Price Rs. 10

FOUNDED BY (LATE) KAZI SAEED AKBAR & (Late) Kazi Jawad Akbar
PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI and HYDERABAD

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

Jessica Chastain Stuns Fans With Surprising Reason Behind Pursuing Master's Degree

Heartland

Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi Leads Urgent Operation to Drain Badin Floodwaters

Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad!

PSE 100-index down by 1701.56 points to close at 154,439.68

NATIONAL

PM Applauds Punjab CM for Leading Flood Relief Operations from the Front

SPORTS

Pakistan make triumphant Asia Cup 2025 start with thumping win over Oman

Nasir Shah Moves Swiftly to Restore Power After 132kV Tower Collapse Near Thaddo Dam

KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 241 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Saturday, September 13, 2025, Rabi-Ul-Awal 19, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

President Zardari Touches Down In China For 10-Day Official Visit

BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Chengdu on Friday to begin his 10-day official visit to China, where he will hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on matters related to bilateral ties, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

On arrival at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport, he was warmly received by Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Huang Ruixue, said a statement issued by the President's Secretariat.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, as well as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, were also present on the occasion.

"During the visit, the president will hold meetings with the Chinese leadership and senior officials to strengthen Pakistan-China relations further, enhance cooperation in diverse fields and advance shared objectives under the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership," read the statement.

Earlier, the Foreign Office — in a statement — said that the president was undertaking a 10-day official visit to China on the invitation of the Chinese government.

During the visit, the President will grace Chengdu, Shanghai and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and hold meetings with the provincial leadership.

"The discussions will encompass Pakistan-China bilateral relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and future connectivity initiatives," the FO added.

"The visit underscores the tradition of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, reflecting the deep commitment of the two countries to strengthen their All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership," it added.The FO concluded by saying that the visit reaffirms "mutual support on the issues of core interests, advance economic and trade cooperation including CPEC, and to highlight their joint commitment to regional peace, development and stability".—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Confirms Pakistan To Host Next SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that Pakistan will host the next Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit to be held in 2027 and ordered to immediately begin preparations for the key summit.

The announcement was made after PM Shehbaz performed the groundbreaking of T-Chowk Flyover Project at Islamabad Expressway, terming it a milestone initiative for the residents of the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The total project cost is Rs 1,495 million, with a duration of 150 days. The project officially starts today and is expected to be completed by February 9 next year.

The project is being constructed on existing available land with no need for land acquisition and is financed through self-financing by the CDA.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony, the prime minister praised the interior minister, Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman, and their teams for initiating such a vital public interest project.

He directed all concerned authorities to ensure the highest standards of quality throughout the construction and emphasized that there should be no compromise on quality while completing the project in the shortest possible time.

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan will be hosting the next SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, and preparations must begin immediately.

This includes constructing new accommodations and further beautifying Islamabad. In this regard, he mentioned that Tajikistan has gifted saplings, and the CDA and other teams are working on plantation efforts.

PM Shehbaz also stressed that government was also planning to embark upon another public interest project of rail car in the twin cities.

"If it happens (the project completes), it will be a great gift for the residents of the twin cities," he said directing the relevant authorities to begin work on the project without delay.

Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the project Islamabad Expressway was already completed but it was decided that the formal inauguration will be held once the final segment (T-Chowk Flyover) was done.He commended the CDA, National Engineering Services Pakistan (Nespak), and other relevant stakeholders for designing the project in a way that no additional land acquisition is required, saving Rs7 billion in the process.—RT/Agency

Trump Announces Arrest Of Suspect In Charlie Kirk Killing

US: A suspect in the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah university has been taken into custody, US President Donald Trump said on Friday, ending an intense manhunt that followed what Trump described as a "heinous assassination."

Kirk's killer has eluded police and federal agents for more than 24 hours after Wednesday's shooting, in which a sniper fired a single gunshot that killed Kirk during an appearance at Utah Valley University in Orem.

"I think we have him," Trump told Fox News in an interview, adding that a person who knows the suspect had turned him in.

Previously, US investigators said they had found the bolt-action rifle believed to have been used to kill Kirk and released images of a person of interest.

The FBI had circulated grainy images apparently taken from security cameras showing a "person of interest" wearing a black top, black sunglasses and a dark baseball cap. The long-sleeved top appears to have been emblazoned with an image of a bald eagle flying across a US flag.

Kirk, an author, podcast host and close ally of Trump, helped build the Republican Party's support among younger voters.

FBI and state officials said the killer arrived on the campus a few minutes before the start of the event, a debate led by Kirk titled "Prove Me Wrong" in front of 3,000 people at Utah Valley, about 40 miles (65 km) south of Salt Lake City.

Security-camera videos showed a person going up stairwells to gain access to a roof before firing at Kirk, the officials said at a press briefing. Kirk, a staunch defender of gun rights, was answering an audience question about mass shootings when the bullet struck his neck. Audience members fled in panic.

The shooter jumped off the roof and fled into an adjoining neighborhood, said Robert Bohls, an FBI special agent in charge.

Investigators found a "high-powered, bolt-action" rifle in a nearby wooded area, and were examining that along with palm prints and footprints for clues.—RT/Agency

US Senator Rubio Heads To Israel Amid Rift In Middle East Alliances

US: US President Donald Trump's top diplomat, Marco Rubio, will fly to Israel this weekend amid tensions with fellow US allies in the Middle East over Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Qatar and expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

State Department deputy spokesperson Tommy Pigott said on Friday that Rubio would depart on Saturday to visit Israel before joining up with Trump's planned visit to Britain next week.

Rubio in Israel will emphasise Washington and Israel's shared goals, Pigott said in a statement, citing the need to ensure Hamas never rules Gaza again and the return of hostages of October 7, 2023.

Rubio's visit comes ahead of high-level meetings at the United Nations in New York later this month, where countries including France and Britain are expected to recognize Palestinian statehood.—RT/Agency

PTI Chief Barrister Gohar Dismisses Rumors Of Political Deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has categorically rejected reports of a political "deal," saying such claims are fabricated and intended to mislead the public. He asserted that if there had been any arrangement, the PTI founder would not have endured two years in prison.

Addressing the media on Thursday, Barrister Gohar emphasized that PTI's struggle is not about striking compromises but about ensuring the supremacy of the judiciary and the protection of democratic values in Pakistan. "There is no question of a deal. Our movement is for justice and democracy," he said.

He argued that the cases registered against PTI members were politically motivated. "Those who abandoned the party faced no legal challenges, while our loyal workers and leaders were disqualified and punished," he pointed out. According to him, this selective accountability makes it clear that PTI has been unfairly targeted.

The PTI chairman also reminded that the founder of the party had repeatedly demonstrated flexibility in the past three years, despite facing immense political challenges. "He is not rigid," Gohar said, adding that when PTI's electoral mandate was allegedly stolen, the founder urged dialogue to resolve the crisis. "Yet nothing came out of it," he lamented.

Declaring himself the representative voice of the PTI founder, Gohar said the leader's resilience remains unshaken whether he is inside jail or outside. He underscored that a political solution to the ongoing crisis is still necessary, stressing, "It is not too late even now."

He urged all stakeholders to act responsibly, saying that the way forward lies in meaningful political dialogue rather than fabricated narratives about secret deals. "The people of Pakistan deserve transparency, justice, and democracy. That is what PTI stands for," he concluded.

The statement comes at a time when rumors of backchannel negotiations have been circulating in political circles, with PTI leadership facing mounting legal and political pressures. Barrister Gohar's remarks appear aimed at dispelling confusion and reaffirming PTI's position as a party committed to democratic struggle rather than compromises.—RT/Agency

Four Indian-Backed Terrorists Neutralized In Mastung Operation

MASTUNG: Security forces on Friday eliminated four terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan, during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Mastung.

During the conduct of the operation, the security personnel effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian-sponsored terrorists were neutralised, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

The security forces were conducting a sanitisation operation to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, it added.

The security forces "are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice", it concluded.

Pakistan witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces since 2021.

According to a report released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), an Islamabad-based think tank, the country witnessed 78 terrorist attacks during the month of June, which resulted in at least 100 deaths.Among the fatalities were 53 security personnel, 39 civilians, six militants, and two members of local peace committees.

A total of 189 people were injured, including 126 members of the security forces and 63 civilians.Altogether, the violence and operations led to 175 deaths in June — among them, 55 security personnel, 77 militants, 41 civilians, and two peace committee members.

The security forces, along with the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have been carrying out operations against the terrorists and even launched a targeted action against militants in KP's Bajaur.—RT/Agency

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif Says Qatar Betrayed, Urges Muslim Unity

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Qatar feels it has been betrayed, stressing that the matter has now moved forward and requires broader resolution. He made these remarks during a talk show on Media, after accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Khawaja Asif noted that the issues faced by Qatar go beyond mere diplomatic tensions, adding that the sense of betrayal within Doha highlights the gravity of the situation. He pointed out that the crisis is not just about one country but has implications for the Muslim world at large.Commenting on the role of global powers, the Defense Minister criticized the notion that pressure from the United States could resolve the issue. "The displeasure of former U.S. President Donald Trump was not enough to settle the dispute," Asif stated, emphasizing that reliance on external actors cannot provide a sustainable solution.

Instead, he urged that the resolution must come from within the Muslim Ummah. According to him, only through unity, dialogue, and mutual understanding can the Muslim world address such crises effectively. He underlined that continued divisions will only weaken the collective strength of Muslim nations, leaving them vulnerable to outside influence.

The Defense Minister further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's engagement with the Qatari leadership demonstrates Pakistan's commitment to fostering reconciliation and cooperation among Muslim countries.—RT/Agency

Netanyahu Pushes E1 Settlement Plan, Declares No Palestinian State

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has officially signed off on the controversial E1 settlement development plan, defining the vision of his government that a Palestinian state will never be established.

The signing ceremony was held in Ma'ale Adumim, which is a large Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, where Netanyahu declared, "There will not be a Palestinian state. This place is ours".

The E1 settlement development plan has had international opposition for years, and it aims to connect Ma'ale Adumim with East Jerusalem through the establishment of thousands of housing units.

Critics call this wrong as this move will effectively divide the West Bank, severing East Jerusalem from Palestinian territories and rendering the prospect of a contiguous Palestinian state geographically impossible.

Human rights organisations and international observers have denied the plan, warning that it will lead to the movement of Palestinian communities and violate international law.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres considered the settlement expansion an "existential threat" to the two-state solution.

The E1 settlement development plan, spanning approximately 12 square kilometres, has long been considered a strategic zone by Israeli authorities. The development is viewed as a move towards Netanyahu's goal of "Greater Israel," strengthening Israeli control over land that is occupied by Palestinians.

