis, numerous LPG outlets have opened across crowded streets and markets, often operating alongside motorcycle workshops and petrol stations without proper safety measures. Recent incidents, including a near-accident near Khipro Bus Stand, have heightened public fear. Residents warned that continued shortages may expand unsafe LPG operations, urging the district administration and law enforcement to take immediate action to prevent potential disasters.

Chaki Muhalla Mirpurkhas Edges Toward Permanent Fix for Decades-Old Sewerage Woes

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: UC Chairman Haji Muhammad Ali resolved a longstanding sewerage issue in Chaki Muhalla, Latamarket Lane, by installing 70-80 feet of new sewer pipes, providing relief to residents and a local madrasa.

Daily blockages had caused severe difficulties, particularly for around 200 students of the madrasa. Following complaints, laborers worked for five days under the chairman's direction, also installing a new pure block. Councilor Muhammad Naeem Manho Qureshi supervised the project, which was praised by locals for Haji Muhammad Ali's dedicated public service.

Badin Celebrates Children's Day with Vibrant Activities

By Khadem Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: The Social Welfare Department celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm at Badin Gymkhana, attended by teachers, parents, students, and citizens. Students highlighted children's rights through speeches, songs, and tableaus. Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti emphasized providing education, training, and protection for children. Additional Director Social Welfare Abdul Ghaffar Khoso praised children's talent and stressed the importance of opportunities for their growth. Gifts were distributed by DSP Pir Shabbir Ahmed, while officials and NGOs highlighted the role of education and community efforts in safeguarding children.

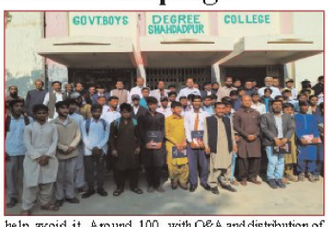
Hyderabad Administration Intensifies Crackdown on Encroachments and Illegal LPG Setups

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon chaired a meeting at Shahbaz Hall to review actions against illegal encroachments, unauthorized LPG sales in residential areas, and unsafe firecracker units. SSP Adeel Chandio reported nine firecracker factories, including three unlicensed, requiring inspection or relocation. The Deputy Commissioner ordered FIRs against violators, relocation of illegal LPG shops, and safe disposal of confiscated firecrackers. He emphasized strict adherence to SOPs, praised ongoing operations, and announced regular reviews and consultations with the LPG Association to ensure compliance and public safety.

Govt Boys Degree College Shahdadpur Hosts Thalasaemia Awareness Campaign

By Sajan Jani



SHAHDADPUR: Thalasaemia Patient Welfare Society Nawabshah organized an awareness program at Government Boys Degree College, Shikarpur. Regional Director Colleges Prof. Muhammad Suleman Siyal, Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Siyal, Ms. Samra, and other society officials attended. Principal Prof. Syed Ghulam Haider Shah highlighted that thalassemia is a deadly disease with no cure, but preventive tests before marriage can help avoid it. Around 100 students received free blood tests.

The session concluded with Q&A and distribution of prizes among students, with full participation of the college faculty.

Sindh Fankar Welfare Trust Convenes Important Meeting in Johi

By Roshan Ali

JOHI: Sindh Fankar Welfare Trust Johi held an important meeting attended by President M. Ayub Sindhi, Hamid Lashari, Asghar Mallah, and other office bearers and members. The agenda included organizational matters and expressions of grief over the sudden demise of the brother of founding Chairman Hamid Bhutto. Prayers were offered for the departed soul, and members expressed their condolences, asking Allah to grant patience to Hamid Bhutto and elevate the deceased's status in Jannat-ul-Firdous, while continuing to support struggling artists and promote Sindh's cultural heritage.

Efforts Accelerated to Uplift Education at Jhudo Govt Boys Elementary School

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Headmistress Zunaira Sikandar Khoso of Jhudo Government Boys Elementary School guided SMC Chairman Haji Nisar on a school visit and briefed him on the ongoing midterm exams. She highlighted improvements, including the provision of computers, printers, dice, and plans to purchase a new speaker. Washroom repairs and debris removal have also been completed.

Praising her staff's efforts, Zunaira Sikandar said she works day and night to enhance both students' education and the school's facilities. Haji Nisar appreciated her dedication and assured full support.

Hyderabad Teams Carry Out Late-Night Anti-Encroachment Operation

By Muqeem Keerio

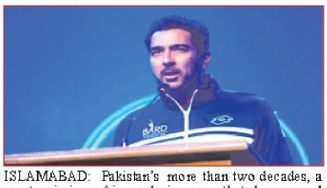
HYDERABAD: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, the Anti-Encroachment Cell carried out late-night operations across various parts of the city. In Taluka Qasimabad, actions were conducted at Ali Palace, Alamdar Chowk, and Wahdu Wah Road, while in Taluka City, encroachments were removed from Naya Pul, Risala Road, Hyder Chowk, and the Gol Building area. Illegal footpaths, roadside stalls, and goods placed on streets were cleared to ease traffic flow and improve public convenience.

The district administration stated that the anti-encroachment campaign will continue to ensure public spaces remain orderly and accessible.

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

SPORTS

Aisam-ul-Haq Bows Out as Pakistan's Tennis Icon Ends Illustrious Career



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ace tennis icon, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, has announced his retirement from professional tennis.

The announcement came at the opening ceremony of the first-ever ATP Challenger Pakistan, which commenced on November 23 here at the PTF Tennis Complex, marking the beginning of an important chapter for national tennis and the closing of another.

With this announcement, the ongoing ATP Challenger Pakistan becomes the final professional event of Aisam's distinguished and inspiring career.

Aisam's retirement brings to an end a remarkable journey spanning more than two decades, a journey that has earned him immense respect, admiration, and global recognition.

The inaugural ceremony of the country's first-ever ATP Challenger Cup was filled with emotional moments and heartfelt applause. Aisam was honoured under the lights as players, officials, and fans paid tribute to his extraordinary contributions to tennis in Pakistan. In his farewell address, he reflected on the challenges of his early career and expressed deep gratitude toward his family, particularly his parents, whose unwavering support shaped his success.—Agency

Adelaide Strikers Edge Brisbane Heat in Final-Ball WBBL Nail-Biter

Adelaide Strikers 170 for 4 (Wolvaardt 51, Beaumont 51, Hamilton 2-32) beat Brisbane Heat 169 for 5 (Winfield-Hill 47, Wellington 2-31, Ecclestone 2-36) by 6 wickets

South African powerhouse Laura Wolvaardt smacked a half-century in Adelaide Strikers' tense six-wicket WBBL win over battling Brisbane Heat. After Heat posted 169 for 5, Strikers nudged two a leg bye from the final ball in a thriller at Adelaide's Karen Rolton Oval.

Wolvaardt set an ominous early tone with 51 from 33 balls in a decisive Tuesday night knock, while Bridget Patterson (32* from 22) played a cool hand in the frenetic finale. The Strikers required 31 from the last three overs, an equation reduced to seven from Nadine de Klerk's final over. With scores tied on the last ball, Patterson tried a leg-side flick, the ball hitting her pads and running to a vacant fine leg.

