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NATIONAL

Maryam Declares Quid-e-Azam’s Principles as Key to Pakistan’s Survival and Progress

SPORTS

Litton Leads the Charge: Bangladesh Crush Hong Kong in Asia Cup Opener



150,000 People Relocated to Safety in Sindh's Flood Battle: Sharjeel

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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Qatar Bombing Pushes Trump-Netanyahu Alliance to the Brink

WASHINGTON: Less than four months ago, President Donald Trump met with the leader of Qatar, praising his opulent palace and signing a sweeping defence agreement with the Gulf monarchy, a key ally that hosts the biggest US base in the Middle East.

Israel's surprise attack on Tuesday against Hamas leaders in Doha has jolted that relationship, angering Trump and drawing fierce condemnation from Doha and Western allies.

Ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and targeting the political offices of the Palestinian group, the strikes killed a Qatari security agent and five others, but failed to kill the Hamas leaders. Trump said he was “very unhappy about every aspect” of the Israeli operation.

But for all the indignation, the strikes are unlikely to change the president's fundamental approach toward Israel, analysts and US officials say. If anything, the bombings underlined the cold calculus beneath the



Trump-Netanyahu relationship.

Israel has shown it is not afraid to act against US interests. The administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not formally warn Washington of its impending bombing campaign on Tuesday, US officials said.

That lack of warning recalled Israel's September 2024 attack on Hezbollah, when Israel wounded thousands of the group's members with booby-trapped paggers, without informing then-President Joe Biden.

Trump, for his part, has occasionally expressed displeasure with Netanyahu. But his administration has strongly supported Israel's campaign to weaken Hamas and al-

lowed it to largely take the lead on key issues such as Iran's nuclear program. “On this one, I think Trump is annoyed by Netanyahu's tactics,” said Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and veteran US peace negotiator. But, Miller added, “(Trump's) instinct is that he agrees with Netanyahu's notion that Hamas cannot just be hollowed out as a military organisation. It needs to be fundamentally weakened.” Asked for comment, the White House referred Reuters to remarks by Trump on Truth Social on Tuesday night, during which he said the bombings did not advance US interests. —RT/Agency

PM Demands End to Israel's Brazen Aggression, Calls for United Ummah with Qatari Emir

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for an end to Israel's “brazen aggression” in the Middle East, stressing the need for Muslim unity in the face of escalating provocations.

He made these remarks during a meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as part of his official solidarity visit to Doha on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Israel struck Doha targeting Hamas leaders, but the group said its top officials survived, while five of its members were left dead, and a Qatari security force member was also killed.

The prime minister said Pakistan strongly condemned the Israeli attack on



Doha on September 9, describing it as a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and international law. Qatar said it would hold funerals today in the capital Doha, for those killed.

He expressed deep sympathies over the loss of innocent lives in what he termed a “dastardly and heinous” assault and as-

provocations.

The prime minister appreciated Qatar's constructive role in Gaza peace efforts, warning that Israeli aggression was aimed at destabilising the region and undermining diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives.

At Qatar's request, Pakistan has called for an emergency UN Security Council session and welcomed Doha's decision to convene an Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit on September 15, signalling Pakistan's willingness to co-sponsor the gathering under the OIC framework.

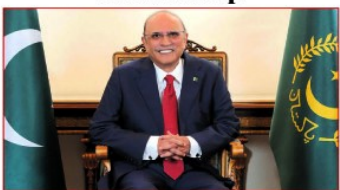
PM Shehbaz also thanked the Emir for Qatar's strong support for Pakistan during its standoff with India earlier this year. Both

leaders agreed to maintain close coordination on promoting peace, upholding international law and supporting the rights of the Palestinian people.

PM Shehbaz was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi during the meeting.

Hamas said its slain members were top negotiator Khalil al-Hayya's son Humam, his office director Jihad Labad and bodyguards Ahmad Mamlouk, Abdallah Abdelwahd and Mumen Hassan. —RT/Agency

President Zardari Sets Off on Defining China Visit to Reinforce Strategic Partnership



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari will embark on a significant official visit to China from September 12 to 21, 2025, at the invitation of the Chinese government, with the aim of reinforcing the “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” between the two countries. His tour will cover multiple key destinations, including Chengdu, Shanghai, and the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region.

According to official sources, President Zardari's itinerary includes a series of high-level meetings with provincial leaders and senior officials. The discussions will focus on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in economic, commercial, and investment sectors. Special attention will be given to the progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as exploring opportunities for

expanding connectivity and trade routes.

The two sides are also expected to deliberate on enhanced cooperation in multinational forums and organizations, underlining the shared commitment of Pakistan and China to multilateralism. Regional peace, security, and socio-economic development will remain central themes of the dialogue.

Observers note that this visit symbolizes the continuity of Pakistan-China friendship and highlights their joint resolve to safeguard each other's core interests. The engagements are likely to yield fresh commitments to advance CPEC, promote industrial and technological cooperation, and encourage cultural and people-to-people exchanges. President Zardari's tour is anticipated to further cement the enduring Pakistan-China partnership, reaffirming its role as a cornerstone of regional stability and mutual prosperity. —RT/Agency

19 Indian Proxy Militants Wiped Out in Relentless KP Operations: ISPR

KP: At least 23 terrorists were killed in security operations this week — 19 militants linked to the Indian proxy group Fitna al-Khawarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and four armed suspects in a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) raid in Balochistan's Pishin — officials said on Thursday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), 19 terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in three intelligence-based operations conducted by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on September 9 and 10.

The IBOs were carried out in Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Bannu districts after reports of militant presence in the areas. In Mohmand's Guluno area, 14 terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire, while four more were neutralised in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan district. Another militant was killed in an encounter in Bannu district, the ISPR press release read.

The press release further said that weapons and



ammunition were recovered from terrorists who were involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas.

“Sanitisation operations are continuing in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining militants,” ISPR said, reiterating that Pakistan's security forces remain committed to eradicating Indian-sponsored terrorism from the country.

Separately, four terrorists were killed during a successful intelligence-based operation carried out by the CTD in Pishin, officials confirmed on Thursday.

According to a CTD spokesperson, a gun battle broke out during the raid, leading to the elimination of four armed militants. Two machine guns, two

9mm pistols, two hand grenades, explosives, and detonators were recovered from the scene.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed satisfaction over the operation and commended the CTD's performance, stating that the department had thwarted a major terrorist plot through timely action.

“The services of CTD and other security agencies in restoring peace across Balochistan are commendable,” he said in an official statement.

The chief minister reiterated that ensuring a peaceful environment for citizens remains the government's top priority and stressed that no terrorist or facilitator would be allowed to escape the law. —RT/Agency

IMF Mission Touches Down Sept. 25 for High-Stakes Pakistan Economic Review

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) team will visit Pakistan from September 25 to October 08 for the second economic review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), sources said.

“The sides will first hold technical talks and then policy level dialogue,” according to sources.

The delegation will hold talks with the ministries of finance, energy, planning, the State Bank of Pakistan, FBR, OGRA, NEPRA and other institutions and ministries.

The IMF delegation will hold separate talks with Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, sources said. “Pakistan has attained targets for the release of the third tranche under the Extended Fund Facility,” sources said.



Pakistan's budget deficit has been according to the target set by the IMF. “Current Account deficit and non-tax revenues have also been according to the IMF targets,” sources said.

Sources said that the inflation rate has been below the 5.1% target set by the IMF. The tax revenue targets have been minutely below the target owing to the flood situation, sources said.

According to sources, flooding has affected major crops of rice, maize and cotton. “The

economic growth targets could be affected owing to the impact of floods over major crops.”

Sources further said that the tax revenue policies, particularly in economic, commercial, and investment sectors. Special attention will be given to the progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as exploring opportunities for

FBR Launches Sweeping Overhaul to Jack Up Tax-to-GDP from 10.24% to 18%



ISLAMABAD: Briefing the business leaders, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has unveiled its transformation plan aimed at boosting Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio from the current 10.24% to 18% over the medium term.

According to the plan, FBR's contribution will rise to 14%, provincial revenues by 3%, and the petroleum levy by 1%, raising the total to 18%.

Officials highlighted that there is a significant gap in major taxes, which the FBR intends to plug through digitalisation and improved processes.

The meeting was chaired by FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood and attended by representatives of the Overseas Investors Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (OICCI), Pakistan Business Council (PBC), and other leading business groups.

Member Inland Revenue Operations Dr Hamid Ateeq Sarwar gave a detailed presentation on the implementation of the transformation plan, which was approved by the prime minister in October 2024. Participants were briefed on reforms focusing on three key areas — people, technology, and processes. The capacity of the institution is being enhanced by hiring around 1,600 auditors to strengthen audit capacity.

Newly inducted officers will be trained at top universities to bring human resources in line with leading corporate organisations. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Takes Command of SCO Counter-Terrorism Committee

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has assumed the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), the Foreign Office said in a statement.

In a statement, the FO described the development as a reflection of the confidence of SCO member states in Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and security, particularly its role in combating terrorism.

RATS is a permanent organisation of SCO whose main task is to coordinate counterintelligence, counterterrorism and intelligence gathering efforts across member countries and advance cooperation on SCO initiatives.

These initiatives set the goals to mitigate the “Three Evils” — terrorism, separatism and religious extremism. The organisation is meant to lay the groundwork for a future enforcement capability within the SCO, which aspires to develop its own transnational police and military forces.

“In its capacity as the Chair of SCO-RATS, Pakistan will work toward fos-



tering regional cooperation against terrorism, in line with shared priorities, guided by the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, equality, and shared responsibility,” added the statement.

It will also host events and activities across key domains — including cyber counterterrorism, information operations, border security, countering terrorist financing and capacity-building — to deepen collaboration.

As a frontline state in combating terrorism, Pakistan continues to make unparalleled sacrifices to ensure safety and security not only of its own people but also of the region and beyond. As a non-permanent

member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025–26 term, Pakistan has also been entrusted with key responsibilities in the counterterrorism domain, among others.

“Pakistan will continue to work with international and regional partners to advance collective efforts against terrorism, in line with the principles of the SCO, international law and the United Nations Charter,” added the Foreign Office. Meanwhile, the FO gave a detailed statement on the recent visit of Turkish Minister of National Defence Yasar Guler, in which he led the Turkish delegation for the 16th Session of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). —RT/Agency

Pakistan and Iraq Forge Deeper Defence Ties in Air Force Pact

ISLAMABAD: A high-level defence delegation led by Lieutenant General Staff Pilot Mohanad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force, visited Air Headquarters in Islamabad, according to the Pakistani military's media wing.

The delegation was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

In a statement on Thursday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated that the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation with particular emphasis on joint training, capacity building, and collaboration in the aviation sector. Upon arrival, the Iraqi Air Force Commander was presented with a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Air



Force. During the discussions, the Air chief underscored the deep-rooted religious and historic bonds between Pakistan and Iraq, describing them as the foundation of enduring ties between their Air Forces. He reiterated Pakistan Air Force's commitment to extend unwavering support to the Iraqi Air Force in training and capacity building. Both commanders agreed to conduct joint exercises and training programmes designed to bolster interop-

erability and operational synergy. Lieutenant General Mohanad expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to his delegation. He praised the transformation of PAF into a technologically advanced and professional force, acknowledging its leadership in the region. Highlighting Iraq's desire to restructure its training system, he sought Pakistan's expertise to modernise training from basic to advanced tactical levels. —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and others are offering Fataha after condoling with Nawabzada Ameer Bux Khan Bhutto on the sad demise of his father former Sindh Governor and CM Sindh, Late Sardar Mumtaz Ali Khan Bhutto at his residence in Mirpur Bhutto village.--Photo by Faheem Soomro.