The Jerusalem Governorate has criticised the plan, saying it is a way to change the population balance in East Jerusalem.

At the same time, reports indicate that attacks by settlers on Palestinian properties have gone up in recent months, causing more tension in the area.

Earlier, Qatar officially announced it will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha, in response to a recent Israeli airstrike on Doha targeting Hamas officials in the Qatari capital.

The Arab-Islamic summit will commence on September 14 and 15, 2025, and aims to form a collaborative regional viewpoint on the incident and its wider consequences.

According to the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an introductory meeting of foreign ministers will take place on September 13, before the main summit.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

SAFCO Clinches Global Crown in Islamic Microfinance Excellence

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: SAFCO Microfinance Company (Private) Limited has been honored as the "Best Emerging Islamic Finance NBFC 2025" at the prestigious 15th Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The award was presented to Dr. Muhammad Suleman G Abro, Founder and CEO of SAFCO, by Malaysian Prime Minister H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and former Maldivian President Dr. Muhammad Waheed Hussain. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Abro highlighted SAFCO's commitment to providing inclusive, ethical, and Shariah-compliant financial services to underserved communities in Pakistan. As the country's first NBFC to introduce an Islamic Finance Facility, SAFCO's recognition underscores its leadership in innovative, values-driven financial solutions. The company dedicated the award to its employees, lenders, and stakeholders, reaffirming its mission to foster financial inclusion and social impact across the nation.

World Bank Team Inspects Kotri Barrage and Akram Canal, Puts SWAT Project Under Global Spotlight

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A high-level World Bank delegation led by Regional Director Meskerem Burhan visited Kotri Barrage, the Hydraulic Laboratory of the Irrigation Department, and Akram Canal to review developments under the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation Project (SWAT). At the laboratory, the delegation examined new irrigation models introduced by SIDA as part of SWAT. SIDA Managing Director Pritam Das and SWAT Project Director Jamal Mangan provided a detailed briefing on the project's progress. The delegation also included Task Team Leader Franchesco Onimus and Water Lead Specialist Bekele Debele. Officials from SIDA, the Irrigation Department, and SWAT's Agricultural Component Director Liaquat Bhutto were also present during the visit.

Thatta Vets Cry Out for Protection and Risk Allowance Amid Rising Dangers

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Growing insecurity and repeated robberies have sparked outrage among veterinary doctors and staff of the Livestock Department in Thatta. In a protest led by the Makhdoom Veterinary Association and Paravet Thatta, dozens of doctors and employees marched from the Deputy Director's office in Makli to the National Press Club, demanding safety and a risk allowance. The protest follows a recent armed robbery near Peer Patho, where two veterinary doctors, Dr. Neel Kant and Dr. Shoaib Lundh, were allegedly looted at gunpoint while returning from a flood relief veterinary camp. Protest leaders claimed this was the third such incident, accusing police of inaction and calling on higher authorities to intervene, recover the stolen items, and ensure staff safety warning that the protests could spread province-wide if their demands are ignored.

Hyderabad Mayor Pushes Aggressive Vaccination and Cleanliness Drive Across City

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro held meetings at the Mayor Secretariat, Civic Center, with District Health Officer Pir Ghulam Hussain and senior representative of Pak Alts Company, Mr. Zia, from Karachi. PPP leader Faisal Abdul Jabbar Khan and other officials also attended. The DHO briefed the Mayor on the upcoming Global Disease Burden vaccination campaign, set for September 15-27, 2025, targeting girls aged 9 to 14. Mayor Shoro appreciated the initiative and assured full cooperation to ensure its success. In a separate meeting, he discussed Pak Alts Company's performance in Hyderabad and explored strategies to further improve the city's cleanliness system.

Badin Couple Runs for Life, Appeals for Protection in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A couple from Badin, Asghar Ali Khaskheli and Amna Lashari, who recently solemnized a court marriage in Tando Allahyar, has appealed for protection, citing threats to their lives. Speaking to journalists, the couple shared that they married with mutual consent but now face serious threats from their families. "We are receiving life-threatening warnings and living in constant fear," they said. They have requested SSPs of both Badin and Tando Allahyar to ensure their safety and uphold their right to live freely and peacefully.

Horror in Cold Blood as Man Guns Down Wife and Youth

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: In the jurisdiction of Jamal Shah Police near village Sobaro Zardari, suspect Dalsher Magsi allegedly shot and brutally murdered his wife Waziran Magsi and youth Ghulam Muhammad Magsi. The police reached the crime scene, took custody of the bodies, and have begun investigations. It was revealed that Dalsher Magsi, who cultivates land owned by the Zardaris and Rind tribes in Sobaro Zardari village, had hosted his relative Ghulam Muhammad Magsi as a guest for a few days. Dalsher Magsi reportedly opened fire killing both including wife and guest before fleeing the area. Police investigations are ongoing, and the victims have been transferred to the hospital.

Court Demands Police Account for Threats by Fake Officer in Hyderabad

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A resident of Chhoti Ghitti, Syed Waqar Ahmed, has approached the Sessions Judge's court in Hyderabad alleging that a man named Ahmed Ali, posing as a senior police officer, has been threatening him to withdraw from a custody case involving his children. Waqar claimed that Ahmed Ali, a relative of his wife, intimidates him often accompanied by actual police personnel despite multiple complaints to authorities, no action has been taken against the impersonator. Responding to the petition, the court has summoned reports from the SP Complaint Cell and the SHO City, ordering their submission by September 13 to address the matter.

Jhudo Shockwaves: Minor Girl Assaulted, DNA Tests Ordered, Senator Stands by Family

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: In a tragic case of sexual assault, Jhudo police have taken key steps in the investigation of the rape of an 11-year-old girl, a third-grade student from Ward No-7. The accused, Pir Bachayo alias Allah Bachayo, was arrested and presented before the Model Court in Khipro, where he was remanded to police custody for three days. Following the court's order, both the accused and the victim were taken to Civil Hospital Sanghar for DNA testing, and the samples have been sent to the forensic lab in Jamshoro for analysis. Meanwhile, showing solidarity, Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, sister of MNA Shazia Atta Marri visited the victim's family along with her team and offered full legal and emotional support. She assured the family that justice would be pursued vigorously and that the accused would receive the harshest punishment. The visit was accompanied by PPP leaders, including Rana Rashid Rajput, Engineer Khan Muhammad Khaskheli, and Owais Khaskheli. Senator Marri also instructed local authorities to provide all necessary support to the affected family, emphasizing that such heinous crimes must be met with strict accountability to cleanse society of such evils.

Qazi Ahmed Turns to Sports to Inspire Youth and Promote Healthy Futures

By Sajid Ali Unar

QAZI AHMED: A well-known cricket organizer and player, and Chairman of the Qazi Ahmed Cricket Board, visited the local press club and spoke with journalists about his efforts to promote cricket and other sports among the youth. He emphasized the importance of encouraging young people, especially those distanced from sports, to engage in physical activities like cricket to avoid social evils and lead a healthy life. Ali Hyder Chandio, president of the Qazi Ahmed Press Club, was also present during the visit.

Vital Link Road in Thano Bula Khan Restored After Rain Havoc

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: On the instructions of PPP MPA Malik Sikandar Khan and with the support of Town Committee Chairman Haresh Kumar Dhanani, repair work was carried out on the Thana Bula Khan to village Bhanano link road, where culverts had collapsed due to recent heavy rains. The road, which had left villagers cut off from surrounding areas, was restored by filling the damaged culverts with soil. Locals expressed their gratitude to MPA Malik Sikandar Khan for the prompt action. On the occasion, Press Club President Sohail Yousuf Memon, PPP leaders Mashooq Ali Hamalani, Haji Bilawal Palari, Ghazi Palari, Bhutto Palari, and Shahid SK Palari were also present.

Jamshoro Town Committee Races to Drain Floodwaters After Torrential Rains

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Jamshoro Town Committee, led by Chairman Bilal Qadir Shoro and Town Officer Arsalan Dastgir, is working tirelessly to clear floodwaters caused by heavy monsoon rains that accumulated on Sehwan Road and nearby areas. Deploying de-watering machines and operating in shifts around the clock, the team has managed to drain approximately 80% of the water, providing much-needed relief to residents. Despite challenges posed by ongoing rainfall and limited resources, the committee remains committed to serving the public by not only addressing flood relief but also maintaining civic duties such as cleanliness, road repairs, and streetlight restoration. Chairman Shoro assured the people of Jamshoro of his unwavering dedication to their well-being until all floodwaters are cleared.

Tragedy on Water: Five Drown as Boat Capsizes Near Kamaldero, Search Crews Battle Grief and Currents

By Osama Ayaz & Qasim Imran

KANDIARO/KAMALDERO: A tragic incident occurred near Kamaldero on the Indus River where a boat overloaded with goods suddenly capsized due to strong currents. As a result, five people on board drowned in the fast-flowing river. Eyewitnesses said the boat was carrying more cargo than usual, which made it unable to withstand the force of the waves. Local residents report that the boat owner and businessmen often overload boats, increasing the risk of such accidents. Upon receiving the news, villagers and local fishermen rushed to the river with boats to search for the missing persons. Rescue teams and police have also been informed but have yet to locate anyone. The incident has cast a wave of sorrow over the area, with families mourning the loss of their loved ones. Locals expressed frustration over the lack of regulation and safety measures for boats, stating that their repeated complaints have gone unheard. The river remains a vital source of livelihood, but yearly tragedies continue to devastate families in the region.

Digri Citizens Rise in Protest Against Encroachments Outside Girls' School

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Citizens of Digri staged a protest at Muhammadi Chowk on the call of the Shehri Ittehad Committee against illegal encroachments near Government Girls Higher Secondary School. Addressing the protest, committee chairman Qari Abdul Latif Baloch, Hafiz Umair Masood, and Prem Rathore Kolhi stated that vendors and shopkeepers have illegally occupied the main street leading to the school, creating severe obstacles for female students, school staff, and local pedestrians. The narrow passage is now filled with stalls and goods, with vendors reportedly collecting rent from stallholders. Protesters also raised concerns about the presence of unruly youth harassing girls during school dismissal hours. They demanded that the Taluka administration and police immediately launch an anti-encroachment operation and deploy police personnel during school timings to ensure safety and uninterrupted education for the girls.