Heat remain winless from six games while Adelaide logged a second win of the campaign.—Agency

Connolly's Grit Guides Western Australia to Hard-Fought Draw

Western Australia 188 (Goodwin 53, Thornton 3-25, Manenti 3-40) and 324 for 6 (Connolly 70, Cartwright 64, Goodwin 55, Thornton 3-77) drew with South Australia 333 (McSweeney 68, Hunt 58, Haskett 3-89)

Emerging allrounder Cooper Connolly top-scored with a fighting half-century to help Western Australia thwart South Australia in a Sheffield Shield draw.

Connolly's polished 70 and fifties from Hilton Cartwright and Jayden Goodwin led WA's final-day resistance in the rain-marred day-nighter at Adelaide Oval.

WA started Tuesday's final day 85 for 2, trailing by 60 runs, with SA hoping to engineer a victory push.

But Goodwin followed his first-innings half-century with 55 in another knock of substance, and Cartwright made 64 to defy SA. The pair combined for a 105-run stand for the third wicket, soaking up more than 40 overs from SA's bowlers. Hanno Jacobs broke the partnership when he bowled Goodwin, ending his 156-ball knock. Cartwright departed only 10 runs later, launching at a full, wide delivery from Henry Thornton to Jake Lehmann at point. WA were 185 for 4 but again steadied with Connolly and Aaron Hardie featuring in a 101-run partnership. But the duo were dismissed in a three-over span as Thornton struck at dusk.—Agency

Bartlett and Sandhu Rip Through Victoria as Gabba Pink Ball Mayhem Erupts

Queensland 430 (Renshaw 112, Bartlett 72, Sutherland 3-63) and 32 for 3 beat Victoria 318 for 9 dec (Harper 85, Geyer 4-102) and 143 (Short 54, Sandhu 5-23, Bartlett 4-35) by seven wickets

Queensland quicks Xavier Bartlett and Gurinder Sandhu starred with bat and ball to secure a seven-wicket win over previously undefeated Victoria.

Bartlett struck a bold and brisk 72 off 91 deliveries, his highest first-class score, before bowling with venom and control to claim 4 for 35 on day three of the day-night pink-ball clash at the Gabba.

Player of the match Sandhu, who had made 33 in a 69-run eighth wicket stand with Bartlett, bowled a magnificent spell highlighted by three wickets in one over where he removed the dangerous Matt Short and then Fergus O'Neill and Will Sutherland for ducks.

The tall right-arm seamer got the ball to talk under lights and his 5 for 23 was just reward for what was a lethal exhibition of pace in the top of the table Sheffield Shield showdown.

Queensland resumed day three on 352 for 7 before a fierce storm took the players off. They were all out for 430, a first innings lead of 112, before ripping through Victoria for just 143.

Victoria were 114 for 4 before Bartlett and Sandhu ignited a collapse with the last six wickets falling for just 29 runs.

The drama wasn't over as Queensland lost three quick wickets before reaching their target after the umpires extended play beyond 10.30pm (AEST). That was after an hour had already been added for the rain delay. The match finished at 10.46pm, the latest Queensland officials could remember in the past 20 years.

Bartlett was full of appreciation for Sandhu after the win.

"He's obviously a seasoned campaigner and knows how to keep his cool. That was probably one thing that sticks out when we were batting and bowling together," Bartlett told AAP. "It was an amazing spell from him, the triple-wicket maiden was unbelievable.—Agency

Warwickshire Drops Birmingham Bears Name in Bold T20 Blast Rebrand

Warwickshire have retired their Birmingham Bears moniker for T20 Blast matches, and will instead revert to being called Warwickshire Bears when the rebooted men's and women's competition gets underway in 2026.

The club won their sole T20 title as Birmingham Bears in 2014, but have reverted to their county name after more than a decade, following feedback from members and in recognition of the women's county competition that got underway this season.

"Warwickshire has and always will be at the heart of who we are," Stuart Cain, the country's chief executive, said. "It's our identity and has been for well over a century.

"Over a decade ago, the club decided to be bold with a city-based name for our T20 team and it saw attendances grow to record levels and attract new fans to the Bears. But with our long-term future in mind, and following feedback from members through the members committee, now is the right time for change.

"We represent the county and that's what returning to Warwickshire Bears is about."

The announcement came ahead of the ECB's unveiling of next year's Blast fixtures - which, for the 14th consecutive year, will be hosted at Warwickshire's home ground of Edgbaston (or EdgBLASTon, as per the club's "bold and electrifying move" to rebrand the stadium for the duration of the tournament).

The Blast schedule has been compromised in recent years, following the introduction of the Hundred in a mid-summer block in July and August. This year's event featured a final on September 13, almost two months after the conclusion of the group stage in July, meaning that each of the four teams were missing key players - a situation described by Lancashire's captain, Keaton Jennings, as "ludicrous".

The new-look tournament will take place in a tightened two-month window.—Agency

Hazlewood Back in Action as Cummins Tunes Up with Pink-Ball Prep

In an encouraging sign for Australia, Josh Hazlewood returned to the nets on Tuesday as he recovers from the hamstring injury that kept him out of the opening Ashes Test in Perth.

Pat Cummins, meanwhile, was pictured bowling with a pink ball as he continues his push to return for the day-night Test at the Gabba following his back injury.

The pair trained at Cricket Central in Sydney while New South Wales were playing their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania.

In what looked like clear evidence of immediate priorities, Hazlewood was bowling with a red ball. He is not expected to be available for the Gabba Test, so his comeback target will be Adelaide, which has reverted to a day Test this year.

Speaking on Monday, Australia coach Andrew McDonald was confident that Hazlewood would be available later in the Ashes.

"I know that he'll be available at some point during the series," he said. "We've got a little bit of that early rehab to go through to formulate where he may plug into the series, but we expect him to take some part in the series."

Cummins has been making good progress in ramping up his bowling in recent weeks and looked impressive in the nets in Perth ahead of the opening Test. The selectors will need to be fully confident that he can get through the workloads required for a Test, even if the early indications are that matches in this series may not go the distance.

"It looked like a player that was nearing the completion of his rehabilitation," McDonald said. "The intensity was there, the ball speed was there. There's a lot of positives, but now it's just really building that resilience within the soft tissue and making sure that we're not putting him in harm's way in terms of accelerating it too much."

The first three Tests of the series are well spaced out - the gap between the first and second now 11 days after the two-day finish in Perth - but the schedule does become more condensed from Adelaide onwards: there is a four-day gap to the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne and the same to Sydney if those matches reach the fifth day.—Agency

Jansen and Harmer Drive South Africa to Brink of Dominant 2-0 Sweep Over India

India 201 and 27 for 2 (Jaiswal 13, Harmer 1-1) need another 522 runs to beat South Africa 489 and 260 for 5 dec (Stubbs 94, Jadeja 4-64)

South Africa ensured their first series win in India in 25 years by building on their lead for nearly five hours. While the declaration, setting India more than they have ever been set at home, seemed a touch conservative, the visitors went to stumps needing eight wickets on the final day to take away all 12 WTC points from this Test and consign India to their second white wash at home in 12 months after 12 years of spotless series record.