Gianchand Israni Hails Quaid-e-Azam's Visionary Leadership and Enduring Legacy

By Shams Palari

NOORABAD: Gianchand Israni, PPP leader and Member of Sindh Provincial Assembly, paid tribute to the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, for his unparalleled leadership and relentless democratic struggle. He said Quaid-e-Azam's life is a shining example of perseverance, principles, and

sacrifice. His mission was to establish a modern, progressive, liberal, democratic, and welfare state. Israni stated that the PPP's struggle is a continuation of Quaid-e-Azam's vision, whether it is Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's consensus-based constitution and nuclear defense, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's fight for democracy and empowerment of marginalized

Young Man Vanishes in Thul as Family Demands Swift Action



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A young resident of village Mehbub Channa, Muhammad Siddique alias Wasim Channa, has gone missing under mysterious circumstances. Family members staged a protest in front of the Thal Press Club demanding his recovery. According to the relatives, the youth was returning after attending a court hearing when men in a car forcibly took him away. Despite informing the police, no action has been taken so far. Abdul Ghafoor Channa and other youth led the protest, urging authorities to immediately release the missing man and take strict action against those responsible. Police stated that they have received the information and the investigation is underway.

Thul Residents Erupt in Protest Over Brutal Murder of Abdul Fattah Malik



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Family members and local residents staged a protest against the police five days after the fatal shooting of young Abdul Fattah Malik on a passenger coach. Led by the victim's brothers, Nawaz Ali Malik and Arshad Muhammad Malik, demonstrators condemned the delay in arresting the accused from the Sundrani community. The protesters accused police of ignoring their complaints and mistreating them at Dilmurad police station, demanding swift justice. The incident occurred near Lahi Charhi, Dilmurad police jurisdiction, when attackers targeted the coach returning from Quetta, killing Abdul Fattah Malik and injuring two others.

UNIDO and ACT International Ignite Thatta's Youth with Business Grants



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a significant step toward youth empowerment, ACT International, in collaboration with UNIDO, organized a grant distribution event in Makli, Thatta, where 39 young people and women received financial support to launch their own businesses. The initiative, part of a sustainable development project, awarded non-refundable grant cheques ranging from Rs 300,000 to Rs 3.3 million. Speakers at the event, including UNIDO's National Program Coordinator Badr Islam and ACT International officials Abdul Jabbar Bhatti and Abdul Latif Soomro, emphasized that this support follows a district-wide survey and training sessions aimed at fostering self-employment and economic self-sufficiency. The event was also attended by representatives from the Social Welfare Department and other community leaders, all highlighting the program's potential to transform lives and promote entrepreneurship in Thatta.

Hyderabad Police Smash Mainpuri and Drug Networks, 16 Suspects Nabbed

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In a major city-wide operation, Hyderabad Police arrested 16 individuals involved in the sale and distribution of illegal Mainpuri, Gutka, and narcotics. Acting on the directives of senior officers, police teams from multiple stations including Maki Shah, B-Section, Pinyari, Phuleli, Fort, Hosri, Rahoki, Hali Road, Qasimabad, and Siri Check Post carried out targeted raids. The operations resulted in the seizure of thousands of Mainpuri packets, bottles of liquor, and stolen property, and several suspects were found wanted in previous criminal cases. Among the arrested were notorious dealers like



LARKANA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other PPP leaders are visiting Moria Loop Bund of the Indus River in regards to possible flooding.--Photo by Faheem Soomro.

Hyderabad Division on Full Alert Against Indus River Flood Threat

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A high-level meeting was held at the Darbar Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Jamshoro to review preparations for a possible flood situation in the Indus River. Chaired by Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Fayaz Hussain Abbasi and DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga, and officers from key departments including Health, Livestock, Police, Irrigation, Rescue 1122, and Motorway Police. Irrigation engineers briefed the participants via video link on water flow and the condition of embankments. The Commissioner emphasized round-the-clock monitoring of protective embankments, availability of machinery and materials, and urged residents in riverine (katcha) areas to move to relief camps. Deputy Commissioner Qadri highlighted the establishment of relief camps with food and medical services in all four talukas of Jamshoro, along with a control room for real-time flood monitoring. The meeting concluded with a field visit to the Kotri embankments, where the current water levels and protection measures were reviewed by senior officials.



Shahdarpur Schools Launch Drive to Raise Awareness on HPV Vaccination

By Sajani Jani

SHAHDARPUR: In a widespread awareness campaign has been launched in various schools to educate about the dangers of cervical cancer among women and to promote the prevention of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Seminars were held at institutions including Government Main Sindh Primary School, Superior College School, City Grammar College School, and Paragon School. The campaign aims to encourage HPV vaccinations for girls aged 9 to 15. Key speakers included Director of SEMS Dr. Bashir Ahmed Jamali, Taluka Health Officer Dr. Zakir, Focal Person Dr. Irfan Garwan, Gynecologist Dr. Sanobar Irfan, Deputy DHO Sanghar Dr. Aslam Majeed Chhutto, and Vaccine Supervisor Bulando Marri.

Samaro Laborers Stage Protest Against Soaring Daily Essentials Prices

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Samaro, laborers and social activists staged a protest against the unchecked artificial inflation of essential items. Holding placards, they marched to the National Press Club, where they condemned shopkeepers, traders, and flour mill owners for arbitrarily increasing the prices of flour, sugar, oil, vegetables, and other daily-use goods. The protesters said that poor and working-class families are struggling to afford basic necessities and are now forced to live without proper meals. They criticized the local administration for remaining silent and failing to take action, demanding immediate government intervention to control prices and provide relief to the affected communities.



DC Badin Leads Emergency Relief Operations Amid Relentless Rains

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Following heavy rainfall in District Badin, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti conducted on-ground inspections of rescue and relief operations in affected areas, directing teams to ensure timely drainage, food and medical aid, and safe relocation of residents. The efforts saw active involvement from Pakistan Army's 206 Brigade, local police led by SSP Badin, relevant departments, and community volunteers. DC Bhatti assured affected citizens of full administrative support and instructed all departments to stay on high alert. District control rooms are operational 24/7 to respond promptly to emergencies, and the public has been urged to follow hygiene practices and seek medical help instead of home remedies. Special arrangements are in place at Civil Hospital.—RT



Monsoon Health Crisis in Sindh: Expert Warns of Disease Surge Amid Dirty Water, Poor Sanitation

HYDERABAD: Amid rising liver, stomach, and intestinal diseases during the monsoon, Dr. Akram Bajwa of Civil Hospital warns citizens to boil dirty water, and consume clean food for the outbreak. Citizens are urged to follow hygiene practices and seek medical help instead of home remedies. Special arrangements are in place at Civil Hospital.—RT

Trader Drugged and Looted at Qazi Ahmed Livestock Market

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: A livestock trader, Haji Amer Chaudhary, was drugged and robbed at the Qazi Ahmed cattle market by unknown suspects who stole Rs 115,000 and a bull after allegedly spiking his tea. The victim, from village Baghi Khan Chaudhary, was found unconscious and shifted to the hospital. His nephew stated that they await his recovery to identify the culprits. Despite rising incidents of theft and robbery in the area, police have taken no concrete action, causing concern among locals.

Tanveer Alam Takes Charge as Chairman of Indus Educational Committee Sanghar

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Tanveer Alam, a dedicated youth social leader known for his commitment to education, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Indus Educational Committee Sanghar City by Indus Educational Services Pakistan. The announcement was made by CEO Kanwal Bijoro through an official notification. Under Alam's leadership, new opportunities for education, training, and guidance are expected to benefit the youth of Sanghar.



Indus Educational Services aims to promote quality education, provide scholarships, and create education-friendly environments across Pakistan. Local communities and students have welcomed this appointment, expressing hope for significant progress in addressing educational challenges in Sanghar.

Sindh Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani Declares Flood Threat at Kotri Barrage Over

By AS Thahim

JATI: Sindh Minister and Flood Focal Person for Kotri Barrage, Muhammad Ali Khan Malkani, has declared that the flood threat at Kotri Barrage has been completely eliminated. Speaking to the media in Jati, he assured that all embankments at the barrage are strong and capable of withstanding an inflow of up to 500,000 cusecs of water, noting that even 800,000 cusecs had previously passed without issue proving the success of government preparedness. He emphasized that

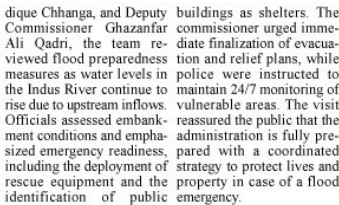


the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has always stood with the people during emergencies and will continue prioritizing the safety of lives and property. During his visit, Malkani also inspected rain-affected areas including an ancient graveyard and several flooded wards in Jati, directing the town chairman to expedite drainage and improve sanitation. PPP district leaders and local office-bearers accompanied him during the visit.

Top Brass Inspect Kotri Bund as Jamshoro Faces Rising Flood Peril

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In response to the rising flood threat, Commissioner Hyderabad Fayaz Hussain Abbasi led a high-level inspection of the Kotri River Bund in Jamshoro on Thursday, amid concerns of a potential super flood. Accompanied by DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razaq Dharejo, SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga, and Deputy Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, the team reviewed flood preparedness measures as water levels in the Indus River continue to rise due to upstream inflows. Officials expressed embankment conditions and emphasized emergency readiness, including the deployment of rescue equipment and the identification of public



buildings as shelters. The commissioner urged immediate finalization of evacuation and relief plans, while police were instructed to maintain 24/7 monitoring of vulnerable areas. The visit reassured the public that the administration is fully prepared with a coordinated strategy to protect lives and property in case of a flood emergency.

Hyderabad Hospital Guards Rise Up Over Four-Month Unpaid Salaries

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Security guards at Liaquat University Civil Hospital, employed by a private company, staged a protest after not receiving salaries for over four months. The guards, including women, said they work 12-hour shifts for meager wages of Rs 18,000, yet face constant delays in payments, making it hard to afford rent, school fees, and food. During the protest, Medical Superintendent Dr. Ali Akbar Dahri assured that the issue would be resolved within a few days, citing the expiry of the security company's contract as the cause of the delay.



REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



Maryam Declares Quaid-e-Azam's Principles as Key to Pakistan's Survival and Progress

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday that Pakistan's survival and progress lie in adhering to the principles of Quaid-e-Azam.

In her message on the 77th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the CM paid glowing tribute to him.

The CM said that Quaid-e-Azam's character is a shining example of truthfulness, integrity, and fearless leadership. She added that without faith, unity, and discipline — the core principles of Quaid-



e-Azam's vision — no destination can be achieved. Like Quaid, we must rise above self-interest to build and safeguard Pakistan.

The Punjab CM further said that Pakistan is being led towards justice, tolerance, and development in line with

Quaid-e-Azam's vision. She emphasised that his thoughts are a guiding light and his principles are the guarantee of achieving our goals. She prayed that Allah Almighty grant us the strength to fulfill Quaid-e-Azam's dream. —RT/Agency

Punjab Minister Promises Firm Action to Control Soaring Flour Prices

Islamabad: Punjab's Information Minister, Azma Bukhari, addressed the media in Lahore on Thursday, revealing a grave flood situation in Jalalpur Pirwala while assuring the public of the administration's successful efforts in safeguarding the city.

Bukhari disclosed that the deluge had impacted over 4,000 villages, leading to the evacuation and relocation of more than 13,600 individuals to secure locations in the past 72 hours, elevating the total number of rescued residents

to approximately 2.3 million. The minister reported that the crisis in Head Muhammad Wala Sher Shah is now manageable. Addressing concerns regarding essential commodity prices, Bukhari emphasized the government's commitment to preventing artificial inflation of flour costs. She issued a stern caution against hoarding wheat, promising stringent measures against those engaging in such practices. —RT/Agency

Islamabad Schools Put on Notice Over Corporal Punishment Practices

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has issued a stern warning against corporal punishment in federal educational institutions, directing schools and colleges to strictly enforce a zero-tolerance policy.