Cervical Cancer Vaccination Drive Kicks Off in Hyderabad

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: District Health Officer Hyderabad Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain organized an awareness seminar at Civil Hospital Hyderabad as part of the ongoing cervical cancer vaccination campaign. The event was graced by Divisional Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi as chief guest, with Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon and MS of Liaquat University Hospital Dr. Ali Akbar Dahri attending as guests of honor. The seminar saw participation from doctors, nurses, professors, paramedical staff, and civil society members. Commissioner Abbasi stated that, like other districts, Hyderabad has also launched a vaccination campaign for girls aged 9 to 14, which will run uninterrupted from September 15 to 27. He emphasized the Sindh government's commitment to protecting young girls from cervical cancer and urged everyone to contribute to the campaign's success.

Shadi Palli Residents Demand Relentless Anti-Encroachment Campaign

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Encroachments in Shadi Palli town have spiraled out of control as vendors and shopkeepers occupy both sides of the main road with makeshift stalls and shelters, blocking traffic entirely. Reports indicate that shop owners charge Rs 2,000-3,000 in rent from pushcart vendors, further fueling the problem. The Railway Chowk area, a key location for morning and evening commuters, especially women, is now overrun by rickshaws, carts, and kiosks leading to severe inconvenience and violations of women's privacy. Despite prior orders from Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pithoro, Sanjay Kumar, to clear the area and install official signage, no action has been effectively taken. Locals criticize the AC for failing to manage both inflation and encroachments in his jurisdictions Taluka Pithoro and Taluka Samaro causing growing frustration among citizens.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

60th Martyrdom Anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) Marked with Solemn Reverence

RAWALPINDI: The 60th martyrdom anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, is being observed today with great respect and national devotion.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the country's military leadership, including the Chief of Army Staff, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Naval Chief, and Air Chief, paid glowing tributes to the national hero for his courage and sacrifice during the 1965 war.

ISPR said Major Bhatti led his troops with exemplary bravery, defending the Burki Sector near Lahore for five consecutive days and nights against relentless enemy assaults.—RT/Agency

CM Maryam Reaches Liaquatpur, Personally Meets Flood Victims

Liaquatpur: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz reached Liaqatpur on Thursday to meet people hit hard by the recent floods.

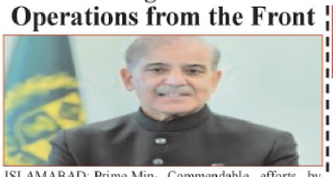
She landed by helicopter at Gul Muhammad Langah, where she visited a flood relief camp and spoke with victims about their hardships. Local MPAs and district officials rolled out the red carpet to welcome her at the helipad.

CM Maryam visits flood-hit areas, assures victims of full support

During her trip, the chief minister is also expected to head to other flood-affected areas of Rahim Yar Khan to take stock of the situation on the ground.

Officials from the local administration and rescue teams will brief her on ongoing relief efforts and the steps being taken to get things back on track.—RT/Agency

PM Applauds Punjab CM for Leading Flood Relief Operations from the Front



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her leadership in the ongoing flood relief operations across the affected areas.

"Leading from the front! Commendable efforts by Chief Minister Punjab in flood relief operations, joined by the tireless dedication of leadership in KP, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan & AJK," the prime minister wrote on his official X handle.—RT/Agency

Rising Author Captivates Literary Circles with Soulful Tribute to Rumi & Tagore

ISLAMABAD: At a grand ceremony in Islamabad's Pakistan Academy of Letters, Shah Jamal Hashmi's book "Rumi and Tagore's Blessings" was launched, earning praise from literary icons. Iftikhar Arif called it a magnetic work with deep spiritual insight. Najiba Arif hailed it as "an absorbing book," while Dr. Farooq Sattar called it a valuable addition to Urdu literature. Scholars applauded Shah Jamal's rare fusion of Rumi, Tagore, and Gibran, marveling at his depth and style. The book was praised as a literary masterpiece for today's youth and generations to come.

Lahore Lawyer Files RTI Request for Transparency at Rawalpindi Women University

By Salman Ali

ISLAMABAD: A Lahore-based lawyer, Advocate Liaquat Ali, has formally filed a Right to Information (RTI) request under the RTI Act 2017, directed to the Vice Chancellor of Rawalpindi Women University (RWU), seeking detailed information regarding academic policies and student affairs. The application specifically inquires about the performance of M.Phil Sociology students in the 2025 first semester exams, including pass, fail, and dropout statistics, along with reasons and rules governing student withdrawals. The lawyer also requested clarification on conditional promotions and academic probation policies, demanding access to official documents supporting such decisions. Notably, the RTI request questions whether RWU has approved policies on sexual harassment and grievance redressal mechanisms for students, requesting copies if they exist. Advocate Ali emphasized the students' right to information and the need for transparency in academic institutions. The case reflects rising concerns over accountability in Pakistan's higher education sector, as more individuals and civil society actors invoke the RTI law to hold institutions accountable.

METRO KARACHI

SMIU VC Inspires Students toValue Education and Aim Beyond Graduation

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai, has said that students at SMIU are highly privileged to be part of an institution with a 141-year legacy of excellence and located in the heart of Karachi. Addressing the orientation session for newly admitted Fall semester students, he urged them to respect their teachers and value their time, as these are key to achieving success.

Dr. Sahrai highlighted that Pakistan's university culture has strengthened significantly over the past two decades, with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) playing a vital role in ensuring academic quality. He advised students to think beyond graduation, pursue advanced degrees, and contribute to national development.

The session was also addressed by senior faculty members, who introduced students to SMIU's departments and facilities.

Gulzar-e-Hijri Residents Demand Urgent Fix to Waterlogging Woes

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Residents of Gulzar-e-Hijri and surrounding areas in Safora Town are facing severe hardships due to chronic drainage failures and accumulated floodwater, particularly after recent overflows from Thado Dam. Jamaat-e-Islami UC-2 Chairman Jamshed Ali Malik has publicly criticized Mayor Karachi and Safora Town officials for long-standing negligence. Malik accused Town Chairman Rashid Khaskheli of ignoring affected neighborhoods and focusing only on areas like Sachal Goth for political gain. Speaking from stagnant water at Khatm-e-Nabuwwat Chowk, he urged immediate emergency drainage measures, warning that continued inaction is devastating local businesses and daily life.

Karachi Pays Final Respects in Funeral Prayers for Martyred Head Constable Abdul Karim

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The funeral prayers of Police Head Constable Abdul Karim, who embraced martyrdom recently, were held in Surjani Town, within the jurisdiction of Shah Latif Town Police Station. The ceremony was attended by Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho, DIG East Dr. Farrukh Ali, SSP Malir Dr. Abdul Khaliq, SSP Korangi, other senior police officials, a large number of personnel, family members, and local citizens. A police contingent paid tribute with a formal salute, and floral wreaths were laid in honor of the fallen officer. Special prayers were offered for the martyr's soul and strength for the grieving family. Police officials reaffirmed their commitment to justice, stating that the sacrifices of Sindh Police martyrs are a source of national pride and will never be forgotten.

PPP Women Leaders Rally to Strengthen Party Unity in Karachi

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Senior members of the PPP Women's Wing, including Zeeba Baloch, Fatima Majeed, Aliya Malik, Samina Zardari, Malika Naz Baloch, and Rani, have played a vital role in strengthening the party's structure and mobilizing women across Karachi. Their efforts, under the leadership of Sindh Minister for Women's Development Shaheena Sher Ali and with support from Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and MPA Faryal Talpur, have significantly enhanced the party's unity and organizational strength at the grassroots level.

SSP Traffic Malir Praises Brave Officers for Service During Karachi Rains

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: SSP Traffic Malir Syed Iftikhar Ali Shah praised traffic police officers for their exceptional performance during the recent rain emergency. Acting on directives from CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah and DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah, officers assisted stranded citizens and ensured smooth traffic flow despite heavy rainfall. While visiting affected areas and later addressing journalists at Malir Press Club, SSP Iftikhar highlighted the team's dedication and urged citizens to follow traffic laws, avoid tinted windows, illegal number plates, and wrong-way driving for public safety.

Sindh Govt and World Bank Set Sights on Karachi Transport Master Plan

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced that his government, in partnership with the World Bank, will prepare a comprehensive Karachi Transport Master Plan to tackle the city's chronic mobility crisis. The plan will integrate Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, metro light rail, and the revival of the Karachi Circular Railway.

The announcement was made at a meeting in CM House with a World Bank delegation led by Ibrahim Khalil Zaki. CM Shah described the World Bank as a "vital development partner" and stressed the need for at least 15,000 buses to meet Karachi's daily demand. He also highlighted Sindh's climate-friendly initiative of introducing electric buses.

Mr. Zaki assured full technical and financial support, while both sides agreed to establish a joint working group to finalise terms for experts preparing the plan. CM Shah called the partnership "big news for Karachi."

IHC CJ Backs Off After Heated Court Clash with Imaan Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar clarified his fiery remarks toward advocate Imaan Mazari, saying she is "like a daughter" to him. The statement followed a tense exchange during a hearing on activist Mahrang Baloch's ECL removal plea. Dogar had asked Mazari why contempt proceedings shouldn't be launched over her alleged comment calling him a "dictator." Mazari denied making such a statement. The clarification came swiftly amid rising public and media attention.—RT

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

MPA Hadiya Behrani's Generous Donation Puts Years-Old Ambulance Back on Road

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: In a commendable move, MPA and Parliamentary Secretary Hadiya Rabnawaz Behrani has donated Rs 700,000 to repair a long-defunct ambulance at the District Headquarters Hospital, Dera Allahyar. The repair was initiated following a public appeal by the Citizens' Alliance of Dera Allahyar. The ambulance, which had been out of service for years, required Rs 1.3 million for full repairs including engine, tires, suspension, air conditioning, and complete bodywork. Despite reaching out to several influential and wealthy individuals, no significant contributions were made until Hadiya Behrani stepped forward. Her timely donation has enabled the repair work to enter its final stages. Citizens and social activists have praised her generous gesture, while Citizens' Alliance President Haji Muhammad Tahir Umrani confirmed that the ambulance will soon be operational to serve patients in need.

PMDC Postpones MDCAT to October 26 Amid Flood Crisis

ISLAMABAD: On the directives of Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has revised the schedule of the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) in light of the recent flood crisis across the country.

According to PMDC, the decision was taken after consultations with representatives of universities from all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Originally scheduled for October 5, 2025, the MDCAT will now be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Massive Livestock Relief Operation in Full Swing Across Narowal's Flood Zones

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, flood relief operations continue at full pace in Narowal under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. According to Additional Director Livestock Dr. Muhammad Saeed, field teams are actively providing veterinary support in affected areas. In Tehsil Shakargarh alone, 1,864 animals have been treated and over 22,250 vaccinated. Relief supplies, including 3,000 kg of green fodder, 825 bags of Wanda, and 420 silage bags, have been distributed to farmers. Deputy Director Dr. Asim Iqbal stated that livestock teams are continuously working in the field and visiting affected zones to ensure timely assistance, as per the chief minister's special directives.

DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar Holds Open Katchery to Hear Public Grievances in Gojra Circle

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the directives of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and special instructions from RPO Zeeshan Asghar, DPO Toba Tek Singh Ibadat Nisar conducted open katcheries across various locations in Gojra Circle, including UC Nawan Lahore, Canal Rest House Dhamma Bangla, and TMA Hall. A large number of citizens attended these sessions to voice their concerns. The DPO attentively heard public complaints and issued immediate directives for their resolution, reaffirming the commitment to strengthen police-community relations and ensure justice is delivered directly to the people.

133rd Monthly Quran & Hadith Conference Draws Devotees in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The 133rd monthly Quran and Hadith Conference was organized by Anjuman Dar-ul-Uloom Mehriya Rizvia (Registered) at Jamia Masjid Gulzar-e-Madina near the Railway Station. Presided over by Master Abdul Rauf Gujar Naqshbandi, the session featured a special address by Sahibzada Muhammad Noman Asi Chaurahi, who emphasized the spiritual significance of the month of Rabi-ul-Awal as the time when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy to all creation. The event included Quran recitation by Qari Muhammad Bilal Sialvi and Naats by various renowned reciters including Zain Zada, Hafiz Umar Farooq Golravi Chishti, Sultan Mahmood Qadri, and others.

Canadian Trainers Equip FIA Immigration Staff at Sialkot Airport

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: A two-day training session was held at Sialkot International Airport for FIA Immigration staff, led by Canadian Liaison Officers. The training focused on key areas such as forged document detection, impostor identification, passenger profiling, and risk assessment techniques. Fifty immigration officials participated, gaining practical knowledge in modern document security, biometric verification, and identifying high-risk passengers. The initiative is part of FIA's broader strategy to strengthen border control and combat irregular migration and document fraud.

Toba Tek Singh Launches Crackdown on Profiteering — 53,000+ Inspections Conducted

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Following the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration of Toba Tek Singh has launched a vigorous campaign against profiteering. In an emergency meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Zeeshan Labha Masih, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu was briefed on enforcement activities. Assistant Director Zahid Sharif reported that over 53,444 inspections were conducted in one week, resulting in Rs. 99,000 in fines. The ADC (G) stated that no leniency would be shown to violators and that legal action will be taken to control unjustified price hikes, ensuring essential items remain available at government rates.

Health Drive for Women: Narowal Launches Cervical Cancer Prevention Campaign

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: As part of a province-wide initiative, the Cervical Cancer Prevention Campaign has been officially launched in Narowal. Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza inaugurated the campaign during an awareness seminar at Government Girls MB High School. The event was attended by key health and education officials, including CEO Health Dr. Muhammad Adnan, DHO Dr. Tariq, and CEO Education Arif Shehzad. Health experts discussed the dangers of cervical cancer and urged timely vaccination. Informational material was distributed to raise awareness. The DC called the campaign a crucial step toward protecting women and girls through education and prevention.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Two-State Solution or World War: The UN Has Spoken, Will Trump Listen?

The United Nations General Assembly has spoken with rare clarity: 142 nations voted to endorse a declaration demanding "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" towards a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. This is no ordinary vote. It is the world's most resounding reminder that peace in the Middle East cannot come through military might, occupation, or endless retaliation. It can only come through justice — and justice means two sovereign states, side by side.

Yet, Israel and its Western backers, especially the United States, have once again chosen to dismiss global consensus. By calling the resolution a "publicity stunt," Washington has dangerously aligned itself against the tide of history. When 142 nations, including all Gulf states and European powers like France, demand change, it cannot be brushed off as theatrics. It is the will of humanity.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

The grim numbers speak for themselves: more than 64,000 civilians dead in Gaza since October 7, 2023, and millions displaced. No rhetoric about "security" can mask the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before the world's eyes. Unless addressed through a political settlement, this spiral of violence risks igniting a wider regional conflict — one that could easily engulf superpowers and drag the world towards a catastrophic third world war.

US President Donald Trump has long claimed that he seeks peace in the Middle East. Now is his moment of truth. The UN vote offers him a historic opportunity to pressure Israel to abandon its path of endless bloodshed and embrace a two-state solution. Will Trump rise to the challenge and use his influence to steer Israel towards peace, or will he remain complicit in prolonging a war that could consume the world?

History will not forgive indifference. The two-state solution is no longer an option — it is the only lifeline left.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

THE HEARTLAND

HPV Awareness Spreads in Badin Through Pre-Campaign Seminar

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In connection with the HPV vaccination campaign scheduled from September 15 to 27, the Health Department of Badin organized an awareness seminar at Darbar Hall. The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti, Parliamentary Secretary for Women Development MPA Bibi Yasmeen Shah, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister MPA Tanzila Ume Habiba Qambrani, District Health Officer Dr. Anjum Ali Soomro, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Kashif Raza Mangi, and other officials. Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti stated that the purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness about the HPV vaccination campaign, which aims to protect girls aged 9 to 14 from cervical cancer through free vaccinations. DHO Dr. Anjum Soomro briefed that the target for Badin district is 146,000 girls, and this vaccine already used in 130 countries is being provided free in Pakistan for the first time. He emphasized that cervical cancer is a silent but deadly disease affecting women and the most effective prevention method is vaccination, which is approved by global health organizations. MPA Bibi Yasmeen Shah assured the public of the vaccine's safety and stressed the need for awareness in both urban and rural areas. MPA Tanzila Qambrani announced she would begin the campaign by vaccinating her own daughter to build public trust and remove doubts. She also pointed out the lack of discourse around women's health issues and committed to the PPP's active participation in the campaign. Other attendees included social welfare officers, doctors, program coordinators, and project managers from various health departments and NGOs.

LUMHS Unveils Cutting-Edge Facilities and Calls for DHQ Hospitals to Revolutionize Rural Healthcare

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) has taken a major leap forward in its mission to enhance medical education and healthcare infrastructure with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art hybrid library, a new girls' hostel, and a modern cafeteria. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan led the landmark ceremony, describing the hybrid library as a "hub of knowledge, innovation, and research excellence." Equipped with vast digital collections, automated systems, collaborative workspaces, and modern infrastructure, the facility is designed to meet international standards. The new hostel and cafeteria are expected to improve student life and attract a diverse student body from across the country. In addition to these academic advancements, Dr. Ujjan unveiled a visionary proposal to establish fully equipped District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospitals in Dadu and Thatta. This initiative aims to bring advanced healthcare services including diagnostics, critical care, and surgical facilities closer to underserved rural communities.

Thatta Court Hands Life Sentences to Three in Gruesome Landowner Murder Case

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: A model court in Thatta has sentenced three men to life imprisonment for the murder of landowner Dada Qasim Memon in Dhandhari, near Gharo. The convicted individuals Ali Hassan Khoso, Ali Nawaz Khoso, and Inayat Khoso were found guilty of shooting the victim over a dispute involving a debt of Rs 12,000. First Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Islamul Haq Arain announced the verdict, also imposing a fine of Rs 300,000 on each convict. Additionally, Ali Hassan Khoso received a further 14-year sentence for illegal possession of a weapon. The case was registered by the victim's brother, Muhammad Khan Memon, and prosecuted by senior lawyer Advocate Aijaz Jumani.

Villagers Cry for Justice, Demand Fair Inquiry into Allegations

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Residents of Allah Rakhio Khaskheli village near Chambar have appealed for a fair investigation into concerns raised about their involvement in illegal activities. During a press conference at the Tando Allahyar Press Club, villagers Intizar Khaskheli and Mukhtiar Khaskheli shared that they are earning an honest livelihood. They expressed concern over recent reports that may have affected their reputation and requested the support of senior officials, including SSP Syed Saleem Shah, to ensure a transparent and just review of the matter. The villagers emphasized their willingness to cooperate fully with any official inquiry.

SUP Sparks Protest in Thul Over FIR Against Bashir Sarki

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Activists from various political and nationalist parties, including SUP, JI, JSQM, and others, staged a protest and sit-in outside the Thul Press Club against what they claim is a false robbery case filed against nationalist leader Comrade Bashir Sarqi at A-Section Police Station. The protest march began from Jungle Mor and led to road blockades, disrupting traffic for a time. Protesters raised slogans against the police and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the FIR. Leaders including Jamal Josh Buriro, Waseem Qureshi, and Abdul Wahid Sarki condemned the police action and vowed to continue protests until the case is dismissed.

Sita Road Violence: Youth Injured in Janwri Mohalla Clash

By Zain-ul-Abidin

SITA ROAD: A minor dispute between the Khoso and Bhatti communities in Janwri Mohalla, Sita Road, escalated into a clash after an altercation on a rooftop. During the incident, a young man from the Khosa community, Azhar son of Allah Dito Khoso, was seriously injured. Azhar was immediately taken to the Sitaroed Rural Health Center by his family, where he received first aid before being referred to Dadu for further treatment. According to sources, police have taken two members of the Bhatti community into custody in connection with the incident.

Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi Leads Urgent Operation to Drain Badin Floodwaters

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: The Chairman of Badin Municipal Committee, Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, has initiated emergency steps to drain rainwater from various parts of the city. An operation is underway using around 40 machines across different wards to remove stagnant water after recent rains. Chairman Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, along with the municipal team, inspected wards 8, Phul Khan, Chandia Nagar, and the village of Haji Hashim Khaskheli to review the drainage efforts. Modern machines are being deployed for quick water removal. Nearly 35 to 40 machines have been installed in 14 wards to speed up the drainage process. Volunteers from Nishaat Scout and Luari Sharif Group, who have received training in various cities of Pakistan, are also playing a vital role in this operation by assisting on the ground. Speaking to the media, the Chairman said their priority is to ensure quick relief for citizens by draining the rainwater promptly, and they are fully prepared to achieve this goal. Residents have expressed satisfaction with the municipal team's efforts and hope the drainage work will be completed soon.

Tando Allahyar Municipal Committee Sets Agenda on Development Projects

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the chairmanship of Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi, the Municipal Committee convened a council meeting to discuss the development projects planned for the new financial year. During the session, councilors provided briefings on cleanliness efforts and ongoing development work in their respective areas. Chairman Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi praised the municipal staff for their effective performance during the recent monsoon rains and emphasized the committee's commitment to serving the public by ensuring timely drainage of rainwater and providing better facilities. He stated that development work is underway in all 23 wards, with most projects nearing completion and the remaining to be finished soon. The chairman expressed confidence that, with the public's support and cooperation, Tando Allahyar will soon be recognized as a model city. The meeting was attended by Chief Municipal Officer Abid Wali Khoso, Syed Aijaz Shah, Muhammad Faisal Mirjat, Zawar Parvez Samo, Haji Saleem Khanzada, and numerous councilors.