As it often happens in such match situations, the same pitch that South Africa batted on, looking untroubled for 70.3 overs, began to look unplayable in the 15.5 India got to play. Marco Jansen didn't even bother with swing and seam, and began to bounce Yashasvi Jaiswal before getting him out on the cut shot. Simon Harmer, who has out-bowled the home spinners, continued his dream series with a dream offbreak to bowl KL Rahul through the gate, and came desperately close to getting B Sai Sudharsan out lbw.

The day began with curiosity around how much South Africa valued the 12 full points from this match vis-a-vis ensuring they give India no chance to threaten their series lead. Turns out they were in no mood for adventure. Especially as the ball started to turn more consistently in the first session of the fourth day than it had done at any point before. Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar got long spells in. Jadeja got Ryan Rickelton caught at extra cover, but then India did what they have struggled to do all Test: get wickets on defensive shots. —Agency

Bird and Bell Crush New South Wales in Ruthless Innings Defeat Marked by No Fight, No Plan

Tasmania 623 for 8 dec (Chaudhary, Ward 119, Jewell 102, Hope 91, Sangha 4-175) beat New South Wales 391 for 9 dec (Patterson 80, Shaw 68, Philippe 52, Hicks 50, Meredith 3-77) and 174 (Shaw 44, Bell 3-30, Bird 3-36) by an innings and 58 runs

Jackson Bird and Gabe Bell shared six wickets to dismantled New South Wales' second innings and secure Tasmania a crushing innings and 58-run Sheffield Shield victory over Tasmania.

In a match in which neither team was able to take all 10 wickets in the first innings, NSW collapsed on day four to be all out for 174 in 92 overs at Cricket Central in Sydney.

After falling to 143 for 9, NSW captain Jack Edwards (38 off 137 balls) dug in with No. 11 Liam Hatcher (8 not out off 79 balls) for 28 overs to frustrate the Tigers, before Riley Meredith took the final wicket, nipping one past Edward's edge to take off stump, to finally sink the the home side.

Tasmania became the first team to secure an outright win in a Shield game at Cricket Central, with the previous four matches at the venue ending in draws.

Cruising at 102 for 2, NSW lost 8 for 41 in the next 25 overs to hand Tasmania their second win of the season. Bell took three wickets in an over: Josh Philippe glancing down the leg side, Charlie Stobo lbw and Tanveer Sangha edging behind. Edwards was clearly unhappy with the umpire's decision for the latter

After a breezy 43 on day one, Sam Konstas struggled for his 19 in the second innings before being dismissed by Bird against his former team.—Agency

Face of the Day

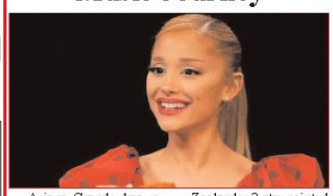
Name: Ahmed Raza
About Me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!
Location: Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

ENTERTAINMENT

Ariana Grande Opens Up with Candid Reflections on Her Music Journey



Ariana Grande has recently reflected on her relationship with music as he embarked on her first world tour in six years.

The America actress was in conversation with Nicole Kidman for Interview Magazine amid her success with both Wicked: Part I and Wicked: For Good.

"I've just been healing my relationship to music and touring over the past couple of years," she told Nicole.

Elsewhere in the interview, Ariana opened up about her process for making music.

"With Eternal Sunshine, that felt like a very different experience for me," said the 32-year-old as she referred to her 2024 album.

Zoolander 2 star pointed out that the time away from music "helped me reclaim certain pieces of it and put certain feelings that maybe belonged to my relationship to fame".

"Or the things that come with being an artist, in a box somewhere else, and say, 'Okay. I don't have to let go of this thing that I love. I can just put those things over here, and not lose sight of my gifts,'" explained Ariana.

The singer as well as actress also talked about her pop music career, saying, "I hope this doesn't sound ungrateful, but it's just a big adjustment when your life changes in that very drastic way."

Billie Eilish Closes Hit Me Hard and Soft Tour with Tease of Upcoming Album

Billie Eilish wrapped her Hit Me Hard and Soft tour by teasing a few new beginnings.

Over the weekend, the Lovely hitmaker marked the end of her longest tour to date at the Chase Center in San Francisco, California.

During the last concert on Sunday, November 23, she took a moment to reflect on her 14-month tour and thanked fans for their support and love.

"This has been such an amazing tour. Just very, very grateful and lucky that I got to do this tour," the 23-year-old musician said, addressing the crowd while on stage. "I feel extremely proud of this show."

Fighting back tears, the Grammy winner choked up at one moment. Her fans cheered loudly, their voices echoed in the venue, to encourage her.

"I know I could just keep this show going and keep doing shows," she continued, spilling some major hints about what's next to come and her future plans. "but I have to go home and I have to make an album, and I have to get married."

"And... All things must come to an end, as we know. And all that means is a lot of other amazing things that are gonna happen eventually," the Birds of a Feather chart-topper added, teasing even more about what's on the horizon.

Brad-less Jennifer Aniston Confronts AI Deepfake Threat in The Morning Show Debate

Jennifer Aniston has recently weighed in on the issue of artificial intelligence in the season four of The Morning Show.

The American actress explained how her character Alex Levy tackled AI deepfakes situation during this new season.

Jennifer told Variety that it's like a "manhole cover" we can't put back on.

"And we just want to and being in that position where you are all of a sudden, seeing something you were there," continued the 56-year-old.

Interestingly, Friends alum pointed out that they saw "how it happened and trying to sniff out the truth".

"How did this even come about and then to find out at the end of the season which you have that it's the calls coming from inside the house," explained Jennifer.

Elaborating on her show, the Murder Mystery actress mentioned, "It's just looked a little bit of horror movie and we are all just figuring it out in as we go in real time." Therefore, Jennifer added, "I don't know what we are going to do about that."

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Maqsoodo Rind Holds Majlis and Procession Honoring Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra (SA)

By Ayaz Latif

MAQSOODO RIND: On the occasion of Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra's (SA) martyrdom, a mourning procession was organized from Imambargah Muntazir Mehdi under the leadership of Molvi Singar Hussain Zawar. The procession reached Hussaini Chowk, where a majlis was held. Maulana Syed Imran Abbas Kazmi addressed the gathering, highlighting Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra's life and the sacrifices of Karbala's martyrs. Over 30 noha reciting groups from nearby villages participated in matam. Water and tea stalls were arranged along the procession route, with security managed by Maqsoodo Rind police and scouts. Distribution of Nazr Niaz concluded the event.

Umerkot Hosts Awareness Seminar on Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The civil society organization CSSP organized an awareness seminar at Gothia Guest House on sexual violence against women and girls. District Education Officer Mir Hasan Arisar stressed the need for awareness and encouraged victims to report harassment immediately. CSSP officials highlighted collaboration with local authorities to prevent violence and promote gender equality. Students presented tableaus on domestic violence and child marriage. The event was attended by officials, teachers, parents, and citizens, who praised the initiative for empowering women and girls.

MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro Condoles Martyrdom of Zawar Mushtaq Tunio

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Jameel Ahmed Soomro, Political Secretary to the Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and MPA City Larkana, expressed his condolences to the family of Zawar Mushtaq Tunio, who was martyred in a police chowki firing by armed assailants, and expressed his grief over the incident. Jameel Ahmed Soomro also recited Fateha for the soul of the deceased for the reward of his soul. On this occasion, office-bearers of Pakistan Peoples Party City District Larkana were also present.