Letter issued to schools, colleges

A formal letter has been sent to the heads of all edu-

cational institutions in Islamabad, reminding them that corporal punishment in any form is strictly prohibited. The directive comes after reports and complaints of such practices, particularly from boys' schools.

Formation of action committees

According to the letter,

every school and college must establish an action committee to ensure compliance with the ban. Institutions have been ordered to submit proof of committee formation by September 13.

Legal consequences for violations

The FDE has made it

clear that any violation will

invite strict legal action

and fines. —RT/Agency

Driver Killed in Deadly Collision Between Two Goods Trains Near Renala Khurd

RENALA KHURD: An assistant train driver was killed on Thursday following a collision between two goods trains near Renala Khurd city of Okara District in Punjab.

The incident occurred at Eastern Bypass between Renala Khurd Station and Habibabad. According to eyewitnesses, some railcars were detached from a train. While repairs were underway, another train crashed into the stationary cars. The locomotive was also derailed due to the incident.

The deceased was identified as Assistant Driver Imtiaz. Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif

Abbasi, took notice of the freight train accident, expressing his concern. He ordered a detailed inquiry into the accident, which is to be completed within three days.

The minister expressed deep sorrow, stating, "There is no substitute for a human life, whether it belongs to a passenger or an employee."

A relief train from Lahore was promptly dispatched to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts at the crash site. Minister Abbasi assured that strict action would be taken against those found responsible for the accident. —RT/Agency

Telecom Services Restored Nationwide After Flood Disruptions

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, said on Thursday that telecom infrastructure in Pakistan was severely affected due to recent floods, with several towers going down.

Talking to a private news channel, she said that our telecom teams have been on the ground working to stabilize the situation, and so far, 90 per cent of the towers have been recovered.

"PTA, USF and NTC

teams played an important role in managing this crisis," Shaza Fatima added.

She said that the slowdown in internet services was linked to damage to submarine cables near Jeddah in the Red Sea.

"Five cables were simultaneously damaged, four around September 6 and 7, and one earlier," she added.

She said that the impact on Pakistan was 1.3 terabytes, but due to redundancy measures, the net effect was limited to about 400 gigabytes. —RT/Agency

Nation Observes Quaid-e-Azam's 77th Death Anniversary with Solemn Reverence

ISLAMABAD: The 77th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah — the Father of the Nation — is being observed across Pakistan today (Thursday) with deep respect and reverence.

The day began with special prayers in mosques for the eternal peace of his soul, along with prayers for the country's stability, peace, and prosperity.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, through his vision and determination, united Muslims of the subcontinent under the All-India Muslim League and steered them toward the

creation of Pakistan. His golden principles of unity, faith, and discipline remain guiding lights for the nation.

Jinnah passed away on September 11, 1948, just over a year after the independence of Pakistan.

Special programs are being aired on Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television to pay homage to Quaid-e-Azam's legacy. These programs

highlight his pivotal role in carving out an independent homeland for Muslims and the values he instilled in Pakistan's foundation. —RT/Agency

Pak-China Alliance Sparks Hope of Billions in Trade Through Textile-Chemical Forum

LAHORE: At the 2025 China-Pakistan Textile Chemical Investment Forum in Lahore, PCDMA Chairman Salim Valimammad called for deeper Pakistan-China trade through joint ventures in textile and chemical sectors. Over 100 delegates endorsed stronger business-government collaboration, tech transfer, and Chi-

nese investment in local manufacturing. Valimammad stressed reducing import dependency and leveraging innovation to modernize Pakistan's industry. The event concluded with a call for sustainable partnerships, branding it a milestone for industrial cooperation under the China-Pakistan strategic framework. —RT

Central Punjab

WAPDA Workers Stage Nationwide Protests Against DISCO Privatization Plan

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the call of Central General Secretary Khurshid Ahmad Khan and Regional Chairman Chaudhry Sarfraz Hindal, a nationwide protest was held against the privatization of electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) and public institutions. In Toba Tek Singh, the central rally of the FESCO Circle, led by Zonal Chairman Wahid Azeem Anjum and Zonal Secretary Mazhar Siddique Kahloon, marched from the FESCO Circle Office to the District Press Club. Union leaders criticized the government's push for privatiza-



tion, calling it a failed policy as seen with K-Electric, and warned against repeating such decisions. They demanded the cancellation of privatization plans, recruitment on vacant posts, and reform of the electricity sector rather than its self-off. The speakers declared

the electricity department a national asset and pledged to resist privatization efforts. The event concluded with prayers for national prosperity and tribute to martyred workers, while participants reaffirmed trust in the union leadership and vowed to continue their struggle.

Police in Gujranwala Seize Massive Liquor Consignment in Major Drug Network Crackdown

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In a significant operation under the "Drug and Alcohol-Free Punjab" vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Hajipura Police, led by SHO Inspector Ghazi Abdul Razzaq and supervised by DSP City Circle Tariq Mehmood Dhadi, arrested a notorious liquor vendor, Amjad Akhtar, recovering 2,416 bottles and 400 liters of locally made liquor. The arrest was made during



an intelligence-based raid, exposing a network involved in the production and distribution of indigenous liquor across districts. DPO Sialkot Faisal Shahzad praised the police team, reiterating the department's commitment to

a zero-tolerance policy against drug and alcohol peddlers, whom he termed a threat to society and especially the youth. A case DPO Sialkot Faisal Shahzad has been registered, and further investigations are underway to dismantle the broader network.

Narowal Police Recover Stolen Phones Worth Millions Using E-Gadget App

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Under the leadership of the District Police Officer (DPO) Narowal, the IT Branch has demonstrated remarkable performance. Through the E-Gadget App, mobile phones worth millions of rupees were successfully recovered. According to police officials, the recovered mo-



owners after complete verification. Citizens highly appreciated the efforts of Narowal Police, stating that such initiatives have further strengthened their trust in law enforcement. They also extended special thanks to the DPO Narowal and the In-charge of the IT Branch for their dedicated services.

Narowal Kicks Off HPV Vaccination Drive to Prevent Cervical Cancer

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza, a cervical cancer prevention campaign will run from September 15 to 27, targeting girls aged 9 to 14 for HPV vaccination. In collaboration with the Health Department and WHO, the initiative aims to protect young girls from cervical cancer caused by the Human Papillomavirus. CEO Health Dr. Muhammad Adnan highlighted the vaccine's importance as a preventive measure and noted



that early stages of the disease are often symptomless but can become serious if untreated. To ensure smooth execution, 74 Union Council Medical Officers were trained in a

workshop to provide effective field services. The campaign also focuses on raising awareness to promote timely diagnosis and vaccination among women.

Gujranwala Police Strike Hard on Drug Dealers, Confiscate Huge Narcotics Haul

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala police have taken out a standing action against drug dealers, arresting five suspects involved in possession and trafficking of narcotics totaling 5.78 kilograms of hashish and 2 kilograms of heroin. Under the direction of City Police Officer Mohammad Ayaz Saleem, police teams from multiple police stations conducted targeted patrols and searches leading

to these arrests. Key seizures included 1.04 kg of hashish from Zeeshan in Peoples Colony, 1.3 kg of marijuana from Shahbaz at political grounds as well as residents. City Police Officer Mohammad Ayaz Saleem emphasized that strict action against dealers is vital for securing the future of the youth. The CPO lauded the exceptional performance of SHOs and their teams involved in the crackdown.

Wave of Fear in Gojra as Unidentified Robbers Attempt Multiple Break-ins

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: An unknown gang of robbers has reemerged in Gojra, creating fear among residents after multiple failed burglary attempts in the City Police Station jurisdiction. The robbers cut electricity wires

outside several homes to exploit the darkness but fled each time as alert families woke up. In Bilal Park, a backup UPS system thwarted one such attempt. CCTV footage captured the suspects, prompting residents to demand increased police patrols and security measures.

METRO KARACHI

Traffic Alert as Northern Bypass Faces Looming Flood Threat

KARACHI: The Karachi Traffic Police has issued an alert warning that floodwaters from ongoing heavy rains in Balochistan may enter the city through the Northern Bypass (Super Highway) at any time.

DIG Traffic advised transporters to dispatch only vehicles carrying essential goods, while all other cargo vehicles should remain

parked at factories or warehouses until conditions improve. Normal activities are expected to resume from September 11.

According to the alert, cargo trucks traveling from Karachi Port to Port Qasim may use the Mai Kolachi-Clifton-Zaman Town route after midnight. Meanwhile, traffic arriving from Hyderabad will be di-

verted to the New Link Road, leading to National Highway via Shahrah-e-Bhutto towards Karachi Port.

The advisory further stated that heavy vehicles will not be allowed to pass through Karachi's Central District towards Sohrab Goth and the Super Highway, in order to avoid traffic congestion and safety hazards. —RT/Agency

Karachi Mayor Announces Road Repairs on 106 Flood-Damaged Routes Starting Sunday

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has announced that restoration work on 106 roads under the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) that were damaged during recent rains will commence on Sunday.

He said the rehabilitation plan has been finalized to ensure smooth traffic flow and public convenience across

the city. The mayor noted that the affected roads had caused severe disruption to daily commuting and commercial activities, and their timely restoration was now a top priority.

Wahab emphasized that the KMC will utilize all available resources to complete the work swiftly and maintain transparency in the

process. He also appealed to citizens for cooperation during the repair phase, assuring that the restored roads would significantly ease urban mobility.

The initiative is part of broader efforts by the Karachi administration to address infrastructure challenges following the heavy monsoon rains. —RT

Rotary Club Pays Glowing Tribute to Pakistan's Angel of Mercy Dr. Ruth Pfau on 96th Birthday

KARACHI: Rotary Club Karachi Intracity celebrated the 96th birth anniversary of Dr. Ruth Pfau at Quaid-e-Azam House Museum. Advisor to Governor Sindh Tariq Mustafa, Rotary Governor Shafeeq Kaimkhani, MALC CEO Mervyn Lobo, and other dignitaries paid heartfelt tributes. Speakers hailed Dr. Pfau as the "Mother Teresa of Pakistan" for her lifelong fight against leprosy. The event featured



emotional speeches, a cake-cutting ceremony, and Dr. Ruth Pfau Memorial Awards, honoring her

legacy of compassion, courage, and unmatched humanitarian service in Pakistan. —RT

Korangi Causeway Shutdown Cripples Industry, KATI Demands Urgent Fix

KARACHI: President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Junaid Naqi, has warned that severe rains have once again severely disrupted industrial and export activities in Korangi Industrial Area, reducing production by nearly

30%. He said the closure of the EBM Causeway and flooding in Korangi nullah left Jam Sadiq Bridge as the only access route, where prolonged traffic jams have become routine during rains.

Naqi noted that over 50% of workers failed to

reach factories on time due to road closures, forcing more than half the units to remain shut. As a result, production fell sharply, several export orders were delayed, and shipments could not be dispatched on schedule. —RT

Monsoon Weakens, Karachi and Sindh Brace for Sweltering Humidity

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has announced that the powerful monsoon system

over the country has dissipated, bringing an end to the recent spell of heavy rains. Officials said the depression

over the northern Arabian Sea has shifted westward, reducing the chances of further downpours. —RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, September 12, 2025

Pakistan's Prudent Gesture of Standing Shoulder to Shoulder with Qatar Against Israeli Aggression is Welcoming

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Qatar in the aftermath of Israel's brazen and unlawful strike on Doha was more than a routine diplomatic courtesy — it was a calculated and prudent move that carried global significance. At a time when Israel is testing the limits of international law with impunity, Pakistan's decision to personally assure Qatar of "full support" was both timely and strategic.