Umerkot Mobilizes Cervical Cancer Vaccination Campaign to Shield Girls' Future

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Umerkot Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik inaugurated a cervical cancer vaccination campaign aimed at girls aged 9 to 14, running from September 15 to 27, 2025. In a meeting attended by key officials, including the District Health Officer Dr. Muhammad Ali and SSP Dr. Uzair Ahmed Memon, plans were finalized to ensure effective coordination among health, education, and social welfare departments. The campaign was officially launched at Girls High School Umerkot, where the first doses were administered under the supervision of health authorities. Deputy Commissioner Naveed urged parents to send their daughters for timely vaccination to protect them from cervical cancer, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and cooperation for a healthier future.

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

SPORTS

Chelsea Rocked as Liam Delap Ruled Out Until December

LONDON: Chelsea suffered a big blow as forward Liam Delap's hamstring injury has worsened and could keep him out until December.

Delap, who moved to Chelsea from Ipswich Town in a deal worth 30 million pounds ($41 million) in June, sustained an injury against Fulham before the international break.

Initially, he was believed to miss six to eight weeks; however, the situation has deteriorated now.

Enzo Maresca, the manager of Chelsea on Friday, ahead of his side's Premier League clash away at London rivals Brentford, said that it would take around 10 to 12 weeks for Delap to be back.

"It's around 10 to 12 weeks," Maresca told reporters.

Meanwhile, Maresca also provided some good news about Chelsea's cornerstone Cole Palmer, who was ruled out of the England squad because of a groin injury, saying he is back in training and likely to feature in the Brentford clash.

"Cole took part in the session yesterday for the first time, not the entire session," the Italian coach said.

"We have one more session this afternoon and we are going to try with him to see if he's okay, otherwise he will be out tomorrow.

"When he is available, we need to manage him because of the amount of games."

Alejandro Gamacho, who joined Chelsea from Manchester United, has also yet to appear for the Blues as he has not played football this season.—Agency

Salman Butt Picks Two Pakistan Giants in His All-Time ODI XI

Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt has unveiled his all-time ODI XI, featuring two Pakistani legends alongside some of the greatest cricketers from around the world.

During a recent interview on a local sports platform, Butt included spin legend Abdul Qadir and pace maestro Wasim Akram in his lineup, which also boasts iconic names from Sri Lanka, West Indies, India, South Africa, and England.

All-rounder Ben Stokes was named captain, while former Proteas batter AB de Villiers was chosen as the wicketkeeper.

Discussing his selection process, Butt emphasised the thought behind picking players who could transcend eras.

"These are not players who were just fitting into their era; any one of them could also play modern-day cricket. From an ODI perspective, I think an attempt has been made to look at them across generations," he said.

He further elaborated on the rigorous criteria used to evaluate players for today's game, highlighting fitness, versatility, and strategic impact.—Agency

Punjab Kings Face Backlash Over Pakistan Snub in India Match Banner

The Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Punjab Kings has come under fire after releasing a promotional banner for the highly anticipated Pakistan-India clash at the 2025 Asia Cup.

The fixture, scheduled for Sunday at the iconic Dubai International Cricket Stadium, featured India's logo but conspicuously left out Pakistan's, while the accompanying hashtag mentioned only India.

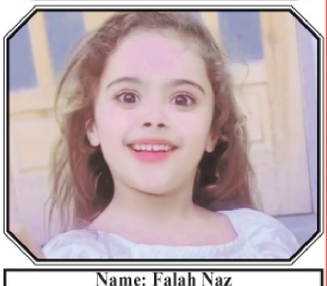
This exclusion sparked widespread criticism from fans and cricket followers, who accused the franchise of being politically motivated and disrespectful towards Pakistan.

Some fans claimed there was "fear in even mentioning Pakistan" before the game, while others argued, "Why accept defeat before the match? It's not like the game is against an invisible team, so why the fear?"

While a few fans claim that India's match is against John Cena, who uses the catchphrase 'You Can't See Me.' A few went further, remarking that such moves only humiliate those behind them.

This is not the first time controversy has marred an India-Pakistan clash. Recently, during the second edition of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), India Champions refused to play Pakistan not only in the league-stage fixture but also in the semifinal, citing heightened tensions between the two nations.—Agency

Kids' Corner



Name: Falah Naz
About Me: I love my parents and my amazing Pakistan!
Location: Karachi

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

Pakistan make triumphant Asia Cup 2025 start with thumping win over Oman

DUBAI: Mohammad Haris's maiden half-century, followed by a collective bowling effort, led Pakistan to a resounding 93-run victory over Oman in the fourth match of the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Chasing a 161-run target, Oman's batting unit could yield 67 runs before getting bowled out in 16.4 overs and thus suffered a gruelling defeat in their maiden Asia Cup appearance.

Middle-order batter Hammad Mirza waged a lone battle for Oman, scoring 27 off 23 deliveries with the help of three fours and a six.

Besides him, only opening batter Aamir Kaleem (13) and number nine batter Shakeel Ahmed (10) could amass double figures against a ruthless Pakistan bowling attack.

For Pakistan, Saim Ayub, Sufiuyan Muqeem and Faheem Ashraf picked up two wickets each, while Shaheen Shah Afridi, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammad Nawaz chipped in with one scalp apiece.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan registered 160/7 in their allotted 20 overs despite the middle-order collapse.

The Green Shirts got off to a dismal start as their opener, Saim Ayub, fell for a golden duck on the second delivery of the innings with just four runs on the board.

Following the early setback, Haris joined opening batter Sahibzada Farhan in the middle, and the duo batted sensibly to launch a significant recovery by putting together 85 runs for the second wicket.The anchoring stand eventually culminated on the final delivery of the 11th over when Aamir Kaleem got Farhan caught and bowled. The right-handed batter walked back after scoring a run-a-ball 29, featuring one four.Kaleem made twin strikes in his next over, dismissing Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha (zero) and mainstay Haris, who remained their top scorer with 66 off 43 deliveries, studded with seven fours and three sixes.

Meanwhile, experienced Fakhar Zaman, who had come out to bat at number four, was then involved in a brief 18-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Hasan Nawaz, who could score nine off 15 deliveries before falling victim to Faisal.

With the scoreboard reading 120/5 in 16.4 overs, inform all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz joined Fakhar in the middle and played a blistering 19-run cameo off 10 balls, bolstering the total to 148/5 in 18.5 overs before Faisal drew curtains on his blitz.

Fakhar remained a notable contributor to Pakistan's total with an unbeaten 23 off 16 deliveries, featuring two fours.—Agency

Pakistani Women Rewrite History with Daring Bari La Peak Summit

KARACHI: A team of Pakistani women mountaineers made history this week by becoming the country's first all-women expedition to summit the 5,400-meter Bari La peak in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Alpine Club of Pakistan said.

The expedition, organised to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Alpine Club, included women from all four provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Islamabad.

The group reached the summit on September 10 after training and acclimatisation at the Sadpara Mountaineering Training School under the guidance of renowned climbers Sajid and Ashraf Sadpara.

The team was led by Bibi Afzoon and included Mona Khan, a journalist from Islamabad, along with Amina Shabbir of Islamabad, Maria Bangash from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zeba Batool from Gilgit-Baltistan, Bisma Hassan and Iqra Jillani from Punjab, Laraib Batool from Balochistan, Madeeha Syed from Sindh, and Shahreen Khan from Islamabad.

The four-day expedition began on September 7 in Skardu, with the climbers camping at Deosai Top for acclimatisation and receiving hiking drills before making their push to the summit.

"This climb is not just about reaching a peak, but about empowerment and showing that Pakistani women can rise to any challenge," Alpine Club Vice President Karrar Haidri said.—Agency

Novak Djokovic Lifts Curtain on Fitness Secret at 38

Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic has revealed the secret behind his incredible physique at 38, which has kept him still competitive among young players.

Djokovic, who has won a record 24 Grand Slams, is still competitive at the top level, having reached the semi-finals of all four majors this year, and giving tough times to the new undisputed kings of tennis, Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz.

During an interview, Djokovic revealed his daily routine, which keeps him competitive and way ahead of most young players at the age of 38.

"The very moment I wake up is always a prayer," Djokovic said.

"It's always an expression of gratitude first of all for being alive and having another chance to live that day.

"And then I would hydrate. I would take lukewarm water, lemon and salt. I would then take my hydration formula normally that I would want to hydrate myself with. Something more than just the water. Just to replenish the electrolytes, minerals - and get myself going.

"I like to have like fruits and smoothies, juice, or something to get some vitamin, multivitamin inside."

When he was asked about his favourite smoothie, the Serb added that mixed berries and dates are his favourite.

"Mixed berries, dates are my favourite. I love dates, dates all day! I would add some hemp seeds, different seeds and stuff like this. Superfoods, maca powder, spirulina - although not great tasting!" Djokovic added.

"I have a green powder blend where I have all these, like seaweeds, but they taste well because they're mixed with the other stuff, so I put a scoop of that in and I'm happy that it hides the horrible flavour."

Novak Djokovic then revealed his caffeine intake and hobbies other than tennis to keep himself active and fit.

"And no, no, I don't take coffee. I would maybe drink a green tea every once in a while that has caffeine," he said.

Then I would start to do, if I don't necessarily have a tennis practice and I don't have an obligation to train, I still want to be active, I still want to be outdoors for my wellness as well. I love to be swimming in the sea, biking, hiking, running, jogging.—Agency

Rookie Harry Ford Shines as Mariners Edge Angels in 12-Inning Thriller

SEATTLE: Pinch hitter Harry Ford delivers a winning run with a sacrifice fly in a pressure situation with no outs and the bases loaded in the 12th inning as the Seattle Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-6 in a thriller here at T-Mobile Park.

Mike Trout smashed his 399th career homer in the fifth, tying in 4-4 after falling 4-0 behind in the second, and Logan Davidson hit his first homer of the Major League Baseball (MLB) for the Angels (69-78).

The Mariners (79-68) have now pulled level with the Houston Astros atop the American League West with their sixth in a row.

The Los Angeles went ahead 6-5 in the top of the 12th when Matthew Lugo scored on a single.

Jorge Polanco of the Mariners led off the bottom half with a double down the left field line against reliever Sammy Peralta (0-1) to score Josh Naylor, who opened the inning as the runner at second.

Peralta then issued an intentional walk to Eugenio Suarez, and pinch-hitter Victor Robles followed it with a bunt single to load the bases.

Ford, a rookie playing his fourth game, lifted the next pitch to right, scoring Polanco and collecting his first career RBI.