Mirpurkhas Cricket Team Clinches Second Place in Sindh Police Games 2025

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: The Mirpurkhas district cricket team achieved an impressive second-place finish in the Sindh Police Games 2025, earning widespread praise across the district. Congratulatory messages highlighted the team's dedication and skill, expressing pride in their achievement. Players and coaching staff credited their hard work for the success and pledged to further improve performance in future tournaments, recognition to Mirpurkhas in provincial sporting aiming to bring greater events.

Pregnant Patient's Condition Deteriorates Amid Relatives' Delay at Samaro Hospital

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A pregnant patient admitted to Tehsil Hospital Samaro in critical condition faced worsening health due to severe anemia and low blood pressure. Doctors, including Lady Doctor and MS Dr. Jeevraj, advised immediate transfer to a better-equipped hospital. Despite ambulance arrangements and staff efforts, the patient's relatives delayed the process, putting her life at greater risk, highlighting the hospital's need for improved emergency facilities.

Mirpur Sakro Sees Protests Over Teacher Suspension and Alleged Religious Pressure

By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: Citizens, traders, and political-social activists in Mirpur Sakro held a peaceful shutter-down strike today against the alleged forced religious conversion of Hindu girls at Government Girls High School. The protest also highlighted the controversial suspension of a competent female teacher, Gulnaz Jokhio, which organizers called a one-sided and unjust decision. Demonstrators demanded a transparent investigation to identify the actual perpetrators spreading unrest and tarnishing the school's reputation. They urged Provincial Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah to revoke the suspension, reinstate the teacher, and ensure a safe, fair environment for students, staff, and the wider community.

Sindh Education Minister Orders Fresh Probe in Mirpur Sakro Girls High School Case

By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah has expressed dissatisfaction over the initial report regarding the headmistress issue at Mirpur Sakro Girls High School and has ordered a fresh inquiry. He noted that the teacher facing allegations was not given an opportunity to present her statement, making the previous report incomplete. The minister has directed the formation of a new committee at the provincial level, consisting of two female officers, to review the matter impartially. The committee will include Chief Executive Curriculum Advisor Dr. Fauzia Khan and Deputy Director Azma Kumboh, and is mandated to evaluate the case fairly from all perspectives.

Mirpurkhas Education Department Ramps Up Anti-Drug Campaign in Schools

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Professor Mumtaz Ali Khuhro, Director Primary Schools Education, Mirpurkhas Division, emphasized the urgent need to eliminate drugs and intoxicants from educational institutions to secure students' futures. Speaking at a program held in his office, he described drugs as a destructive force targeting youth and stressed the importance of collective action.

To tackle this issue, monitoring committees are being established at district, Taluka, and school levels.

District Education Officer Nabi Bux Gurgez, Deputy Director Quality Assurance Iram Naz, headmasters, and headmistresses pledged full cooperation.

The event was also attended by Deputy Director Social Welfare Anwar Hussain Khaskheli, health officials, Taluka Education Officers, and other education representatives from across the division.

Larkana Hosts High-Stakes Pakistan Inter Board Girls Badminton Championship 2025

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Pakistan Inter Board Girls Badminton Championship 2025 was held at the Officer's Club, Larkana, under the supervision of the Education Board. The event was inaugurated by Khalid Hussain Meiu, Chairman Education Board Larkana, and attended by education officials, principals, sports directors, and students from across the country.

The opening match saw Larkana defeat Sukkur 2-0, followed by notable wins by Federal Board Islamabad and Lahore teams in subsequent matches. Umpiring was managed by senior directors of physical education, and students of OPF Public School Larkana presented cultural tableaus.

The championship showcased exceptional talent, sportsmanship, and teamwork among female students, highlighting the importance of promoting sports and extracurricular activities in educational institutions.

Experts Push Police-University Alliance to Combat Escalating Rural Crime in Sindh

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The University of Sindh's Department of Criminology organized a seminar on "Dacoities and Rural Crimes in Sindh," highlighting factors, surrender policies, and control strategies. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri emphasized using scientific research, field studies, and data analysis to support law enforcement. Former Mirpurkhas University VC Prof. Dr. Nabi Bux Narejo stressed that crime prevention requires studying socio-economic pressures, tribal traditions, and administrative weaknesses. Experts called for permanent collaboration between police and universities to analyze crime patterns, identify root causes, and improve policing effectiveness, noting that modern criminology is vital for sustainable law enforcement in Sindh.

Assistant Commissioner Tando Bago Surprises Hospital with Sudden Inspection

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Assistant Commissioner Lal Muhammad Bajir conducted a surprise inspection of PPH-I Hospital, Syed Ali Bux Shah, reviewing all departments and inquiring about patient care and availability of medicines. He specifically gathered information regarding vaccination campaigns and urged that vaccines be administered across all villages. During the visit, he also inspected the hospital's dilapidated building and residential quarters, instructing Dr. Ashok Kumar Lohana to report the building's condition in writing. The AC appreciated the excellent performance of Supervisor Babu Jat and encouraged further hard work to improve services. The visit highlighted the administration's focus on healthcare quality, patient welfare, and ensuring the effective functioning of medical facilities in rural areas.

Sassui Palijo Slams Indian Minister and Defends Sindh's Territorial Dignity

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Former senator and nationalist leader Sassui Palijo strongly rejected the statement by an Indian minister regarding Sindh, calling it "baseless, provocative, and interference in Pakistan's internal affairs." She highlighted Sindh's distinct historical identity, noting its opposition to the Bombay Presidency merger and its early support for the Pakistan Resolution in 1943. Palijo emphasized that provincial autonomy and fair resource distribution are essential for a strong Pakistan. She warned that any attempt, internal or external, to divide Sindh would face fierce resistance. "Defending Sindh's integrity is a sacred struggle," she stated, urging the federal government to prioritize development and equitable representation for all provinces while recalling Sindhi leaders' sacrifices for Pakistan's creation.

PPP Stages Major Organizational Meeting in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Umerkot District held a key organizational meeting at the PPP Secretariat, chaired by Divisional President and MNA Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani and Divisional General Secretary and Provincial Minister Mir Tariq Ali Talpur.

The meeting was attended by all district and city-level office-bearers, including chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of town committees and subordinate organizations.

Discussions focused on strengthening the party structure at UC, TC, and ward levels, organizing awareness seminars on the Farmer Card program, and highlighting PPP's developmental achievements through media. Plans were also made to celebrate the 58th Foundation Day of PPP on November 30 at the district headquarters with full enthusiasm.

Roshan Tara High School Hyderabad Marks Children's Day with Enthusiasm

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Salawat Jamaat Association organized a Children's Day program at Roshan Tara High School, Salawat Muhalla, Hyderabad. Dr. Qurat-ul-Ain Shah, Assistant Director Social Welfare, Taluka City Hyderabad, attended as the Chief Guest.

President Mohib Akhtar Chauhan, Vice President Zohaib Hassan, General Secretary Hafiz Muhammad Zaki, and other members were also present. Students presented creative tableaus highlighting children's issues. Dr. Shah emphasized the importance of protecting children's rights and raising awareness about their welfare. President Chauhan thanked the guests for their participation and support.