The attack on Qatar was not just another flashpoint in the Middle East — it was a blatant violation of sovereignty, an assault on international norms, and a provocation aimed at destabilizing the Gulf region. By traveling to Doha, Prime Minister Shehbaz sent a clear message: Qatar is not alone, and Pakistan is ready to

stand firm against Israeli aggression. This visit ele-



vates Pakistan's diplomacy beyond symbolism, positioning it as a defender of international law and a reliable ally to the Gulf states.

What Israel and its backers in the West must now realize is that these reckless provocations come with geopolitical costs. The United States, in particular, must wake up to the bitter irony that while it bankrolls and shields Israel, its own relationships with stalwart Arab allies — Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE —

are being dangerously eroded. Israel is driving wedges where bridges are desperately needed.

Pakistan's proactive approach — from calling for a United Nations Security Council emergency session to supporting Qatar's extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit — shows sound diplomatic posturing. So far, so good. The challenge now is consistency: ensuring that Pakistan's moral clarity translates into sustained regional leadership.

This is not merely about solidarity with Qatar; it is about upholding principles, resisting impunity, and sending a powerful signal that unchecked aggression in the Middle East will not go unanswered. Prime Minister Shehbaz's visit was bold, necessary, and historic.

THE HEARTLAND



UNIDO-NRSP Issues First PAIDAR Grants to 68 Budding Entrepreneurs in Sujawal

SUJAWAL: Sujawal witnessed a major milestone in rural development as UNIDO Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), distributed grant cheques to 68 successful applicants under the first cycle of the PAIDAR (Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development Across Rural Sindh) programme. Funded by the European Union, the initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship, job creation, and inclusive economic growth across rural Sindh. The micro-grants, implemented by NRSP in Sujawal, support both new and existing businesses run by individual entrepreneurs and registered entities. The grant distribution



ceremony was attended by UNIDO officials, local government representatives, and NRSP Sindh leadership. Ghulam Mustafa Haider Jamro of NRSP welcomed attendees, while UNIDO's National Programme Coordinator Badar-ul-Islam and NRSP's PAIDAR Team Lead Nazir Jyoti highlighted the programme's goals and achievements. Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Karim Sangrasi praised the entrepreneurial spirit of the recipients, urging them to lead future business innovation in the region. Speakers emphasized that these grants are a step toward sustainable job creation, women's empowerment, and improved livelihoods through affordable, locally-driven solutions.

Sindh Abadgar Sugar Mill Hosts Seminar on Sugarcane Farming in Talpur Village

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Sindh Abadgar Sugar Mill organized a one-day sugarcane awareness seminar in Talpur Village, Union Council Lakhot, Tando Muhammad Khan, which was attended by senior mill officials including General Manager Abdul Rahman Pitafi, Deputy GM Syed Rizwan Ali Shah, Deputy Cane Managers Lakhi Muhammad Laghari and Muhammad Nawaz Bajwa, Area Officer Akbar Ali Jamari, and others. Prominent local landlords such as Mir Abdul Aziz Talpur, Mir Raza Muhammad Talpur, and Fauji Ali



Abbas Laghari, along with a large number of farmers, also participated. Speakers emphasized the importance of proper land preparation and the use of recommended sugarcane varieties to ensure high yield and sugar content, warning against planting non-varietal canes, which result in losses for growers. They en-

couraged farmers to stay in contact with the mill for guidance and support. The seminar aimed to educate and empower farmers for better cultivation practices. At the event's conclusion, landlords thanked the sugar mill administration and presented traditional Ajrakas to the guests as a token of appreciation.

Naushehro Feroze Woman Seeks Protection Amid Deadly Marriage Dispute



By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: A married woman, Nari Reshman Kalo, resident of village Khuda Bux Kalhoro, has approached the press club along with her husband Jawad Abbasi to share her distress with the media. She stated that two months ago, her father Ali Sher Kalo and other family members forcibly arranged her marriage to Jawad Abbasi without her full consent. Now, under pressure, her family is trying to separate her

from her husband and forcibly marry her off elsewhere. Despite her wishes to stay with her husband, she and Jawad Abbasi have been threatened by her relatives, including her father, brothers. She has appealed to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, IGP Sindh, DIGP Shaheed Benazirabad, Sessions Judge Naushehro Feroze, and SSP Naushehro Feroze to take strict action against the threatening relatives, dismiss the false cases, and provide her protection.

Jam Nawaz Ali Hosts Grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi Celebration with Fervor



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: A grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi program was held in Jam Nawaz Ali by Dr. Sadiq Ali Baloch in front of Hussain Dental Care Center, featuring renowned scholars and naat reciters including Hafiz Hamid Raza Mehra, Muhammad Zohaib Ali, and Rafiq Ahmed Shaikh. Speakers highlighted the Holy Prophet Muhammad as a mercy for all worlds and stressed the importance of offering prayers and reciting Darood Sharif for peace and blessings. The event saw large participation from religious devotees, social figures, and citizens, and concluded with a special prayer for national prosperity.

Torrential Rains Wreak Havoc, Floodwaters Swallow Johi Town

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: Continuous intermittent rainfall in Johi city and surrounding Kachho and hilly areas has caused the water level of the Nain Gaj river to rise up to 10 feet. Along with Nain Gaj, other streams including Nain Sol, Nain Naing, Nain Angai, Nain Nali, and Nain Suk have swollen, bringing joy to the local Kachi residents whose livelihoods have improved due to the increased water supply. They believe that the availability of river water will promote settlement and prosperity in the area.



However, the floodwaters from Nain Naing have submerged the historic city of Chhni, while hundreds of villages such as Chhni, Gaji Shah, Tori, Chowk, Shahi Bazaar, Bhago Shahani, Sajawal Alkaani, and others have been cut off from the Johi

Dadu headquarters. Meanwhile, due to continuous rainfall, major intersections and streets in Johi city including Zulfikar Chowk, Shahi Bazaar, Phulji Road, Bhan Road, and Kachi Stop have experienced waterlogging.

Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen Stages Spiritual Rally Marking Milad and Jashn-e-Sadiqain

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: On the auspicious occasion of 17th Rabi-ul-Awal, the Shia community of Tando Allahyar celebrated the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) with great devotion. A grand rally was organized by Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen from Imam Bargah Jagir Ali Raza on Chabhar Road, attended by thousands of devotees. Sindh Provincial President Mosheer, the rally featured heartfelt Naat and Qasidah recitations by renowned international and local artists, including Shahid Ali Shahid and Hammad Nigri from Gilgit. Brothers from the Ahle Sunnat community



hari, Allama Bakht Ali Najafi, Maulana Tanveer Hussain, Maulana Zavar Karim Bux Karimi, and others delivered speeches, enhancing the spiritual atmosphere. The rally also featured the recitation of "Labbaik Ya Rasoolallah" throughout the city and concluded at Imam Bargah Hyderi in Raheeb Fakir

Thatta Resonates with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) and Jashn-e-Sadiqain Festivities

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Thatta witnessed a luminous and soulful gathering organized by Lashkar-e-Hussaini Thatta and Anjum-e-Hussaini at Thatta Main Stop to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Jashn-e-Sadiqain (AS). The event featured heartfelt Naat and Qasidah recitations by renowned international and local artists, including Shahid Ali Shahid and Hammad Nigri from Gilgit. Brothers from the Ahle Sunnat community



also joined in, enhancing the spirit of unity. A Sabeel camp distributed shereet and sweets to attendees. Distinguished guests included Deputy Commissioner Munawwar

University of Sindh Rejects Corruption Charges, Stands Firm on Faculty Hiring

By Munawar Chando

JAMSHORO: The University of Sindh has strongly rejected recent allegations of corruption and illegal faculty appointments, labeling the claims as part of a baseless media campaign orchestrated by disgruntled individuals. In a statement, university spokesman Nader Ali Mugheeri asserted that appointments of 59 professors and 73 associate professors were made

through a transparent and rigorous selection process. He emphasized that all academic hires undergo thorough vetting, including credential verification and research evaluations, and rejected accusations of forgery and favoritism. Mugheeri also clarified that teachers like Dr. Shakela Shah were not promoted due to their ineligibility, not administrative bias. Addressing financial concerns, Mugheeri stated that audit

objections are routine and do not indicate mismanagement or corruption. He noted that all Selection Board meetings require explicit approval from the Chief Minister of Sindh, ensuring checks and balances in all high-level decisions. The spokesman reaffirmed the university's readiness to cooperate with any formal anti-corruption inquiry and warned of legal action against those making defamatory claims.

Sindh Govt Staff Seek Mass Early Retirement Over Harsh Pension Reforms

TALHAR: Following recent changes in pension regulations by the Sindh government, nearly 30,000 employees have strongly rejected the new pension rules, calling them a form of "economic murder," and have demanded the immediate withdrawal of the decision.—RT

Finance Department to halt processing the requests, citing the potential financial burden on the treasury. Employees have strongly rejected the new pension rules, calling them a form of "economic murder," and have demanded the immediate withdrawal of the decision.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

SPORTS

Asia Cup 2025: India-Pakistan Clash Ticket Prices Slashed as Sales Stumble



DUBAI: The high-octane rivalry between India and Pakistan will once again take center stage in the T20 Asia Cup 2025 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, September 14.

However, despite the global hype, tickets for the marquee clash remain widely available, leading organisers to cut prices.

Standard tickets, initially priced at 475 dirhams, have been reduced to 350 dirhams following fan complaints over high costs. Premium enclosures are the slowest to sell, with many seats still unsold less than a week before the match.

Organisers expressed surprise at the slower-than-expected demand for what is traditionally one of the most-watched sporting events worldwide.

India enters the contest on the back of a commanding nine-wicket win over the UAE in their opening match. The men in blue bowled out the UAE for just 57 runs and chased the total in only 4.3 overs.

Before facing India on Sunday, Pakistan will kick off their campaign against Oman at the same venue on Friday.

Historically, India and Pakistan have faced each other 13 times in T20 cricket, with India winning 10 encounters and Pakistan securing three victories.

Their most recent meeting came on February 23 during the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai, where India triumphed by six wickets.—Agency

Verstappen Declares Ballon d'Or Wide Open in Post-Ronaldo, Post-Messi Era

Red Bull's Formula One reigning champion, Max Verstappen, has claimed that there is no clear winner of the Ballon d'Or award following Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's dominant era.

Speaking in an interview, Verstappen admitted that Barcelona's young sensation Lamine Yamal is good enough to win the award, but he is too young at the moment.

He said that there is no clear winner of Ballon d'Or since the end of the Messi and Ronaldo era, but he is optimistic about Yamal that he will win the award in the coming years. "What he's doing is impressive for his age, huh? It is incredible. Look, it's true that the Ballon d'Or has to be won by the best, but honestly, now, after the era of Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, there's no clear winner, at least for me, there's no particular player who's way ahead of the others at the moment," Verstappen said.

"Maybe someone is still too young or whatever. But I'm sure Lamine Yamal will win the Ballon d'Or in the coming years."

Max Verstappen also applauded Barcelona's coach Hansi Flick's tactics, saying I like the attacking strategy of the German football manager at the Catalan club.—Agency

Betts and Snell Blaze as Dodgers Demolish Rockies



LOS ANGELES: Blake Snell delivered a stellar performance, striking out 11 in six scoreless innings, Mookie Betts hit a grand slam, and the Los Angeles Dodgers thrashed the visiting Colorado Rockies 9-0 here at Dodger Stadium.

The Dodgers (82-64) have now increased the winning streak to four games following a five-game losing streak and extended their NL West lead to three games over San Diego.

Andy Pages contributed three hits, including an RBI double, while Teoscar Hernandez hit a homer. Betts added four hits in five at-bats with five RBIs. Snell (4-4) permitted two

hits and two walks, delivering a game-winning performance with a season-high in strikeouts.