Jose Castillo of the Mariners collected the victory.

Bryce Miller allowed four runs on six hits, striking out a career-high 11 in five and two-thirds innings for the Mariners.

Angels' starter Jose Soriano permitted four runs (three earned) on five hits, walked three and struck four in the four innings he pitched.—Agency

Manchester United Keeper Andrew Onana Seals Shock Loan Move to Trabzonspor

Manchester United goalkeeper Andrew Onana has completed a season-long loan move to Turkish side Trabzonspor, the Premier League side confirmed.

Onana moved to the Turkish Super League after an inconsistent two-year spell at Old Trafford, and a disappointing start to this season saw the Cameroon International replaced by Atlay Bayinder as United's number 1.

According to an ESPN report, there is no loan fee or an option to make the deal permanent, which means that Onana will return to Manchester next summer. The sources also confirm that United will not have to pay any of Onana's wages during his loan spell.

The 29-year-old has decided to leave following the arrival of Senne Lammens at the club from Antwerp on deadline day, despite initially wanting to stay and fight for his place at the club earlier in the summer.

Onana joined United in a deal worth an initial 43.8 million ($59.1m) from Inter Milan in 2023.

Manchester United issued a statement wishing luck to Onana on joining Trabzonspor on loan.

Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana has joined Trabzonspor on loan for the duration of the 2025/26 season, subject to international clearance and registration.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

ENTERTAINMENT

Shailene Woodley Finally Breaks Silence on Big Little Lies Comeback

Shailene Woodley finally reacts to Big Little Lies season 3 news.

On September 11, the actress took to Instagram Stories and confirmed the third season.

Shailene Woodley breaks silence on Big Little Lies comeback

Sharing a photo with costars Laura Dern and Zoe Kravitz, Shailene wrote, "WE ARE so back."

Adding, "big little lies 3, you ready???"

In the next slide, she confirmed, "cause … it's happening …." alongside another photo with her costars.

Shailene Woodley breaks silence on Big Little Lies comeback

It comes after Deadline confirmed that Francesca Sloane, co-creator of Mr. & Mrs. Smith at Prime Video, has been hired to pen the first episode of season 3.

The outlet revealed that she will also serve as an executive producer alongside series creator David E. Kelley and stars Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman.

Big Little Lies, based on Liane Moriarty's 2014 novel, first premiered in 2017 and quickly became one of HBO's most acclaimed dramas. Meanwhile the second season aired in 2019, with Meryl Streep joining the star-studded cast.

Selena Gomez's Costar David Henrie Spills on Double Date With Benny Blanco

Selena Gomez and fiance Benny Blanco had a "great time" with her Wizards Beyond Waverly Place costar David Henrie and his wife on a "double date."

In a recent chat with People on set of the series' upcoming second installment, the 36-year-old Disney star shared some insights into his double date with the Calm Down singer and her fiance Benny.

"We went on a double date not too long ago and with her and Benny, and that was fun," he told the outlet

He praised Benny's good taste in alcoholic drinks and food, admitting they enjoyed the time together.

"There was wine. There was good wine," David recalled. "Benny knows his wine, and he knows food, and we had a great time."

"It was great to get to know him," the How I Met Your Mother alum gushed over Benny.

As Selena and Benny are preparing for their wedding, David shared that the Only Murders in the Building star got some wedding advice from his wife Maria Cahill.

"They talked about our wedding experience, and then they've talked about just the process a bit," he noted.

As for attending Selena's big day, David shared he "definitely" wants to attend and he's "really hoping" he can make it despite his busy schedule.

Jessica Chastain Stuns Fans With Surprising Reason Behind Pursuing Master's Degree

Jessica Chastain has recently opened up about the reason for pursuing her Master's degree at Harvard University.

During an interview with E! News, the Hollywood actress candidly discussed what she is learning from her classes and how it's impacting her life.

Sharing her favourite subject, she told the outlet, "I love negotiation. The thing I love the most about negotiation, we had a class about resolving conflict, and right now, we're in a time where it feels like no one's talking to each other."

Reflecting on what she learned from the negotiation, Chastain said, "There's so much division. But if you start from a place of agreement, no matter who you are, there can be one thing that each party agrees on, right?"

"If we can start from there and give each other the benefit of the doubt that each side, each person, wants positivity for humanity. If you give each other the benefit of doubt and start with what you have in common, I think that's the only way we can get out of this mess we're in," the Interstellar actress explained.

Revealing for completing her master's degree, Jessica Chastain concluded, "I just like to be challenged and learn, and exercise my brain in a new way. And I was really surprised by the classes that I'm responding to."

For those unversed, she is studying for her Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Harvard University. While she is in the process of completing this graduation degree, she is not yet done.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Illegal Tree Cutting Along Tando Bago-Badin Road Alarms Environmentalists

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Hundreds of shade trees that were planted along the Tando Bago-Badin road during the tenure of former National Assembly Speaker Fahmida Mirza are reportedly being cut down and sold by some individuals from a specific community. Residents say that after recent rains, the pace of tree cutting has increased, and the fallen trees are being sold in nearby towns like Badin and Wahunai Mori. Despite earlier arrests by Tando Bago police of certain wood thieves and timber buyers, those cases did not result in long-term accountability, and tree cutting has resumed. Locals are appealing to the Chief Minister of Sindh and Deputy Commissioner Badin to immediately stop this damage, arrest those responsible, and protect the government's tree plantations, expressing concern over rising pollution and loss of green cover in their area.

Tando Muhammad Khan Finalizes HPV Vaccination Preparations

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A high-level meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Dharmoon Bhawani reviewed final preparations for the HPV vaccination campaign set to run from September 15 to 27 across the district. The meeting, attended by MPAs Syed Aijaz Hussain Shah and Khurram Karim Soomro, along with officials from the Health Department, WHO, UNICEF, Education, Police, and local NGOs, focused on coordination, awareness, and access to ensure adolescent girls are vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus. DC Bhawani emphasized the importance of inter-departmental cooperation to protect children from life-threatening diseases, while the MPAs urged local bodies and the public to fully support the initiative, ensuring its success in both urban and rural areas.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Students Injured in Bus Crash Demand Safer Transport

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A bus carrying students from Government Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Nawabshah, met with a serious accident near Bahria Town while traveling from Daultpur, injuring several students and leaving many stranded. The incident has caused panic among students, who blame the university administration for neglecting transport safety. Parents and students complain about insufficient and poorly maintained buses, with no timely repairs or new vehicles provided. Injured students were treated at a local hospital. Both students and parents have demanded immediate improvements in transport safety, warning of protests and strict action if their concerns are not addressed to prevent further accidents and ensure student safety.

Serhari Town Horror: 15-Year-Old Girl Brutally Murdered in Shahdadpur

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: A 15-year-old boy, Achar Brohi, was brutally murdered by stabbing and strangulation in Serhari town near Shahdadpur. His body was found discarded in a wheat field. The police recovered the body and took it to Shahdadpur hospital for postmortem. The Sindh Brohi Union strongly condemned the incident and urged authorities to take suo-motu notice and bring the culprits to justice. According to reports, Achar had gone to a family gathering but did not return home at night. The following morning, his body was found in the field. The union leaders demanded strict punishment for the killers and expressed full support for the victim's family. The body was handed over to the family after necessary formalities, and the area was enveloped in mourning.

Larkana Woman Protests Domestic Abuse After Marriage by Choice and Religious Conversion

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A woman from Qambar city, Kulsoom Khaskheli, who converted to Islam and married her lover Saifullah Khaskheli eight months ago, held a protest outside Larkana Press Club followed by a press conference. Kulsoom, formerly named Pooja Bheel, alleged that after her conversion and marriage, her husband Saifullah, his uncle Irfan Khaskheli, and other family members abused and harassed her regularly. She claimed they even tried to sell her forcibly, prompting her to leave her husband's home and take refuge at her father's house. Despite police intervention, her father and brother remain detained, while threats continue from her in-laws. Kulsoom appealed to authorities for protection and immediate action against her husband and his relatives to safeguard her and her family's lives.

Govt Primary School Bhambho Laghari Glows with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Celebrations

TALHAR: A Naat gathering was held at Government Primary School Muhammad Sharif Laghari in the village of Bhambho Laghari to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him). During the event, schoolchildren paid tribute to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by reciting heartfelt Naats and shedding light on his blessed life and teachings. The gathering saw participation from Head Teacher Nadeem Ali Khawaja, School Chairman Shoukat Ali Laghari, local villagers, and a large number of students.—RT

Literary Legend Abdul Fattah Abbasi Showered with Tributes on Birthday

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The birthday of Abdul Fattah Abbasi, a prominent Sindhi writer, travelogue author, and columnist from Nariyari Sabajhari, was joyfully celebrated with heartfelt wishes from various political, social, and literary leaders and dignitaries. Esteemed personalities from Bakrani town, Larkana, and organizations such as PT Alf Larkana, All Sindh Abro Community, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan gathered to honor his contributions. The event highlighted Abbasi's humaneness, ethics, Sufi philosophy, and literary achievements, praising his principled life and sincere friendships. Scholars and social leaders lauded his journalistic and literary services as a valuable contribution to Sindh and Pakistan. In his speech, Abbasi expressed gratitude to his friends and well-wishers, praying for a long life and continued success.

KGM Citizens Rise Against Drugs, Demand Accountability in Health Sector

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: All Parties Action Committee organized a protest rally and demonstration in Kot Ghulam Muhammad to demand the elimination of drug trafficking and improvement in basic healthcare services. The rally was actively supported by the Pakistan Darawar Ittehad Chairman Faqir Shiva Kachhi along with central leaders Nirmal Kumar Meghwar, Anil Kumar Sharma, Nakkash Rathore, Ahmed Arain, and others. Addressing the protest, Faqir Shiva Kachhi urged the government and concerned authorities to take immediate action against drug dealers and ensure their arrests. He also demanded that Kot Ghulam Muhammad Civil Hospital be equipped with all basic medical facilities and that doctors and staff be held accountable to their duties. Other leaders and members also spoke during the event, echoing the same concerns.

Matiari Family Cries for Justice After Child's Murder

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The family of murdered child Faizan Kumbhar from Ghalib Kumbhar village near Matiari held a press conference accusing local police and suspects of inaction and threats. Despite the ongoing court case, no progress has been made, and the family faces intimidation. They urged the High Court, SSP Matiari, and authorities to take immediate action to deliver justice for Faizan.

Court Slams Sindh University for Allowing PhD Professors to Cling to Admin Roles

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: The Sindh High Court's Hyderabad Bench expressed anger over Sindh University's failure to remove PhD professors from administrative posts, calling it a violation of court orders. The court summoned the Secretary of Universities & Boards and the Vice Chancellor in person, warning of legal action for non-compliance. The case was adjourned until October 2.