Mehar Holds Majlis and Procession to Honor Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra's (SA) Martyrdom

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hazrat Bibi Fatima Zahra (SA), devotees paid tribute to her personality through majlis and processions organized by Anjuman Hyderi under Mohsin Ali Shaikh and Haji Sikandar Junejo. The procession from Hyderi Imambargah featured renowned noha reciters including Zawar Syed Sher Muhammad Lakiari, poet Syed Afzal Shah, and others. Youth groups participated in traditional matam, reciting elegies at Dua Chowk. Security arrangements were strenghened under SSP Dadu's directions, and participants were provided with refreshments and langar.

Senior Journalist Suraj Sujawali's 53rd Birthday Celebrated with Literary Warmth

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A grand event was held at Sarwech Sujawali Public Library to celebrate the 53rd birthday of renowned writer, poet, political and social leader, senior journalist Suraj Sujawali. The celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony and tributes in words honoring his contributions. Local leaders, PPP representatives, poets, journalists, and social personalities attended in large numbers. Speakers praised Sujawali's literary and journalistic work and extended best wishes for his future. The event highlighted his service to literature, journalism, and the community, inspiring younger generations.

METRO KARACHI

Sindh CM Slams Indian Defence Minister's 'Absurd' Claim on Sindh

Karachi: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah strongly rejected recent remarks by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, asserting that Sindh is an integral part of Pakistan and any territorial claims have no basis.

Responding on social media, Murad Ali Shah described Singh's statement as "historically illiterate and diplomatically reckless." He highlighted that Sindh separated from the Bombay Presidency in 1936, well before Partition, as its people sought autonomy, dignity, and a distinct political identity.

The Sindh CM advised the Indian minister to focus on India's internal challenges, including farmers' protests and unrest in several provinces, instead of commenting on Pakistan. —RT

Sindh Assembly Panel Reviews Police Operations, Crime Trends

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: A key meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs was held at the Sindh Assembly, chaired by Faryal Talpur, to review law enforcement and crime control across the province. The six-point agenda included drug mafia arrests, forensic lab performance, chemically adulterated milk investigations, land mafia cases, a proposed Provincial Cyber Crime Unit, and katcha area operations.

Chairperson Talpur stressed zero tolerance for drugs and land grabbing, while Home Minister Zia-Ul-Hassan Lanjar highlighted joint operations by Sindh Police, Excise, and ANF. IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon reported 12,623 arrests in anti-drug operations, 769 in land mafia cases, and 1,368 dacoits detained in katcha areas, with 190 killed in encounters.

Sindh Labor Minister Joins ILO, EFP to Champion Workers' Rights

KARACHI: Sindh Labor Minister Saeed Ghani joined Geir Tonstoel, ILO Country Director, Feroz Alam, Vice President of the Employers Federation of Pakistan, Majyd Aziz, Former EFP President, Syed Nazar Ali, EFP Secretary General, and Ejaz Ahmed, ILO, at the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work event. Hosted jointly by EFP and ILO, the event focused on strengthening labor rights, promoting workplace fairness, and advancing compliance with international labor standards across Pakistan.—RT

Voices from the Roof of the World Launches Season 4 Amid Escalating Climate Threat

KARACHI: Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW) is set to launch Season 4, amplifying urgent climate stories from the 'Roof of the World'. Director Jawad Sharif, Executive Producer Andrew Tkach and Laila Naz Taj highlight crises such as smog, glacier melt, and water scarcity. Supported by AKU, AKAH, UCA, AKF and donors including Ross Beaty and the Jenabai Hussainali Shariff Family, VRW continues spotlighting vulnerable communities across the region.—RT

Dead Animals Dumped Near Schools as Gadap Village Plunges Into Filth Crisis

By Saeed Lashari

KARACHI: Gadap's Mullan Radho Khaskheli and Angaara areas have turned into disease-ridden dumps as dead livestock are allegedly discarded beside primary and secondary schools. Residents report rising illnesses and daily animal deaths, with packs of dogs gathering around the waste. Locals demand urgent action against the said responsible companies to end the hazardous dumping.

Sindh LG Minister Orders Immediate Removal of Jail Chowrangi Garbage Point

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, along with Labour Minister Saeed Ghani, ordered the immediate removal of the garbage point under the Jail Chowrangi flyover, directing SSWMB to eliminate dump sites and improve citywide cleanliness. During visits to Shaheed-e-Millat Road and GTS Imtiaz, he instructed stricter sweeping, prevention of fires, action against debris dumping, and measures to stop unauthorized waste scavenging. Shah also ordered FIRs under Section 144 against those burning garbage.—RT

FoodAg Pakistan 2025 Opens with Record Global Surge and High-Level Diplomacy

KARACHI: The 3rd Edition of FoodAg Pakistan 2025 opened with a powerful global turnout, marking one of the largest international participations in the event's history. Over 370 Pakistani companies from more than 20 agro-food subsectors showcased their products, while 850+ buyers from 80 countries — including major groups from China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Turkey, the UK, Europe, the Middle East, and North America — converged in Karachi, signalling rising global confidence in Pakistan's food and agriculture sector.

Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal inaugurated the exhibition alongside TDAP leadership, holding key meetings with delegations from Qatar, China, Italy, Sri Lanka, and ITC to boost bilateral trade and expand value-added agri-food production. Regulatory bodies also engaged counterparts from Malaysia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Gambia, and Côte d'Ivoire on SPS cooperation and certification harmonisation.

With strong buyer interest, dynamic side events, and Michelin-recognized chefs showcasing Pakistani ingredients, the expo is positioning Pakistan as a fast-emerging hub in global food trade.—RT

PTI Leader Warns Eroding Fundamental Rights Threaten Pakistan's Democracy

Karachi: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Karachi leader and legal expert Advocate Hasnain Ali Chohan has warned that ongoing judicial reforms are being used for political engineering and to protect vested interests, undermining democratic stability. Speaking in Karachi, he said violations of fundamental rights, restrictions on civil liberties, and curbs on freedom of expression contravene Articles 9, 10-A, 19, and 25 of the Constitution.

Advocate Chohan criticized pressures on the judiciary, limited access to justice, and fabricated cases against political workers, calling these practices a threat to public trust and the rule of law. —RT/Agency

Governor Sindh Approves Honorary PhD for Minister Nasir Hussain Shah

Karachi: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has approved awarding an honorary PhD to Provincial Minister for Local Government, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah. According to media reports, the Chancellor of Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Kamran Khan Tessori, sanctioned the conferment of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree on Minister Shah in recognition of his contributions.

The decision reflects the provincial government's acknowledgment of Minister Shah's services and achievements in his field.—RT

Veteran Journalist Qamar Kandhro Passes Away

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Renowned senior journalist Qamar Kandhro passed away after a prolonged illness, suffering from asthma and severe lung problems. He had spent decades working fearlessly in Sindhi and Urdu newspapers. Sources say he faced severe financial difficulties and sought treatment with the help of well-wishers, as government support was lacking. Despite appeals to authorities and press organizations, adequate assistance was not provided. His body will be sent to his hometown Nasirabad for burial. Media circles expressed deep sorrow over his passing and criticized official negligence.