Rockies' Left-hander pitcher Kyle Freeland pitched for five and two-thirds innings, allowing four runs (one earned) on nine hits with one walk and five strikeouts, as the Rockies (40-106) suffered their fifth loss in a row.

The Los Angeles Dodgers recorded their first runs in the four-run second inning when Tommy Edman got on base due to an error by Rockies third baseman Kyle Karros. Miguel Rojas hit a single, and Pages drove in a run with his RBI double.—Agency

FIFA Greenlights Etzaz Hussain's Historic Switch to Pakistan Football

KARACHI: Pakistan football has received a major boost after FIFA approved the change of sporting nationality for midfielder Etzaz Hussain, making the Norway-born player eligible to represent the Pakistan national team.

The 32-year-old Hussain, who played alongside star striker Erling Haaland during his time at Molde FK, completed the formal switch following FIFA's confirmation this week.

Hussain had already obtained a Pakistani passport in early 2024 and had earlier expressed his desire to don the green jersey.

One of the most decorated players in Norwegian football, Hussain has won four



Eliteserien league titles and three Norwegian Cups with Molde, sharing the distinction of being the club's joint-most successful player with seven trophies.

Over his career, he has made nearly 300 professional appearances, including stints in Turkey with Sivasspor, in Croatia with NK Rudar, in Cyprus with Apollon Limassol, and most recently with Norwegian second-tier club Odd.

Born in Oslo in 1993 to parents from Kharian, Gujarat, Hussain began his football journey at Langhus before joining Manchester United's youth academy in 2009.

Although he did not break into the first team at Old Trafford, he described his time at United as "an experience for life." He made his

professional debut with Fredrikstad in 2011, scoring a decisive goal in the Norwegian Cup the same year.

At Molde, Hussain reunited with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and became a key figure in the club's domestic success, scoring in both league and European competitions.

He also represented Norway at youth levels from U16 to U23 but remained eligible to play for Pakistan, having never played for Norway at senior competitive level.

With his eligibility now confirmed, Hussain is expected to bring experience and stability to Pakistan's midfield, strengthening the squad ahead of upcoming international fixtures.—Agency

Ange Postecoglou Vows to Drive Forest Toward Glory



Ange Postecoglou is determined to lead Nottingham Forest to success, saying he wants to make sure this football club takes its rightful place.

Postecoglou replaced Nuno Espirito Santo at Forest as the head coach and has reportedly signed a contract which will end in June 2027.

Greece-born former Australia international Postecoglou was sacked by Tottenham Hotspur in June after spending two

seasons with the club, helping them win their first major trophy since 2008 in the shape of the UEFA Europa League in May, which they won after beating Manchester United in the final.

Now the Australian football coach has shown determination to win trophies with Nottingham Forest too, saying he loves winning things and wants to repeat it with the new club he has joined.

"I love winning goes to all the guys involved," Postecoglou said in an interview with Forest's media channel. "That's what I've done. I get a sense that the club wants more and that's certainly what I want, so I think it's a really exciting time."

Postecoglou added that he is honoured to start a new journey with Nottingham and wants to make sure to lead the club to success, and will apply his attacking football strategy to achieve goals.

"I'm honored and I'm humbled, but more importantly I'm determined to make sure this football club takes its rightful place," he added.

"It's no secret I like my teams to attack, I love my teams to score goals." Nottingham Forest's coach said that other clubs who have achieved promotion have struggled to stay in the league, but we are already competing in Europe, which is a big achievement, and credit goes to all the guys involved.—Agency

Litton Leads the Charge: Bangladesh Crush Hong Kong in Asia Cup Opener



Bangladesh launched their Asia Cup 2025 campaign with a Taskin Ahmed and seven-wicket win over Hong Kong in Abu Dhabi. Skipper Litton Khan's gritty 42 and Das starred with a Yasin Murtaza's blazing 59 off 39 quickfire 28. Ateeq balls, sharing a 1qbal's 2-14 wasn't match-winning 95—enough to stop the run stand with Bangladeshi charge. Towhid Hridoy (35*). With this emphatic Chasing 144, the win, Bangladesh sent Tigers sealed victory a clear message to with 14 balls to spare, their Asia Cup Earlier, Bangladesh's rivals.—Agency

Usama Mir and Imad Dazzle as Falcons Storm into CPL Playoffs

GUYANA: Antigua and Barbuda Falcons booked their place in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2025 playoffs after defeating Guyana Amazon Warriors by four wickets in a low-scoring clash at Providence Stadium.

Batting first, the Warriors collapsed for just 99 runs in 18.1 overs, undone by superb bowling spells from Usama Mir, Imad Wasim, and Jayden Seales.

Wicketkeeper-batter Shai Hope provided some resistance with 26 off 14 balls, while



Quentin Sampson added 19 from 15. Openers Moeen Ali (10) and Ben McDermott (14) also got started but failed to carry on, as the rest of the batting order faltered.

Seales spearheaded the attack with figures of 4/15 in 3.1 overs. Mir

was equally impressive, taking 3/17 in his four-over spell, while Imad and Shakib Al Hasan chipped in with a wicket each.

Chasing 100, the Falcons stuttered early, slipping to 36-5 in 6.1 overs.

However, opener Amir Jangoo's fighting knock and skipper Imad Wasim's steady support turned the tide.

Jangoo anchored the innings with an unbeaten 51 off 57 balls, hitting three fours and two sixes.

Imad added 16 off 24, while Fabian Allen struck a crucial 15 not out from 14 deliveries to guide their side home in the final over with four wickets in hand.

For the Warriors, veterans Imran Tahir and Moeen Ali claimed two wickets each, while Dwaine Pretorius picked up one.—Agency

Becker Slams ATP Stars for Losing Hunger in Age of Alcaraz and Sinner

Former world number one Boris Becker has criticised some ATP players for lacking hunger during Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner's dominance in tennis.

Sinner and Alcaraz are the undisputed new kings of men's tennis, claiming the past eight majors between them.

Alcaraz defeated Sinner in this year's French Open final, while the Italian dethroned the Spaniard to claim his first Wimbledon title.

Now the Spaniard has hit back, avenging Wimbledon defeat, ending the reign of Sinner at the US Open with a dominant 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory, claiming the title again and tightening his grip on the era-defining rivalry between the torchbearers of the men's game.

Alcaraz's New York title also took him back to the



top of the rankings since 2023 as the 22-year-old Spaniard displaced Sinner and lifted his Grand Slam trophy haul to six.

It made him the second youngest man in the professional era that began in 1968 to win six majors, after Bjorn Borg, and also snapped Sinner's staggering 27-match winning run at hardcourt majors to dent the Italian's sparkling season.

Meanwhile, Becker, who has also won six Grand Slams before the age of 23, a feat Alcaraz achieved with the US Open triumph, has called out some names and questioned their approach towards becoming the best in the world, saying they are happy with the role of second or third and lack hunger.

"Alexander Zverev, Jack Draper, Taylor Fritz, Alex de Minaur, Casper Ruud, Holger Rune, Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, and Karen Khachanov.

What bothers me about them is that they are satisfied with the role of second or third. Quarterfinals are ok, or semifinals are ok," Boris Becker said.

"No, it's not ok if you want to be the best tennis player in the world. They're always saying 'Yes, Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz are so much better than we are.' Well, why do you think that?"

Except Alexander Zverev, who has a 10-9 record against Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, Jack Draper, Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud, Holger Rune, Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, and Karen Khachanov all possess a losing head-to-head record against the duo. Australian Alex de Minaur's record is even worse, with 14-0.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Aniston Reflects on Herself Through The Morning Show Role



Jennifer Aniston lifted the lid on bond with her role as news anchor Alex Levy.

The 56-year-old actress opened up about comparing her real life with the real-life character in a recent chat with People at The Morning Show season 4's New York City premiere.

In the Apple TV+ series Aniston portrays the role news anchor Alex Levy, also starring Reese Witherspoon, as the onscreen co-anchor.

Comparing her role and personal life she admitted "there's definitely some mirroring going on." The Friends alum also expressed her love for the



character noting her Alex is more confident and expressive as well as knows how to handle fame.

"Oh my goodness," Aniston exclaimed, noting, "I think Alex is a lot more expressive and verbal than I am."

The role feels healing because her character deals with things differently.

"There's a little bit of—you get that out of your system, in the best way."

"She's been such a fun character to play," Aniston gushed. "I love playing her."

Back in Summers the actress told the outlet how she is allowing herself to travel more and take less work.

Kourtney Kardashian Shares Rare Glimpse of Baby Rocky



Kourtney Kardashian revealed her toddler son Rocky Thirteen's face in her recent social media uploads.

The Kardashians star, 46, posted a fresh round of family photos from her time on the road with her drummer husband Travis Barker, 49, during Blink 182's One More Time Tour stop in Florida.

Kourtney Kardashian reveals rare glimpse of son Rocky's face

One photo was even a subtle reveal of their 22-months-old son, whose face was briefly visible as he ran through the grass in one of the photos.

Another photo showed Rocky enjoying an aquarium visit with his dad while a separate image

Jennifer Lopez Radiates at Kiss of the Spider Woman Special Screening



Jennifer Lopez looked sensational as she arrived at the promotional event for her forthcoming movie, Kiss of the Spider Woman.

The special screening for the upcoming musical film was held at the Harmony Gold Theater in Los Angeles on September 10.

The 56-year-old actress and singer attended the event along with her co-star Tonatiuh and director Bill Condon.

For the special likely bond as Molina recounts the plot of a fitted brown blazer starring his favorite slender waister.

The Atlas star, who is perched in high spirits at the event, styled her blazer with matching trousers and a polka dot

Kids' Corner



Name: Aasha

About Me: I love my parents and Pakistan!

Location: Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



LUMHS Marks World Heart Day with High-Impact Seminar

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Department of Cardiology at Bilawal Medical College for Boys, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, held a one-day seminar to observe World Heart Day. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan emphasized the critical need to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases and encouraged the public to adopt healthier lifestyles by avoiding tobacco, eating nutritious foods, and



engaging in daily physical activity. The seminar featured addresses from featured cardiologists, including Prof. Dr. Ferroz Memon, Prof. Fasih Hashmi and others, who

shared valuable insights on heart health and prevention. The event concluded with Prof. Ujjan presenting shields and certificates to honored guests and organizers.

Motorcyclist Crushed in Tragic Tractor-Trolley Collision on National Highway

By Sajid Ali Umar

QAZI AHMED: A tragic road accident occurred on the National Highway near the Baloch Hotel in New Saeedabad, where a speeding tractor-trolley collided with a motorcyclist, killing the rider on the spot. The deceased, identified as Ali Hassan, son of Ghulam Ali, was a resi-

dent of village Ali Murad Khaher in Qazi Ahmed. Police arrived at the scene and shifted the body to the Taluka Hospital in New Saeedabad, where necessary legal formalities were completed before handing the body over to the victim's family. The family later took the deceased back to their native village for burial. The tractor

driver was arrested on the spot, and the vehicle was taken into police custody. According to police sources, Ali Hassan was traveling from Qazi Ahmed to Hyderabad on his motorcycle when the accident occurred near the New Saeedabad bypass. As of the latest reports, a formal case had not yet been registered.

Evacuation Drive Launched in Latifabad as Flood Fears Escalate

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, and under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners Hatif Siyal (Qasimabad) and Saud Baloch (Latifabad), an evacuation operation was carried out at FP Bund, Unit No-4 Latifabad. As

part of the operation, around 40 to 45 huts belonging to the Bagri nomadic community living in the riverine (katcha) area near the Indus River were relocated to safer places due to the threat of potential flooding. The district administration remains fully alert and committed to implementing precautionary measures to safeguard lives and property.