Digri Crash Carnage: Motorcycle-Rickshaw Collision Leaves One Dead, One Injured

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: A tragic road accident took place near Digri on the Mirwah Gorchani Road, where a motorcycle collided with a Qingqi rickshaw. As a result, 27-year-old Muhammad Urs Jhalan, a resident of Khaddro near Sinjhoro, died on the spot, while Khadim Hussain Brohi from Zardari Farm, Shahpur Chakar, sustained serious injuries. Both men were on their way to Jhudo for work. The injured was initially treated at Digri Hospital and later referred to Hyderabad due to his critical condition. Digri Police have taken the rickshaw driver, Muhammad Ashiq Jutt, into custody for further investigation.

PPP Dadu Honors MRD Martyrs on 42nd Anniversary With Stirring Tribute

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Dadu District President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, along with party members, visited Khanpur Junejo to participate in a commemorative event marking the 42nd anniversary of the 11 brave martyrs of the 1983 Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) in KN Shah. The event, held at the residence of MPA Zubair Ahmed Junejo in Khairpur Nathan Shah, honored those who laid down their lives for the restoration of democracy. Addressing the gathering, Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq paid rich tributes to the martyrs, emphasizing their sacrifice as a cornerstone of Pakistan's democratic struggle. A Quran recitation and prayer for forgiveness were also held. The event was attended by PPP District Coordinator Imdad Hussain Dawach, Shahmeer Chehwan, PA Amir Ali, Roshan Chandio, Mumtaz Jokhio, Tahir Laghari, Aslam Chhawan, and other party workers.

Sindh Health Minister Inspects and Reviews Healthcare Network in Nawabshah

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: On the directives of Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho and Deputy Commissioner Shahid Benazirabad, Abdul Samad Nizamani, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Syed Abrar Ali Shah visited Peoples Medical Hospital Nawabshah and the Mother & Child Health Center to assess ongoing issues faced by both healthcare facilities. During the visit, AMS of Peoples Medical Hospital Dr. Najma Kausar and Incharge of the Mother & Child Health Center Dr. Akbar Siyal briefed the ADC on critical problems, highlighting the need for immediate resumption of under-construction ward projects and urgent repairs of certain rooms to ensure full operational capacity and better healthcare services for the public. The ADC assured both hospital administrations that the district administration will take all possible steps to resolve the issues and enhance healthcare delivery. He reiterated that the visit was carried out as per instructions from the provincial health minister and the DC to evaluate and address the hospitals' challenges. He also directed hospital staff to ensure the best possible medical services are provided to all incoming patients.

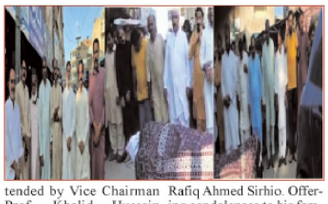
Tight Security and Surveillance Finalized for September 24 By-Election

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Deputy Commissioner and District Returning Officer (DRO) Ghotki, Manzoor Ahmed Kunrani, has declared all nine polling stations in Union Council Wahi Ghoto as highly sensitive ahead of the September 24 by-election for the Chairman seat. During a meeting with election officials and contesting candidates, he announced that CCTV cameras will be installed at all stations and urged candidates to strictly follow the Election Commission's code of conduct, warning that violations could lead to legal action or disqualification. District Election Commissioner Parvez Ahmed Kalhoro confirmed that all arrangements have been finalized, with 34 police personnel, including 4 female officers, deployed at each station. He added that public office holders are barred from campaigning, while the display of weapons, use of panaflex banners, and public rallies are prohibited. Corner meetings will only be allowed until midnight on September 22 to ensure a peaceful and transparent electoral process.

Education World Mourns as SGA Pays Tribute to Abdul Ghaffar Siddiqui

By Tahir Javed Panhwar



PIARO STATION: The Sindh Graduates Association (SGA) has expressed deep sorrow over the sudden demise of renowned educationist, social worker, and former SGA Central Business Committee member, Abdul Ghaffar Siddiqui, who passed away this morning at a private hospital in Hyderabad after a brief illness. Siddiqui, also a lifetime member of SGA's Shikarpur branch and a dedicated supervisor in the education department, was remembered for his lifelong contributions to education and community service. His funeral prayers were held in Qasimabad, Hyderabad, attended by Vice Chairman Prof. Khalid Hussain Channa, Secretary Information Ahmed Hassan Panhwar, CBC Member Peeral Khan Khoso, former Union Minister Farhad Solangi, and several SGA members including Nazir Ahmed Hingoro, Prof. Iftikhar ul Haq Mehr, Syed Waseem Ali Shah, and Mehran Rafiq Ahmed Sirhio. Offering condolences to his family, SGA Chairman Rafiq Ahmed Jaffari, along with other central office bearers, paid tribute to Siddiqui's unwavering commitment to public service and education, praying for his soul's eternal peace and strength for his family during this difficult time.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

Pharma Boom Ignites: Deregulation Fuels Export Surge and Crushes Drug Shortages

ISTANBUL: In a high-stakes meeting with the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA), the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) hailed deregulation for eliminating medicine shortages and boosting pharma exports by 34%. PPMA Chairman Tauqeer ul Haq praised legal reforms but warned against uncertainty from a third-party DRAP survey. SAPM Haroon Akhtar backed deregulation, calling it vital for supply stability and growth. Talks also focused on export expansion to Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, with banking hurdles being resolved. SIFC pledged continued reforms, deepening industry-government collaboration for sustainable pharma growth.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Nasir Shah Moves Swiftly to Restore Power After 132kV Tower Collapse Near Thaddo Dam

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah took urgent action after flooding at Thaddo Dam caused a 132kV STDC tower to collapse, disrupting 100 MW electricity supply to Karachi. On his directives, CEO STDC Saleem Sheikh and his team—Tariq Saeed, Saad Zuberi, and Muhammad Bilal—restored the tower temporarily using long boom cranes and expert crews. Power was swiftly resumed. Despite a typical one-month timeline, the team reerected the tower in record time. Nasir Shah lauded their dedication, calling such officers the true assets of Sindh's energy infrastructure.—RT

Sarwari Jamaat Leaders Call on Adi Faryal Talpur to Push Matiari's Development Agenda

By Javed Samejo

KARACHI: Chairman of the Sarwari Jamaat and Sindhi Adabi Board, Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif", along with his son Makhdoom Ahmed-uz-Zaman, Chairman of the District Council Matiari, held a significant and cordial meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Adi Faryal Talpur at Zardari House in Karachi. The discussion focused on development projects in Matiari, public welfare initiatives, and the district's political landscape. Adi Faryal Talpur reaffirmed PPP's commitment to public service and pledged timely completion of development projects across Sindh in line with public expectations. Both leaders briefed her on the pressing issues faced by the people of Matiari, and it was agreed that immediate action would be taken to improve education, healthcare, infrastructure, and water supply in the district. The meeting, attended by Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, concluded on a positive note. Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif" also invited Faryal Talpur to visit the Sindhi Adabi Board, which she accepted, promising a visit soon.

Mayor Cracks Down on Absentee Firefighters Amid Karachi Rain Chaos

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi has ordered disciplinary action against municipal employees found absent from duty during the recent heavy rains in the city. Fire Chief Muhammad Humayun confirmed that 10 employees, including four officers, one driver, and five firemen, have been suspended for negligence.

The suspended officials include Ghulam Fakhruddin, Officer of Landhi Fire Station; Sub-Fire Officer Adnan Moin; driver Umar Farooq; firemen Nihal and Kashif Moin; firemen Muhammad Rashid and Muhammad Naseem of Civic Centre; Deputy Director Central Javed Irshad; Leading Fireman Mueed Ahmed of Shah Faisal Colony; and Fireman Farooq Siddiqui of Shah Faisal Colony.—RT

Pakistan Steals the Show at Istanbul Fashion Expo With World Applause for Local Sportswear

KARACHI: The International Fashion Expo wrapped up in Istanbul, drawing global business leaders, including a strong Pakistani delegation. Zeeshan Tariq, Senior Member of Karachi Chamber and CEO of Tariq Sports, showcased Pakistani sportswear, which received an overwhelming response. Syed Umar Shehzad (Azad Kashmir Chamber) and Imran Munaz (Islamabad Chamber) also attended. The expo proved vital for Pakistan's textile sector, opening new trade avenues. Organizer Raja Owais praised the international participation, calling the event a global platform for showcasing Pakistani excellence in fashion and sports apparel to the world.—RT

Illegal School Scandal: SBCA Admits Bay View Built on Amenity Plot in SHC

KARACHI: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) admitted before the Sindh High Court that Bay View Private School was unlawfully built on an amenity plot in Kathiawar Society, Adamjee Nagar, without any approval. The court was hearing a petition filed by Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor, challenging the school's construction on land allocated for a diagnostic centre. PDP lawyer Khuram Lakhani slammed the move as illegal commercialisation. While SBCA submitted replies, KDA distanced itself from the issue. The court adjourned the hearing until September 29.—RT/Agency

Karachi East Residents Rise in Protest Over Flood Neglect in Hassan Noman Colony

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Karachi East's Hassan Noman Colony near Al-Aasif Square remains severely flooded after the Thado Dam overflowed, submerging over 100 homes under more than ten feet of water. Despite the crisis entering its fourth day, cleanup and rescue operations have yet to begin, sparking protests by affected residents against UC Chairman Daulat Khan for inaction. Locals reported a lack of essential supplies including food, water, tents, and medicine, with children suffering from hunger and distress. They also highlighted blocked roads filled with garbage and warned that if immediate action is not taken to clean the area, they will block the highway to press for relief and aid.

Pakistan Navy Ramps Up Flood Relief Operations Across Punjab and Sindh

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy continues its extensive flood relief and rescue operations in the flood-hit regions of Punjab and Sindh. Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) have been deployed in Jalalpur and Multan, alongside ongoing missions in Kashmore, Ghotki, Sukkur, and Shikarpur. Equipped with hovercrafts, rescue boats, and diving teams, the Navy has evacuated 478 individuals in the last 24 hours, raising the total rescued in Sindh to 6,860. Free medical aid and essential medicines are also being provided to the affected communities. With floodwaters rising at Guddu and Sukkur barrages, Pakistan Navy remains on high alert and continues close coordination with civil authorities, reaffirming its commitment to stand by the nation until full recovery and rehabilitation are achieved.—RT

Governor Tessori Pays Solemn Tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on Death Anniversary

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, in a special message on the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, paid glowing tribute to the founder of Pakistan, calling his vision the cornerstone of the nation's progress.