SSGC Executes Major Anti-Theft Operation in Sohrab Goth

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Sui Gas Company carried out a large-scale operation in Sohrab Goth Town, targeting illegal gas connections in Al-Noor Society, Wazir Brohi Goth, and Noor Muhammad Burfat. Led by officer Ali Hyder Jhatial, the team discovered and disconnected numerous underground connections used for gas theft, including over 100 in Al-Noor Society alone. Suspects fled during the raid. Ali Hyder Jhatial stated that legal action will follow against offenders and urged citizens to report illegal connections. The operation will continue until all violations are eliminated.

PACC Announces First Theatre Festival from December 21–27

KARACHI: PACC President Makhdoom Riaz announced the organization's first-ever theatre festival from December 21–27, featuring around 50 talented performers. Directors Suhail Abbasi, Zahoor Malik, Adam Rathore, and actors Shanze, Elias Nadeem, and Jamal Mujeeb will showcase seven plays. Riaz revealed plans to take PACC artists abroad and hold four to five festivals annually. PACC Board members Yousuf Aziz, Jailani Yousuf, and host Agha Shirazi also attended the press conference.—RT

Sindh High Court Refuses Immediate Stay on Karachi e-Challan System

Karachi: The Sindh High Court has rejected a request for an immediate stay on e-Challan fines in Karachi. During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer argued that fines in Lahore and Karachi differ, alleging discriminatory treatment against the provincial capital.

The court, however, directed the lawyer not to compare Karachi with other cities and refused to issue a stay. The bench also sought responses from DIG Traffic and other concerned parties. The hearing on the petitions, filed by Jamaat-e-Islami, Central Muslim League, Bus Owners Association, and citizens against hefty e-Challan fines, has been adjourned until December 11 for further proceedings.—RT/Agency

KARACHI: Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Member National Assembly, was the Chief Guest at the 8th Pakistan Property Expo organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI), posing for a group photo with Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, is Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Mohsin Sheikhani, Khurshid, Fahad Barlas, and other leading builders.-RT

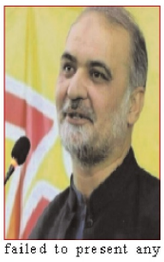
MQM MPA Asks Sindh CM to Revisit ICCBS Separation from Karachi University

Karachi: MQM Sindh Assembly member Engineer Adil Askari has written to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, urging him to reconsider the decision to separate the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) and the HEJ Research Institute from the University of Karachi.

In his letter dated November 24, Askari emphasized that ICCBS is not only a globally recognized research center but also a cornerstone of the University of Karachi's academic identity. He expressed concern that such a significant administrative decision was made without consultation with the university's syndicate, senate, faculty, or staff.

The MQM MPA stressed that transparent dialogue, academic review, and broad consensus are essential for decisions of this nature. He appealed to the Chief Minister to review the matter and ensure extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders so that the final decision aligns with long-term educational and public interests.—RT/Agency

JI Leader Blasts Major Parties for Karachi's Decline



Karachi: Saifuddin, Advocate, Leader of the Opposition in Karachi City Council and Deputy Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi, strongly criticized the joint press conference held by PPP, MQM, and PML-N, calling all three parties equally responsible for Karachi's deteriorating condition.

He said the city's leadership gathered at the press conference failed to present any unified agenda for Karachi's development. Saifuddin highlighted that the mayor imposed under Form 12 and the federal government controlling through Form 47 are "on the same page," while efforts by MQM to allow municipal work are politically motivated and do not serve Karachi's progress.—RT/Agency

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS) KASHMORE @ KANDHKOT

No: XEN:(B)/TC/202/2025 Kash:@ K.kot Dated: 25/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS:

01. Sealed Tenders are invited as per SPPRÃ Rule 2010 (Amended 2019) on composite schedule Rates (CSR-2024.) from tho Interested contractors/Firms/Companies on Standard fom of Biddin Document for rocurement of the followin works.

S#	Name of scheme	Estimated Cost	Completion Period	Cost Of Tender	Earnest Money
1	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY CENITRE IN VILLAGE MARI SHER MOHAMMAD KHAN BIJARANI, MIR MEHRAN KHAN BIJARANI, MIR FATEH MOHAMMAD KHAN BIJARANI, MIR HAMZA KHAN BIJARANI, MUHAMMAD ALAM GHUNIO, SHAFIULLAH GUJRANI (SDGs)	90.000	24 Months	3000/-	5%
2	INSTALLATION OF SOLAR STREET LIGHTS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF TALUKA TANGWANI INCLUDING VILLAGES OF WC RASALDAR, U/C MALGUZAR, DOULATPUR, WC CHEEL OF TALUKA KANDHKOT (SDGs)	100.00	24 Months	3000/-	5%
3	KANDHKOT CITY PARK REHABILITATION. (SDGs)	50.000	24 Months	3000/-	5%
4	CITY PARK KASHMORE PHASE-II SAP 2025-26	30.000	12 Months	3000/-	5%

2. Eligibility: Valid registration with Income Tax Department (FBR) 2026, Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) 2026 and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) 2025 in relevant category "Solar Energy System Code and Electric License from SEPCO, for the current financial year 2026.

3. Method Of Procurement: **Single Stage Two Envelopes Procedure, Open National Competitive Bidding.**

4. Bidding / Tender Documents (Issuance, Submission & Opening)

s.#	Particulars	1st Attempt	In case of un-responded tender
i.	Last date of receipt of application for issuance of Blank Tender from Publication of NIT upto 05:00 PM on a payment of tender fee Non-Refundable .	11-12-2025	29-12-2025
ii.	Date of receipt and opening of tenders. (Receipt of tender upto 10:00 AM & Opening at 11:00AM	12-12-2025	30-12-2025.
iii.	Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be at Office of the Executive Engineer (Buildings) Division Kashmore @ Kandhkot District Kashmore @ Kandhkot Near Deputy Commissioner Office Kandhkot.		

4. (TERMS & CONDITIONS)
Under following conditions bid will be rejected:

(i) Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and firms

(ii) Bids received after specified date and time.

(iii) Black listed firms / involved in any litigation

(iv) Incomplete bidding document (having just Bill of Quantities)

(v) **Unsigned and unstamped bidding documents.**

(b) **Procuring Agency reserved the rights to reject any or all the bids as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended upto date)**

(c) **Responsive Bidder is required to submit following documents with bid:**

(a) Contract documents and other terms & conditions can be seen or downloaded from the official website of SPPRA i.e https://pprasindh.gov.pk/PPMS/. The tenders fee above mentioned amount and 5% Bid Security of estimated cost I bid cost in the shape of Call Deposit in favour of undersigned.

(b) **Certificate (I) NTN Certificate (With active status 2026), (ii) SRB Certificate (With active status 2026) (III) Valid PEC Certificate (upto June 2026 In relevant category & matching Specialized Code (Solar Energy System Code) "Electric License from SEPCO along with copy of CNIC of owner / proprietor.**

(c) List of complete work (03 Nos.) for last three years from (2023 to 2025) of Building works with documentary evidence along-with satisfactory completion certificate of work and copies of letter of award of works

(d) List of On-Going (03 Nos.) of Building Works with documentary evidence with copies of award of works.