Dadu Shines with Enthusiastic Celebrations of Milad-un-Nabi, Defence Day and Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai Festival



By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan Arts Council Dadu and Sindh University Campus Dadu jointly organized vibrant and heartfelt celebrations of Milad-un-Nabi, Defence Day, and Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai Festival at Syed Hakim Shah Auditorium, Dadu, under the chairmanship of Pro-Vice Chancellor Syed Azhar Ali Shah. The special guest was PPP District

Dadu President and MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq. Honorary guests included Civil Surgeon DHQ Hospital Dadu Dr. Imjad Hussain Mastoi, Imdad Hussain Douch, Professor Aziz Qasmani, and members of the Pakistan Arts Council Dadu Governing Body. During the event, awards and certificates were presented to students who delivered outstanding performances in all three programs.

Abdul Sattar Qaimkhani Calls for Urgent, Practical Aid for Flood Victims

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Abdul Sattar Khan Qaimkhani, leader of the Qaimkhani community in Jhodo, emphasized the need for practical action to help flood victims. Speaking to the media, he called the floods a natural disaster affecting millions of families, praising the Pakistan Army for its exemplary humanitarian efforts in aiding those affected. He saluted the army's continuous service in facing challenges like floods, earthquakes, and terrorism without discrimination. Abdul Sattar



stated that his community is generously supporting flood victims through their businesses and farming, urging others to open their hearts and assist those suffering in these difficult times.

Matiari Hosts Seminar to Raise Cervical Cancer Awareness Among Girls

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: A crucial seminar titled "Healthy Daughter, Healthy Family" was held at DHQ Hospital Matiari to raise awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of HPV vaccination. At-

tended by ADC Iqra Jannat, DHO Dr. Asif Hussain Shah, DEO Sadaf Akbar Memon, and other key officials, the event stressed collective efforts to safeguard future generations through timely prevention and public health education.

53 Pakistani Fishermen Return Triumphant After Release from Indian Captivity

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: A total of 53 Pakistani fishermen from Thatta district's coastal areas, including Ketu Bandar and Kharo Chhan, returned home this week after being released from Indian jails. These fishermen had been imprisoned for up to four years after accidentally crossing into Indian territorial waters. They re-entered Pakistan through the Wagah border, according to sources. Among the released were sailors Ahmed Katar, Gul Muhammad alias Gulan, Hassan, Sattar, Jaman

Patni Mallah, Arif Patni, Maqbool Patni, Nabi Bux Patni Mallah, and others. Their return was marked by emotional reunions as families and communities joyfully welcomed them back after years of separation. Local residents and social organizations also held celebrations in their honor. The release comes amid ongoing diplomatic efforts by Pakistan to secure the freedom of other fishermen still held in Indian custody, with hopes for their imminent release and reunion with their families.

Mayor Larkana Inspects New Pumping Station Near Otha Chowk

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Mayor of Larkana, Advocate Anwar Ali Luhur, visited the newly constructed pumping station located near Otha Chowk. The facility has been equipped with a heavy-duty generator, an express electric line, and high-capacity motors.



Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor stated that once the pumping station becomes fully functional, it will provide a permanent solution to the issue of water

overflow in several areas, including Goli-mar, Allahabad, Tank Chowk, and Khudabad. Municipal Commissioner Dr. Javed Anwar Abbasi, Admin Officer

Sabir Ali Abbasi, Jameel Ahmed Hullo, Zubair Abro, Badar Leghari, Allah Bakhsh Leghari, Saleem Raza, and others were also present during the visit.

Prince Amin Aga Khan's 88th Birthday Marked with Passionate Festivities

TALHAR: The 88th birthday of Ismaili Chief Scout Prince Amin Muhammad Aga Khan was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Prince Amin, the younger brother of Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th Imam of the Ismaili community and uncle of His Highness Prince Rahim al-Husseini Aga Khan, is also the global Chief of the Ismaili Scouts and Girl



Guides. As Chief Scout, Prince Amin has consis-

tently encouraged youth to support underprivileged communities in developing countries, promoting values of compassion and service. He has also played a vital role in the Aga Khan Development Network, working for the welfare of marginalized groups by focusing on education, health, and community development, following in the footsteps of his elder brother.—RT

Dr. Nafisa Shah Distributes Solar Panels to Khairpur Families Amid Energy Turmoil

By Naz Solangi

KHAIROPUR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader and Member of the National Assembly, Dr. Nafisa Shah has taken a practical step to support underprivileged communities facing se-

vere electricity shortages and inflation. She distributed solar panels among hundreds of deserving families in various Union Councils and Town Committees of Khairpur Tehsil. Speaking at the event, Dr. Nafisa Shah emphasized that PPP pri-

stands by the people and is committed to providing sustainable relief during these difficult times. Party leaders and local officials praised her initiative as a timely and effective alternative to the ongoing power crisis.

SMBBMU Rolls Out HPV Vaccine Drive to Shield Girls from Cervical Cancer

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University, Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah has said that cervical cancer is a leading but preventable threat to women's health in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference, she announced a large-scale awareness campaign in collaboration with the Sindh Government and



the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists will be administered to girls aged 9 to 14, which

will be administered from September 15 to the free HPV vaccine for 27.

Hingorja Streets Come Alive with 17th Rabi-ul-Awal Celebrations

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: On the occasion of 17th Rabi-ul-Awal, Shiite leaders organized a heartfelt procession in Hingorja to celebrate the birth of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Led by Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Syed Asghar Ali Shah, and Liaquat Dayo, the rally began at Masjid Abu



Talib and concluded at the Press Club Hingorja. Participants chanted "Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah" with devotion

as speakers and religious scholars highlighted the teachings and exemplary life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The procession traversed var-

ious city routes before culminating in a gathering where Ulema-e-Karam reflected on the Prophet's noble character and legacy.

Thana Bula Khan Witnesses Educational Awareness Rally

By Shoukat Khaskheili

THANA BULA KHAN: Thana Bula Khan witnessed a vibrant educational awareness rally organized jointly by the Primary Taluka Education Officer, SIF Foundation, and the Education Department under the campaign "Parhndi Sindh Wahndi Sindh." Led by District Education Officer Jamshoro Pandhi Khan Talpur and TEO Nisar Ali Memon, the rally saw participation from teachers, students, social and political figures, including



prominent local leaders. Participants carried banners and chanted slogans emphasizing the importance of education for social progress, urging parents to enroll their children in schools, especially gov-

ernment institutions. The event concluded with a strong commitment from attendees to support the campaign's goal of increasing school enrollment and improving educational standards in the region.

Lady Health Workers Storm Streets, Block Nasarpur Road in Protest Against PPHI

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Lady Health Workers in Tando Allahyar staged a sit-in protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office, blocking Nasarpur Road. The protesters caused long traffic jams on both sides. Central leader of the Lady Health Workers, Haleema Leghari, told the media that despite repeated requests over the past year, injustices against Lady Health Workers continue. She highlighted the lack of proper rooms for staff, no storage for medicines, and poor facilities forcing them to keep med-



icines elsewhere. She also accused PPHI officials of mistreating Lady Health Workers and refusing cooperation, including disrespect at health centers. The protesters demanded that higher authorities address their grievances, warning of

escalated protests if ignored. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Noor Mustafa Laghari, DHO Paro Mal, and ADC Pream Minghwar met the workers, assured justice, and convinced them to end the protest and restore traffic.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

Sindhi Spirit Shines as SANA DC Picnic Unites Community

By Zia Qureshi

WASHINGTON DC: The Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) - Washington DC Chapter hosted a lovely and lively picnic under President Attaulah Shaikh, bringing together Sindhi families from across the DMV area. The event featured Sindhi cuisine from Sanaullah Shaikh's restaurant, desserts by Azeem Soomro, and cultural music. Founding president Khalid Hashmani underscored unity, while Muslim Burdi emphasized encouragement among Sindhis abroad.



The chapter expanded with members Rubina Yasmeen, Naushad Akhund, Jamil Solangi, Imran Yousufani, Adil Abbasi, Irfan Khoso, Muhammad Sarhandi, Vinod Kumar, Javed Memon, Azam Burdi, Kaleem Khilji, and others, making it a grand success.—RT

Aslam Burdi, Maqbool Soomro, Maqsood Soomro, Naushad Akhund, Jamil Solangi, Imran Yousufani, Adil Abbasi, Irfan Khoso, Muhammad Sarhandi, Vinod Kumar, Javed Memon, Azam Burdi, Kaleem Khilji, and others, making it a grand success.—RT

METRO KARACHI



CM Murad Presses Federal Govt to Mobilize Global Flood Aid

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has criticized the federal government for not appealing for international assistance despite the worsening flood situation across Pakistan. Speaking to the media at Mazar-e-Quaid, he noted that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had repeatedly stressed the need for global appeals, immediate relief measures, and the imposition of a climate and



agricultural emergency. Shah said that vast parts of the country are facing severe flooding, and cooperation with residents of riverine areas is essential to mitigate losses. He emphasized the need for the

phased that the Sindh government's top priority remains saving lives and ensuring the safety of affected communities. The chief minister urged unity, stating that with the nation's strength and cooperation, the challenges of this natural disaster can be overcome. He reiterated Bilawal Bhutto's call for urgent measures to address both humanitarian and agricultural impacts of the floods.

PML-N Tears Into Sindh Govt Over Karachi's Flood Mismanagement

KARACHI: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has expressed strong reservations over the Sindh government's handling of the recent rains in Karachi, directly criticizing Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's performance. In a statement, PML-N Sindh spokesperson Asad Usmani said the chief minister should reflect on his own

government's shortcomings instead of criticizing others. He alleged that the PPP's 18-year rule in Sindh has been marred by corruption and poor governance. Usmani pointed to the collapse of Shahrah-e-Bhutto during heavy rains as a glaring example of corruption, calling it a major question mark on the PPP's governance. He further stated

that the party had disrespected even the legacy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by associating his name with failed projects. The PML-N spokesperson added that if corruption had not been rampant, Karachi would not be facing its current condition, stressing that the city's state after rains is nothing short of embarrassing.—RT/Agency

Safora Town Submerged as Angry Residents Demand Swift Relief

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Water from Thado Dam has submerged large parts of Safora Town after flooding Saadi Town and Ghazi Goth, crippling daily life. Homes, shops, and major roads including Main Gulzar-e-Hijri, Madras Chowk, and University Road are underwater, halting traffic and business activities. Residents blame Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and Safora



Town authorities to initiate urgent dewatering efforts to relieve the crisis.

PPP MNA Salahuddin Junejo Holds Key Meeting with Adi Faryal Talpur

By Farooq Junejo

KARACHI: PPP Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Salahuddin Junejo met with Faryal Talpur at Zardari House, Karachi. They discussed the political and social situation of Sanghar district. "The people of Sanghar and the entire nation see PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as a beacon of hope," said PPP MNA Salahuddin



Junejo. On this occasion, Ali Hassan Hingorjo was District President and MPA also present.