(e) Detail of machinery and equipment available for execution of work with documentary evidence.

(f) Qualification and experience Of technical personnel with names and key site management staff

(g) Bank Statement of Last 03 Years., conforming Cash Availability 30% of the estimate cost of work and financial capability must have urn over of 100% of the estimate cost of work.

(h) Current affidavit that the Firm is not indulged in litigation and has not abandoned any work.

(i) Affidavit that the given information, documents and data is absolutely true and correct.

(j) Audit Report of Companies enclosed herewith Last 03 Years.

(k) In case undesirable circumvents on submission / opening date and time or if Government declares Holidays the tender shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. **Bid shall comprise Single Package containing Two separate envelop** Each envelope contain separately the **Financial Proposal** and **Technical Proposal.** Envelope shall be marked Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion.

7. **Technical Proposal** opened, shall be evaluated for technical qualification of the firms. Financial bids I proposals of the technically qualified firms shall be opened on the date and time that will be communicated in writing to all the qualified contractors I firms. Financial bids / proposals of technical disqualified shall be returned to the respective bidders un-opened.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS) DIVISION KASHMORE @ KANDHKOT

INF-KRY No: 3950/25

When you forgive you win.
—Unknown

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh
Uniting People Every Day

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 2025

'No Hopes' From Ragtag Taliban Regime Anymore, Says Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Tuesday that Pakistan had no more hopes from the de facto rules in Afghanistan, calling the Afghan Taliban a "ragtag group".

"It will be folly to trust them [Afghan Taliban]. We have tried to remain civil with them [...] but they've not repaid how one should to the soil that's provided home to two of their generations," Asif said during Geo News' programme Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Saath.

The remarks came after a suicide attack on Monday killed three officers and wounded 11 others at the headquarters of the Federal Constabulary in Peshawar.

Pakistan has witnessed a sharp rise in terrorism since 2021, the year that the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, and despite Islamabad's repeated requests, the regime has yet to rein in terrorists using its soil for cross-border terrorism.

More recently, banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Noor Wali Mehsud plotted the Islamabad suicide attack, which killed 12, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar confirmed earlier today, while the security forces have also gunned down several terrorists, who were Afghan nationals.

The ties between the neighbours, moreover, have strained further since October, when the two sides engaged in clashes. Taliban forces, along with TTP militants, attacked Pakistani posts, martyring nearly two dozen soldiers, following which Pakistan launched major attacks against Afghanistan.

A ceasefire was eventually reached in Doha with the help of friendly nations, but negotiations ended without a long-term deal after Kabul did not provide a written commitment to take action against militants sought by Islamabad. Minister Asif, during today's programme, added that Turkiye, China, Qatar and other friendly countries want peace in the region, noting that its benefits would extend not only to Pakistan but to all nations involved. "If the terrorism factory ceases to exist and Afghan people are allowed to earn money", it will benefit everyone, but the Afghan Taliban are the "enemies of the Afghan people", the minister added.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Warns World Of Escalating Islamophobia, Heritage Desecration In India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has noted with deep concern the flag hoisting at the so-called "Ram Temple" constructed on the site of the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday.

The Babri Mosque, a centuries-old place of worship, was demolished on December 6, 1992, by extremist mobs inspired by fascist ideologies.

The subsequent judicial processes in India, which acquitted those responsible and permitted the construction of a temple on the demolished mosque's site, speak volumes about the Indian state's discriminatory approach towards minorities.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hoisted a saffron flag atop the "temple" during a "sacred ceremony", marking the formal completion of its construction, Indian media reported.

In a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said that this reflected a broader pattern of pressure on religious minorities in India and deliberate attempts at eroding Muslim cultural and religious heritage under the influence of majoritarian Hindutva ideology.

"Numerous other historic mosques now face similar threats of desecration or demolition, while Indian Muslims continue to experience growing social, economic and political marginalisation," he said.

The spokesperson said that Pakistan calls on the international community to take cognisance of the rising Islamophobia, hate speech and hate-motivated attacks in India.

The United Nations and relevant international bodies, he stressed, must play a constructive role in safeguarding Islamic heritage and ensuring the protection of the religious and cultural rights of all minorities.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Suicide Attack Plotted By TTP Chief In Afghanistan: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Islamabad suicide attack was plotted by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Noor Wali Mehsud in Afghanistan.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, the information minister said the suicide attacker had failed to reach his original target due to tightened security.

The suicide blast rocked the federal capital on November 11, leaving at least 12 martyred and 36 injured outside the District Judicial Complex in Islamabad's G-11 area. Minister Tarar said that the attack was planned by the Mehsud through his commander, Dadullah, who is currently in Afghanistan. He said that a joint operation by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) led to the arrest of four suspects within 48 hours of the attack.

"CTD has arrested Sajidullah alias Shina, Kamran Khan, Muhammad Zali, and Shah Munir," Tarar said.

He said that one of the arrested suspects, Sajidullah, visited Afghanistan in August 2025 to meet Dadullah and remained in contact through an app. The minister said Sajidullah, the main suspect, had brought the suicide attacker and his explosive jacket to Pakistan. "Sajidullah joined the Afghan Taliban in 2015 and received training in various camps there. In 2023, he met a man named Dadullah in Afghanistan," the information minister said.

He added that Sajidullah and Muhammad Zali went to Afghanistan with Dadullah and met another TTP militant, Abdullah Jan alias Abu Hamza, in Shegal before proceeding to Kabul.

"Dadullah conveyed Mehsud's orders regarding the suicide attack in Rawalpindi and Islamabad," Tarar said.

The minister said Sajidullah returned to Pakistan and met the suicide bomber, Usman Shinwari, who was a resident of Nangarhar, Afghanistan.

"Usman Shinwari was provided with the suicide jacket and carried out the attack in G-11. The terrorists intended to cause major damage but failed to reach their target," he said. He said that all planning of the attack was carried out from Afghanistan. Sajidullah alias is the main suspect and has been a member of the Afghan Taliban.—RT/Agency

Justice Yar Muhammad Named Caretaker CM As GB Assembly Completes Five-Year Term

GB: Former judge of the Gilgit Baltistan Chief Court, Justice (retd) Yar Muhammad Nasir, was appointed on Tuesday as the caretaker chief minister of the region following the completion of the assembly's five-year term at midnight on Monday.

A formal notification of his appointment has been issued. Justice Nasir, a native of Nasirabad in District Astore, brings decades of judicial experience to the position.

Despite belonging to a remote rural background, he built a distinguished career in the judiciary, beginning as a civil judge and later serving as a district and sessions judge. He also held the position of Registrar of the Gilgit Baltistan Chief Court before being elevated as a judge of the Chief Court. The government of Gilgit Baltistan on Monday formally de-notified all provincial cabinet members following the expiry of the assembly's tenure. According to an official notification issued by the Law and Prosecution Department, the portfolios of all ministers, advisers to the chief minister, coordinators, special assistants to the chief minister, and parliamentary secretaries have been withdrawn with immediate effect.—RT/Agency

Pakistan, Iran Pledge Closer Ties, Enhanced Cooperation On Regional, Global Issues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral ties in diverse areas and enhancing cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual interest, the Foreign Office said on Tuesday.