Karachi Gears Up for Historic Professor ND Khan Basketball Tournament

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Karachi's Firdous Itehad and Usman Basketball Club will host a grand basketball tournament in late October honoring Professor ND Khan, former Law Minister and comrade of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Featuring boys' and girls' teams, the event's opening and final matches will take place in Lyari Town, with other games across Karachi. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah will attend as chief



guest, and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab will inaugurate the tournament. Meanwhile, the organizing committee for the Second

PAC Unveils Massive Scandal in Gorakh Hill Project, Orders Full Inquiry

KARACHI: The Sindh Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Nisar Khuhro, has revealed significant financial irregularities in the Gorakh Hill Station project despite spending over Rs 3 billion. During the PAC session, officials failed to provide audit records for 2023-2024, raising questions about the use of development funds. Items such as furniture and air conditioners were reportedly purchased at rates far above market value. The PAC issued suspension orders for the responsible officers and demanded an explanation for missing records. Audit officials highlighted that contractors were paid 94% of project funds even before the completion of resort facilities, yet the work remains unfinished. The PAC ordered the Anti-Corruption Department to launch an investigation into the over-

paid procurements and the overall development work. Nisar Khuhro criticized the lack of progress and likened the mismanagement of Gorakh Hill to the infamous stalled RBOD project. He emphasized that Gorakh Hill is a critical tourism destination for Sindh and must be developed transparently and efficiently.—RT

CM Murad Denounces Israeli Strike on Qatar, Calls for Muslim Solidarity

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that Pakistan is passing through a difficult time but expressed hope that Allah Almighty will protect the country. He prayed for the strength to make Pakistan a true Islamic state in spirit and

practice. Addressing the current regional situation, Shah strongly condemned Israel's attack on Qatar, terming it an act of aggression against the Muslim world. He said Muslims across the globe are facing oppression and called for the unity of the Ummah to give a powerful response. The chief minister stressed that arrogance, such as displayed by Israel, must be defeated just as India's pride was shattered in the past. He reiterated his solidarity with Qatar and the wider Muslim community, urging collective action against injustices faced by Muslims worldwide.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab Stands Firm on Karachi Rain Management Efforts

KARACHI: Mayor Murtaza Wahab strongly criticized those targeting the city administration over its handling of recent rains, asserting that baseless criticism only undermines ongoing efforts to address the challenges.



Speaking to the media, Wahab said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) teams have been working round-the-clock to clear water from major thoroughfares, restore traffic flow, and protect citizens from difficulties caused by heavy downpours.—RT

Veteran Journalist Muhammad Khan Kalmati's Brother Passes Away After Long Illness



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The brother of senior Malir journalist Muhammad Khan Kalmati passed away after a long illness. His funeral prayer was held in his ancestral village Abdul Rahman Kalmati, attended by hundreds including elected representatives, local dignitaries, journalists, political and social leaders. Prominent attendees included Raja Razaq Baloch, President of PPP Malir; MPA Sajid Johkio; PPP leaders Agha Tariq Pathan and Sattar Khalifa; several union council chairmen; senior journalists; and community elders. Following the prayer, the deceased was laid to rest in the family graveyard. Condolences continue to pour in for Muhammad Khan Kalmati from various quarters.

KMC East Launches Aggressive Anti-Encroachment Drive

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's (KMC) Encroachment Cell in District East carried out a major operation to clear illegal encroachments around the Meteorology area and Johar Complex. Initiated on the directives of the Mayor of Karachi and Deputy Commissioner East, the drive aimed to restore roads and footpaths for public convenience. Led by Additional Director Ali Amladar and Area Inspector Aqeel Ahmed Hingorjo, the operation saw the removal of pushcarts, street vendors, and other unauthorized setups from main and service roads. Despite resistance, the campaign continued without discrimination. Officials emphasized that public pathways are not for illegal use and assured that the drive will persist until the area is completely cleared, particularly to ease movement for students and local residents.

Horror in Gulistan-e-Jauhar: Three Women Slain, Two Injured in Knife Attack

KARACHI: A brutal knife attack at a residence in Bhit-taibad, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, left three women dead and two others seriously injured on Thursday. Rescue officials confirmed that the deceased women were identified as Meena, Ayesha, and Dania. A 14-year-old girl, Nandini, and a man named Ajay sustained severe injuries and were shifted to Jinnah Hospital along with the bodies.

Authorities said the incident has shocked the neighborhood, raising questions about domestic violence and mental health issues. Police assured that a thorough probe would be conducted to bring clarity and justice in the case.—RT/Agency

Fatal M-9 Dumper Crash Leaves One Dead, 13 Hurt in Northern Bypass Pileup

KARACHI: A high-speed dumper overturned on the M-9 Motorway, leaving one person dead and another injured, according to media reports on Thursday. Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the victims to a nearby hospital. In a separate incident, a trailer collided with a passenger bus on the Northern Bypass in Baldia, injuring 13 people, including women and children. The injured were immediately taken to medical facilities for treatment.

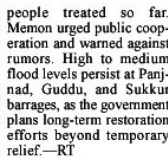
Authorities said both accidents were caused by speeding and reckless driving, which continue to endanger lives on Karachi's major highways. Police have launched investigations into the incidents, while traffic officials urged drivers of heavy vehicles to strictly observe speed limits and road safety regulations.—RT/Agency

Court Defers Dania Shah Indictment in Explosive Aamir Liaquat Video Case

KARACHI: Dania Shah, widow of late television host and politician Aamir Liaquat Hussain, appeared before a Judicial Magistrate (East) in Karachi on Thursday in connection with the case of alleged obscene video leaks. The court, however, postponed the date for framing charges against her. During the hearing on Shah's acquittal plea, Advocate Liaquat Gabor argued that co-accused Yasir Shami had already been acquitted by the court, and therefore, the case against Dania Shah did not stand. He maintained that Shah neither recorded nor circulated the controversial videos.—RT/Agency

150,000 People Relocated to Safety in Sindh's Flood Battle: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said the government is tackling the flood crisis with a coordinated, round-the-clock response. Over 150,000 people and 410,000 cattle have been relocated from flood-hit Kachha areas. Relief camps are providing food, water, and medical aid, with nearly 64,000 people treated so far. Memon urged public cooperation and warned against rumors. High to medium flood levels persist at Panjnad, Guddu, and Sukkur barrages, as the government plans long-term restoration efforts beyond temporary relief.—RT



Murad Launches Bold Karachi Master Plan to End Chaos of Unplanned Growth



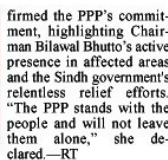
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah revealed a World Bank-supported Master Plan to counter Karachi's urban crisis, addressing transport, drainage, waste, and water systems. He said decades of unplanned expansion caused massive infrastructure issues, but the government is taking long-term action. Speaking at a public meeting, Shah emphasized unity, disaster resilience, and flood preparedness. He also confirmed Sukkur Barrage's capacity dropped due to gate closures and highlighted ongoing flood control and roadwork projects across Sindh to protect lives and livelihoods.—RT

Karachi Floods Cripple Industry, Slash 30% Production and Put Exports in Jeopardy

KARACHI: Torrential rains have crippled industrial activity in Korangi, slashing production and export operations by up to 30%, warned KATI President Junaid Naqi. The closure of the EBM Causeway and traffic gridlock on Jam Sadiq Bridge left factories inaccessible, with over half the workforce unable to report. Naqi blamed chronic infrastructure failures and delayed road projects, urging urgent up-

Adi Faryal Talpur and Sharfunissa Leghari Pledge Relentless Support for Flood Relief

KARACHI: Former MPA Sharfunissa Leghari met with PPP Women's Wing President Faryal Talpur to discuss party organization and flood relief efforts. Talpur praised the dedication of women in the party and emphasized protecting lives during the ongoing flood crisis. Leghari affirmed the PPP's commitment, highlighting Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's active presence in affected areas and the Sindh government's relentless relief efforts. "The PPP stands with the people and will not leave them alone," she declared.—RT



Muzammil Sheikhani Named Advisor to Sindh Governor on Wildlife Affairs

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has appointed Muzammil Sheikhani as his Advisor on Wildlife. During a meeting at Governor House, the Governor presented Sheikhani with the official notification of his appointment and praised his dedication and services for the preservation of wildlife, protection of endangered species, and efforts against illegal trade of animals. Governor Tessori said Sheikhani's tireless contributions and vision for wildlife conservation are commendable and will further strengthen nature and animal protection initiatives in Sindh. He added that he takes pride in having Sheikhani join his team as Advisor on Wildlife. Expressing gratitude, Muzammil Sheikhani reaffirmed his mission to safeguard wildlife, create public awareness, and support strong policy-making.—RT/Agency

K-Electric Assures Malir Transmission Tower Secure Amid Flood Fears

KARACHI: K-Electric has responded to the viral video of a high-power transmission tower in Malir stream to panic. K-Electric confirmed that the transmission tower is completely safe and no need to relocate it. A spokesperson, a safety inspection of the high-voltage transmission tower was carried out following its identification.—RT/Agency

COMPETITIVE & LIVABLE CITY OF KARACHI LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KMC

Old SBGA Building Ground Floor, behind Civic Centre & adjacent KMCSC
Main Office: Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi
Phone: 373-20261 (Landline) 373-20262 (Mobile)
Fax: 373-20261 (Landline) 373-20262 (Mobile)
E-mail: procurement@kmc.gov.pk

Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids
WORKS
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
Contract Title: KMC Schemes 2024-25
Loan No./Credit No.: 69980-PK
Reference No.: (CLICK/KMC)

1. The Government of Pakistan has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contracts for KMC Schemes 2024-25. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment Disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing.

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Local Government Department now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following Work:

Lot No	Description	Contract package Number
1	Up-gradation & Beautification of KMC Head Office.	PK-LGD-203986-CS-CQS

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFP Borrowers. PROCUREMENT (INVESTMENT) PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016. Revised November 2020 (Procurement Regulations), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

3. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased from interested bidders on the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PKR 16,000/- in shape of pay order in favor of "Karachi Metropolitan Corporation". The document may be collected in person from the "Office of the Director (Contract Management), Engineering Department, KMC up to 14-10-2025. Bidding documents can be seen at <https://click.gov.pk/index>.

4. Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before at 2:00 p.m. on 16-10-2025 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2% of the total bid value or an equivalent amount must be in the form of Pay order/ Bank Guarantee/ demand drafts in a freely convertible currency.

5. Bids will be publicly opened on same day in the presence of bidders' representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at 2:30 p.m. at the address given below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected.

6. The address for submission and opening of bid is Office of the Director Contract Management, Engineering Department, KMC, situated at Old SBGA Building Ground Floor, behind Civic Centre & adjacent KMCSC main office Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.

Funding Position: Funds are available. The sum is already approved, and funds are available from the World Bank/Government of Sindh.

Terms & Conditions:
Under following conditions bid will be rejected:
a. Conditional, electronic and telegraphic bids / tenders.
b. Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form as specified in the bidding documents.
c. Bids received after specified date and time.
d. Black listed firm.
e. Bid validity period 90 days.

KMC/MM/68/2025 Director Contract Management
Engineering Department, KMC

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

—Albert Einstein

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12 2025

PM Shehbaz, Bangladesh Adviser Push for Stronger Bilateral Ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met Bangladesh's Adviser on Religious Affairs, Dr. A. F. M. Khalid Hossain, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Dhaka.

During the meeting in Islamabad, PM Shehbaz underlined that Pakistan and Bangladesh share a common history, culture, and faith that serve as a foundation for brotherly relations.

He stressed the need to further enhance cooperation in areas such as trade, academic exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.



PM Shehbaz also recalled his meetings with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in New York and Cairo, noting Yunus' expressed desire to deepen relations between the two nations. Positive developments in ties

PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction over the positive direction of bilateral relations. He highlighted ongoing academic exchanges, growing trade and economic engagement, and closer people-

to-people connections as encouraging signs of stronger ties.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Iqbal Hussain Khan accompanied Dr. Khalid Hossain during the meeting.

Condolence letter, support from Dhaka

Dr Khalid Hossain handed over a letter from Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

In it, Yunus expressed condolences over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods in Pakistan, while also offering Bangladesh's assistance.

The Bangladeshi adviser reaffirmed that the two countries' brotherly relations are firmly anchored in shared historical links and faith.

The meeting also touched upon the early resumption of direct flights between Pakistan and Bangladesh to promote travel, trade, and cultural exchanges.