The development came as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Dr Ali Larijani, who is visiting Pakistan on an official visit.

A day earlier, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam said that Dr Ali Larijani's visit was pivotal for the two nations' "time-tested" relations to enter another "strategic phase".

Ambassador Moghadam, in a post on X, emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral relations "in light of the rapidly evolving global landscape and the emerging dynamics within our regional ecosystem".

He said that the visit would focus on meaningfully advancing the objective to strategise bilateral ties between the two nations.

Prior to this, Dr Larijani confirmed his visit in an X post written in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan.

"The Iranian people will never forget that during the 12-day war imposed on Iran by the US and the Zionist regime, the Pakistani nation stood with the Iranian nation," he wrote in his post.

Terming Pakistan and Iran as two important countries in the region for sustainable security, he stated that his country always focused on fostering brotherly relations with regional countries.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu welcomed the upcoming visit, saying it was part of extensive interactions between the leaderships of the two countries.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Court Bars Arrest Of Imran And Bushra Bibi

Islamabad: The District and Sessions Courts Islamabad have prevented the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in six cases, including the high-profile May 9 incident. The hearings, conducted by Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka, extended the pre-arrest bail of both individuals until December 23.

The court also directed that Imran Khan must appear either in person or via video link in the next hearing. Due to his absence, arguments on the bail applications could not be heard, and the court postponed the proceedings to December 23.

The cases against Imran Khan include charges related to the May 9 incident, attempted murder, and alleged submission of fake receipts, while Bushra Bibi faces allegations of submitting fraudulent receipts. The court's decision ensures that neither can be arrested until the next scheduled hearing, providing temporary legal relief amid ongoing investigations.—RT/Agency

PM Shahbaz Commends Security Forces For Successful Operation Against Terrorists In Bannu

Bannu: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has lauded the security forces for their successful operation against the militant group Fitna-e-Khawarij in Bannu, highlighting their bravery and commitment to safeguarding the nation. Speaking on the occasion, he praised the forces for eliminating 22 terrorists, describing the achievement as a significant milestone in Pakistan's ongoing fight against terrorism.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the entire nation stands united with the armed forces in the battle against militancy. He reaffirmed the government's determination to eradicate all forms of terrorism from the country and ensure peace and stability for its citizens.

He also expressed gratitude to the security personnel for their dedication, stating that such operations demonstrate Pakistan's resolve to protect its people and uphold law and order.

According to the Prime Minister, the operation not only dealt a heavy blow to the militant network but also strengthened public confidence in the capabilities of the country's security apparatus.

PM Shahbaz Sharif reiterated that the government will continue to support the armed forces fully, and the collective efforts of the nation and security agencies will remain focused on achieving a terrorism-free Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Government Rolls Out Reforms To Stabilize Economy, Boost Growth

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has introduced several major policy measures aimed at boosting the economy, supporting exporters and providing relief to citizens.

The initiatives cover energy prices, export reforms, development spending and oversight of state-owned enterprises.

From withdrawing the longstanding Export Development Surcharge (EDS) to reducing prescribed gas prices, approving over Rs507 billion in development projects, and strengthening oversight of key state-owned enterprises (SOEs), the government is signalling a renewed focus on economic revival, institutional reform and public welfare.

In a major policy development aimed at boosting Pakistan's export competitiveness, the government decided to withdraw 0.25% Export Development Surcharge (EDS) with an immediate effect. The decision was taken during a meeting held on Monday at the Prime Minister's House, attended by senior federal ministers and members of the private sector.

The PM had earlier formed a dedicated Working Group on EDS, chaired by Musadaq Zulqarnain, to reassess the Export Development Fund (EDF) and suggest reforms to strengthen Pakistan's export ecosystem. The group included private sector leaders Shahzad Saleem, Misbah Naqvi, Khurram Mukhtar, Arif Saeed, Ahmad Umair, and Sualeh Faruqi, alongside Secretary Commerce Bilal Azhar Kiyani and officials from EDF.—RT/Agency

Sri Lanka Beat Zimbabwe To Stay Alive In T20 Tri-Series

RAWALPINDI: Sri Lanka on Tuesday produced a disciplined all-round display to defeat Zimbabwe by nine wickets, keeping their hopes alive in the Pakistan-hosted T20 tri-nation series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a modest 147-run target, the 2014 champions comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just one wicket and 22 balls to spare, courtesy of Pathum Nissanka's blazing knock.

The right-handed opener led Sri Lanka's batting charge with an unbeaten 98, coming off just 58 deliveries and featuring 11 fours and four sixes.

He received notable support from fellow top-order batters Kamil Mishara and Kusal Mendis, who made 12 and 25 not out, respectively.

For Zimbabwe, Brad Evans remained the solitary wicket-taker with one scalp.

Opting to bat first, the Chevrons managed to accumulate 146/5 in their allotted 20 overs despite brisk cameos from all-rounder Ryan Burl and captain Sikandar Raza.

Zimbabwe got off to a dismal start to their innings as Maheesh Theekshana rocked their top order by dismissing Tadiwanashe Marumani and Dion Myers in his first two overs, bringing the total down to 17/2.

Following the early debacle, experienced Brendan Taylor (14) joined Bennett for a brief anchoring 36-run partnership for the third wicket until falling victim to Dasun Shanaka in the eighth over.

Bennett was then involved in another 36-run partnership – a crucial fourth-wicket stand with captain Raza – until coping a bizarre hit-wicket dismissal against Wanindu Hasaranga.—RT/Agency

President Thanks Iranian Leadership For Solidarity With Pakistan During Floods

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari thanked the Iranian leadership for its expression of solidarity with Pakistan during the recent floods.

According to details surfaced on Tuesday, he conveyed his gratitude in a meeting with Ali Larijani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, at the President House.

The president welcomed Larijani and congratulated him on assuming charge of the Supreme National Security Council. He said that the exchange of delegations between Islamabad and Tehran reflected a positive aspect of bilateral relations.

President Zardari said cooperation between neighbouring states served the shared interests of their peoples, adding that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed longstanding ties rooted in history, belief and culture. The president also expressed appreciation for Iran's support to Pakistan during its conflict with India.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Carried Out Strikes In Afghanistan, Claims Taliban Spokesman

KABUL: Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesman for the Taliban government in Afghanistan, claimed on Tuesday that Pakistan had carried out overnight strikes in the neighbouring country.

In a post on social media platform X, he said that Pakistan had "bombed" Khost province, and carried out air strikes in Kunar and Paktika provinces.

No official statement has been issued by Pakistan thus far.

The strike was reported the same day a deadly suicide attack on the Federal Constabulary headquarters saw three personnel embrace martyrdom and 12 sustain injuries.

Pakistan's bilateral relations with Afghanistan have come under strain in recent times as the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) remains the main point of contention between the two countries.

Pakistan has demanded that the rulers in Kabul take action to stop cross-border terrorism, but the Afghan Taliban deny Islamabad's allegations of terrorists being allowed to use Afghan soil to carry out attacks in Pakistan.

During a process of dialogue, which followed border clashes between the two countries in October, the two sides had met in an effort to work on mechanisms for lasting peace and stability between the two countries.—RT/Agency

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