PM Shehbaz reiterated his invitation to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for an official visit to Pakistan. In turn, Dr. Khalid Hossain conveyed an invitation for PM Shehbaz to visit Bangladesh.—RT/Agency

Charlie Kirk Shooter Still at Large as Police Unearth Gun

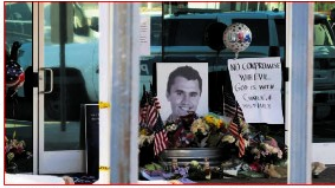
US: The gunman who shot dead US right-wing youth leader Charlie Kirk in a targeted killing remained at large Thursday but authorities said they have video images of the suspect and have recovered a "high-powered" rifle.

Kirk, a 31-year-old superstar on the Republican right who was credited with helping Donald Trump return to the presidency last year, was shot while addressing a large crowd at Utah Valley University.

The killing — described by the FBI as a "targeted event" — shocked a nation already reeling from political tensions half a year into Trump's second term.

Authorities acknowledged the gunman remained at large after having escaped into woodland.

"We're doing everything we can to find him, and we're not sure how far he has gone yet, but we will do our best," FBI Special Agent



Robert Bohls told a media briefing.

Authorities said they had secured quality images of the killer, who was of university age.

"We do have good video footage of this individual. We are not going to release that at this time," said Beau Mason, commissioner of the Utah Department of Public Safety. Bohls said the presumed murder weapon had also been found.

"It is a high powered bolt action rifle. That rifle was recovered in a wooded area where the shooter had fled," the FBI agent said.

Two people initially detained for questioning were released after officials determined they had no connection to the shooting.

"Dark moment"

Reflecting the intensely political nature of the incident, it was Trump, rather than law enforcement authorities, who first announced to Americans that Kirk had died from his wound Trump then addressed the nation in a video address on social media in which he cited a "dark moment for America."—RT/Agency

Pakistan and UAE Vow to Ramp Up Anti-Narcotics Cooperation in Key Talks

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Sheikh Zayed bin Hamad bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Chairman of the United Arab Emirates' National Anti-Narcotics Authority, at the Ministry of Interior on Thursday to discuss enhanced cooperation against drug trafficking.

Minister Naqvi warmly welcomed Sheikh Zayed and his delegation, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to combating narcotics as a national priority. Both sides held detailed discussions on anti-narcotics efforts and other matters of mutual interest, agreeing to expand bilateral collaboration in countering drug smuggling.

To facilitate closer coordination, Pakistan appointed DG Anti-Narcotics Force Major General Abdul Mueed as its focal person, while the UAE named Brigadier Taher Gharib as its special representative. Naqvi congratulated Sheikh Zayed on becoming the first chairman of the UAE's newly established National Anti-Narcotics Authority and praised the move as a step toward deeper regional cooperation.



"The establishment of this authority will significantly boost joint efforts between Pakistan and the UAE in combating narcotics," Naqvi said, assuring Sheikh Zayed of Pakistan's full support. He highlighted Pakistan's frontline role in the fight against drugs, noting that over 400 suspects involved in trafficking to the UAE had been arrested and five tons of narcotics seized.

Naqvi credited these successes to joint efforts and timely information sharing, while warning of an uptick in synthetic drug smuggling. "This is a war for the future of our generations, and defeat is not an option," he emphasized.

Sheikh Zayed affirmed the UAE's commitment to providing all possible cooperation to Pakistan in anti-narcotics operations, stressing the importance of strengthening bilateral collaboration to ensure a safer future for coming generations. The UAE delegation included senior anti-narcotics officials from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Fujairah, and Umm Al Quwain. Pakistani officials present included Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the Federal Interior Secretary, Special and Additional Secretaries, DG Anti-Narcotics Force, and other senior representatives.—RT/Agency

Netanyahu Greenlights West Bank Settlement Surge, Shuts Door on Palestinian State



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed an agreement on Thursday to push ahead with a controversial settlement expansion plan that would cut across land that the Palestinians seek for a state. "There will never be a Palestinian state. This place is ours," Netanyahu said during a visit to the Maale Adumim settlement in the West Bank where thousands of new housing units would be added. "We will safeguard our heritage, our land, and our security," PM Shehbaz, Qatari emir con-

dern Israeli strike, vow unity for peace

Last month, the E1 project, which would bisect the occupied West Bank and cut it off from East Jerusalem, received final approval from a Defence Ministry planning commission. Netanyahu was joined by nationalist members of his coalition, including far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who in August said a Palestinian state "is being erased from the table, not with slogans but with actions."—RT/Agency

LHC Summons NAB Chairman in Explosive Contempt Showdown



LAHORE: The Lahore High Court summoned the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman in person on September 15 in a contempt of court petition, directing him to appear with the complete record. A two-member bench headed by LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum heard the contempt petition filed by Advocate Ahsan Abid. The petitioner argued that Khuro Bakhtiar and Hashim Jawan Bakhtiar had accumulated illegal assets. Despite filing a request with NAB for inquiry and a court

order, NAB did not act on the complaint against them. He requested the court to initiate contempt proceedings against the NAB chairman for defying the court order. Chief Justice Aalia Neelum inquired who had appeared on behalf of NAB, to which the government lawyer replied that no one had appeared. Subsequently, the Lahore High Court summoned the NAB chairman along with the record and adjourned the hearing until September 15.—RT/Agency

President Zardari Salutes Pakistan Army's Fallen Heroes



RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the homes of Major Adnan Aslam Shah and Major Syed Muiz Abbas Shah Shaheed to offer condolences to their families and pay homage to their bravery and sacrifice. During the visit, the President praised the courage, leadership, and patriotism of the martyred officers, stating that their sacrifices reflect the highest traditions of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He reaffirmed the nation's unwavering resolve to eliminate terrorism from its soil.

President Zardari prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and for patience and strength for their bereaved families. Major Adnan Aslam embraced martyrdom after being critically injured during a terrorist attack in Bannu, while Major Syed Muiz Abbas Shah was martyred during an intelligence-based operation in South Waziristan.

Both officers laid down their lives while heroically fighting against the terrorist group "Ftina-e-Khawarij," reportedly backed by hostile foreign elements, including India.—RT/Agency

France and Germany Boost Poland's Air Defence After Russian Drone Onslaught

France and Germany moved to bolster the defence of Polish airspace on Thursday as the UN Security Council called an emergency meeting to discuss Warsaw's accusation that Moscow launched a drone raid on its territory.

Poland branded the incident, which prompted Polish and NATO forces to shoot down several drones overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, a deliberate "unprecedented" attack on the country, NATO and the European Union.

Moscow denied targeting the country and said there was no evidence the drones were Russian.

But Polish President Karol Nawrocki warned Thursday during a visit to an airbase in western Poland



that the incident was "an attempt to test the mechanism of action within NATO and our readiness to respond".

Germany said it would "extend and expand" its participation in NATO's Air Policing programme, to provide more cover to Polish airspace.

Its defence ministry said it would double the number of Eurofighter jets deployed to four and extend their mission by three months to the

end of the year.

And French President Emmanuel Macron announced in a post on X that France would "deploy three Rafale fighter jets to contribute to the protection of Polish airspace and of NATO's Eastern Flank together with our Allies." The Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Sweden each summoned their Russian ambassadors to protest the drone incident.—RT/Agency

PTI Senators Quit Committees in Lockstep with Imran Khan's Orders

ISLAMABAD: Several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators on Thursday stepped down from their respective senate standing committees following directives from the party's founder, Imran Khan.

These senators include Fouzia Arshad, Falak Naz, Aon Abbas Buppi, Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, Dost Muhammad, Zeeshan Khanzada, Azam Khan Swati, Ali Zafar and PTI-backed Mirza Muhammad Afridi. The move comes as part of the former ruling party's political strategy, which also includes boycotting upcoming by-elections. Last month, PTI law-



makers resigned from the standing committees of the National Assembly on Khan's order. Swati stepped down from Senate standing committees on cabinet secretariat, economic affairs, law and justice, national health services, regulation and coor-

dination, and rules of procedure and privileges. Dost Muhammad resigned from the Senate committees on the government assurances, human rights, national food security and research, poverty alleviation and social safety, and railways.—RT/Agency

Britain sacks Mandelson as US ambassador over Epstein links

LONDON: Peter Mandelson, Britain's smooth-talking ambassador to the U.S., was sacked on Thursday after his long-term association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein became a further distraction for under pressure Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Mandelson, dubbed the "Prince of Darkness" for his behind-the-scenes manoeuvring during the last Labour government, was forced from the most sought-after diplomatic post after his letters and emails to Epstein were published this week.

The 71-year-old, a veteran Labour politician who was key to the party's success under former leader Tony Blair, had come under scrutiny over his relationship with Epstein after a birthday book was released including a letter purportedly from the now ambassador describing Epstein as "my best pal".



Further emails were published in the media showing that Mandelson had advised Epstein to fight for early release when he faced charges over soliciting a minor. "In light of the additional information in emails written by Peter Mandelson, the prime minister has asked the foreign secretary to withdraw him as ambassador," Britain's foreign ministry said.

"The emails show that the depth and extent of Peter Mandelson's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein is ma-

terially different from that known at the time of his appointment."

The ministry said the revelation of Mandelson's suggestion that Epstein's first conviction was challenged was "new information."

On Wednesday, Mandelson said he deeply regretted ever meeting Epstein and that he had carried on that association "for far longer than I should have done" — a statement that seemed to satisfy Starmer who later in parliament gave him his backing.—RT/Agency

CTD Eliminates Four High-Value Terrorists in Pishin Crackdown

QUETTA: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and intelligence agencies conducted a joint operation, killing four key terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Hindustan in Pishin district of Balochistan.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the operation was carried out based on secret information, during which heavy gunfire was exchanged with the terrorists.

The spokesperson said that the terrorists killed in the operation were involved in multiple serious crimes in Balochistan, including an attack on a Frontier Corps truck on Chaman Road, the killing of a Levies officer in Pishin, and attacks on police personnel.

Recovered weapons in-



cluded 2 kalashnikov rifles, 2 nine-millimeter pistols, 2 hand grenades, a detonator, a primer card, and other explosive materials. All these items were part of the terrorists' preparations for further attacks.

The CTD spokesperson stated that this operation is part of ongoing efforts to restore peace and security in Balochistan. The identities of the killed terrorists are

being verified, and their bodies have been transferred to a hospital for post-mortem.

Law enforcement agencies have also launched a search operation in the area to apprehend any possible accomplices. Operations against terrorism in Balochistan will continue, and intelligence agencies remain committed to restoring peace.—RT/Agency

Govt Ends Ban on New Gas Connections, Paves Way for RLNG Supply

ISLAMABAD: The government has lifted the four-year ban on new domestic gas connections and announced that consumers will now be provided with re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) connections instead of local gas. Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, addressing a press conference alongside Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, said that the decision had been taken by the federal cabinet under the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ease public hardships.

Malik said the ban, imposed in 2021, had forced residents of new housing societies and apartments to rely on LPG cylinders and other fuels. "Definitely, there's the pain of getting your cylinders filled from the market, and then there's the issue of sub-standard cylinders, which often lead to untoward incidents, and sometimes pipes also leak," he explained.



He noted that the two gas supply companies had already completed the prerequisites and would start entering pending applications once the cabinet's decision was notified. "RLNG is definitely expensive compared to local gas, however, it is 30-35% cheaper than LPG," Malik said. He added that applicants already on the waiting list would be asked to convert to RLNG by paying the required fee and installing a new connection. The minister said the billing cycle for RLNG would continue in line with the monthly system already in place. He acknowledged

that RLNG was not cheap, but assured that the government was working to bolster local gas exploration so that people could get cheaper supplies in the future.

For his part, Minister Chaudhry said the decision would resolve the longstanding difficulties faced by people due to the unavailability of gas connections. He also highlighted that the federal cabinet meeting prayed for the departed soul of Major Adnan Aslam, discussed flood-related challenges in Punjab where water had entered Sindh through Panjnad, and reviewed plans for declaring an agricultural emergency.—RT/Agency