Governor Tessori said that Quaid-e-Azam's guiding principles of justice, equality, and integrity remain as relevant today as they were at the time of independence. He urged the nation to adopt these ideals to steer Pakistan toward development and stability.

Highlighting the sacrifices made by Jinnah, Tessori noted that his life and struggle continue to inspire generations, instilling lessons of unity, solidarity, and perseverance. He emphasized that national cohesion is the key to building a strong and prosperous Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Court Approves Five-Day Remand of Suspect in Shocking Child Abuse Case

KARACHI: A local court on Saturday granted police five-day physical remand of a man accused of sexually assaulting minor girls in the Qayyumabad area.

According to police, the suspect, identified as Shabbir Ahmed, was arrested a day earlier during a raid in Qayyumabad. Investigators told the Judicial Magistrate (South) that multiple objectionable videos were recovered from the suspect's mobile phone, raising serious concerns about the extent of his activities.

The investigation officer requested physical remand, arguing that further interrogation was necessary to identify possible accomplices and gather additional evidence. Granting the plea, the court handed the suspect over to police custody for five days.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz's Qatar Visit Branded Bold Stand Against Israeli Aggression by Malik Bostan

KARACHI: Malik Muhammad Bostan, ECAP chairman, hailed PM Shehbaz Sharif's Qatar visit as a powerful show of solidarity with a brotherly Islamic nation amid Israeli attacks. He praised Qatar's unwavering support for Pakistan and condemned Israel's aggression as a violation of sovereignty. Bostan urged Muslim unity against Israeli atrocities and called for shifting Arab resources from luxury to military readiness. Highlighting shared faith and values, he stressed Pakistan's firm backing of Qatar, urging the Ummah to stand strong for peace and justice in these critical times.—RT

Rs91 Billion Education Shake-Up: CM Murad Pushes for Swift School Upgrades Across Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah reviewed the Rs91 billion School Education portfolio, urging speedy completion of upgradation projects statewide. The FY 2025-26 Annual Development Programme allocates Rs17.82bn, with 451 schemes underway, targeting June 2026 completion for 481 schools. Major foreign-assisted projects include flood reconstruction, climate-resilient schools, and teacher training initiatives. CM Shah emphasized prioritizing 15 schools in Mirpurkhas by December and delivering 200 schools by April 2026, stressing, "Education is our top priority, and delays are unacceptable." A bold push to transform Sindh's education landscape is underway!—RT

Smoke Out! Sindh Bans All Nicotine Products in Schools & Colleges

KARACHI: The Sindh government has enforced a complete ban on cigarettes, vapes, gutka, and other nicotine products across all educational institutions—public and private. A formal notification was issued by the education secretary on Friday, following government orders to curb tobacco use and promote student health. The ban applies to schools, colleges, and universities province-wide, marking a major crackdown on campus nicotine consumption.—RT

Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad: Korangi Causeway to Reopen Soon

KARACHI: Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad said on Thursday that the Korangi Causeway had been closed due to the rising water level in the Malir River, and traffic was being diverted through Jam Sadiq Bridge. He assured that the causeway would likely be reopened by tonight or tomorrow morning.—RT/Agency

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Amplifies Bilawal's Demands for Flood-Hit Sindh

KARACHI: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the federal government to provide urgent relief to flood-affected regions, including the waiver of electricity bills for submerged areas.

In her statement, Aseefa Bhutto noted that Bilawal has demanded the imposition of an agricultural emergency across the country to safeguard farmers from devastating losses. She added that Bilawal has also called for immediate financial assistance to flood-hit families through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).—RT

SHC Orders Governor Sindh to Rule on K-Electric CEO's Appeal

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) heard a petition filed by K-Electric CEO Moonis Alvi against the penalty imposed by the provincial ombudsman. The court directed the Governor of Sindh to decide Alvi's pending appeal within the prescribed time.

During the hearing, the complainant's counsel argued that the petition was not maintainable in the SHC since the matter was already pending before the Governor. Meanwhile, Alvi's lawyer contended that, under the law, the Governor is bound to decide appeals within 90 days and also argued that the provincial ombudsman had no jurisdiction to take action against K-Electric.—RT/Agency

Karachi Mayor Kicks Off Citywide Anti-Mosquito Spray Drive After Monsoon Rains

KARACHI: Fears of malaria, dengue, and chikungunya outbreaks have risen in Karachi following recent monsoon rains. To counter the threat, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab announced that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will launch a citywide fumigation campaign from September 13.

Speaking to the media, the mayor said the three-day drive will cover all 25 towns of Karachi, with the objective of protecting citizens from mosquito-borne diseases. He emphasized that every effort will be made to ensure no locality is left out of the campaign.

Wahab highlighted that stagnant rainwater and poor drainage create breeding grounds for mosquitoes, making preventive measures crucial. He said the fumigation drive reflects KMC's commitment to safeguarding public health during the post-rain season.

The mayor urged citizens to cooperate with municipal teams and adopt precautionary measures at home to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.—RT/Agency

Opposition Leader Ali Khursheedi Slams Sindh Govt Over Crumbling Infrastructure

KARACHI: Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly, Ali Khursheedi, has slammed the provincial government for what he termed negligence and mismanagement in Karachi's infrastructure projects.

Addressing a press conference, Khursheedi said that officials are "busy holding endless meetings" while citizens continue to suffer. "When will they work if all they do is meet?" he asked. Referring to the Nathakhan Bridge, he said it frequently collapses, reflecting poor planning and execution.

Khursheedi also pointed out technical faults in the Malir Expressway project, alleging that the project director made serious errors which should have been investigated. "They simply say if it breaks, we will rebuild it. This is taxpayers' money, not their personal wealth," he remarked.—RT/Agency

Sindh's Health Drive: BISP and Govt Unite to Tackle Malnutrition Crisis

KARACHI: In a key meeting, BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid and Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho agreed to integrate the Benazir Nashonuma Programme with provincial health efforts. The focus: improving maternal and child health, combating anemia, expanding nutritional aid, and boosting counseling services. With support from the Gates Foundation and BISP's social protection network, both leaders pledged joint action to reach vulnerable populations, especially in rural Sindh, and enhance coordination for impactful, duplication-free service delivery.—RT

SHO Bin Yamin Ali Tracks Down Stolen Journalist's Car, Earns Public Praise

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: SHO Samanabad Bin Yamin Ali has earned widespread appreciation for swiftly recovering the stolen vehicle of renowned journalist Syeda Najma Zahra. The car was stolen on September 2 from outside Incholi Imambargah, sparking concern among the journalist community. Taking immediate action, SHO Bin Yamin registered an FIR, formed a special team, and used CCTV footage and intelligence methods to trace the culprits. Within a week, the stolen car was recovered and the suspects arrested. The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Karachi Press Club, and citizens have lauded the SHO's professionalism, calling the recovery a boost to public trust in police. Syeda Najma Zahra, in a video message, thanked SHO Bin Yamin and SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui, stating their efforts restored her faith in the police system.

Rangers Bust Six Smugglers in Karachi, Seize Massive Betel Nut Haul

KARACHI: Rangers carried out a successful operation on Mauripur Road, arresting six alleged smugglers, including a suspended police constable, media reports said on Friday.

During the raid, law enforcement officials recovered 528 kilograms of betel nut, valued at millions of rupees in the local market. In addition, three cars, a motorcycle, and several fake number plates were seized from the suspects. Rangers also recovered six mobile phones and a significant amount of cash during the operation.

Officials said the smugglers were using vehicles with fake plates to transport the contraband, while the involvement of a suspended police official raised further concerns about criminal networks exploiting law enforcement insiders.—RT/Agency

Every moment matters.

—Unknown

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newspaper Agency at (0300-2118454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 2025

At UN, Pakistan Slams Israel's Aggression On Qatar Strikes As Part Of Broader Pattern

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Asim Iftikhar, on Friday assailed Israel's strike on Qatar, terming it a violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Speaking at the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) emergency meeting on the Middle East, Iftikhar said the attack was not only an assault on a sovereign country but also a blow to international peace and security.

"This reckless and provocative attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar, contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, including the UN Charter," the envoy remarked.

Ambassador Iftikhar further added: "At a time when delicate negotiations on the Gaza peace deal were progressing towards a possible breakthrough, striking the territory of a principal mediator and those directly involved in negotiations is a deliberate attempt to sabotage diplomacy, derail peace efforts, and prolong the suffering of civilians".

The UNSC condemned the strikes on Qatar's capital Doha but did not explicitly name Israel in its statement, which was supported by all 15 members, including the United States.

In his UNSC address, Iftikhar reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Qatar's mediation role in the Middle East and reiterated Islamabad's backing of a two-state solution. He said Israel's aggression undermined both regional stability and prospects for a just and lasting peace.

"This brazen and illegal assault is not an isolated incident, rather it is part of a broader and consistent pattern of aggression and violation of international law by Israel.

"Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with Qatar," he added, warning that violations of international law and peace must not be ignored.

"It is evident, that Israel, the occupying power is bent on doing everything to undermine and blowup every possibility of peace. Clearly, Israel's destructive policies are incompatible with the international community's quest for peace and stability. Sadly, it has been emboldened by the weak response, and inaction by this Council," the diplomat lamented.While speaking on the water dispute, Iftikhar also raised concerns over the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), emphasising that water should never be used as a weapon. He underlined that the treaty, in place for more than six decades, remained Pakistan's lifeline and could not be suspended unilaterally by any party.—RT/Agency

UK Commits £3m In Flood Aid For Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom on Friday announced £3 million in emergency aid to support Pakistan's relief efforts amid the ongoing floods in the country.

According to the Foreign Office, UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and expressed the UK's solidarity with Pakistan in responding to the devastating impacts of the floods and the ongoing monsoon season.

She highlighted that the £3 million aid would support emergency relief and response efforts, with additional humanitarian assistance for recovery to follow, in coordination with the Pakistan government and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The deputy prime minister appreciated the timely commitment and the UK's understanding of the scale of devastation and urgent needs, and conveyed gratitude for the UK's support in relief and recovery efforts.

Both sides also discussed bilateral relations, the importance of high-level exchanges, and recent regional and international developments.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a detailed report highlighting the devastating impact of floods across Punjab, with millions affected and relief operations underway.

According to the PDMA report, widespread flooding has affected 4,489 villages across Punjab, impacting more than 4.49 million people, according to the latest report from

The report stated that 672 villages along the Sutlej River and 1,482 along the Ravi River were inundated. Around 2.45 million people have been shifted to safe locations, while 396 relief camps, 490 medical camps, and 405 veterinary camps have been set up in affected districts.

The floods also forced the relocation of more than 1.9 million livestock. Meanwhile, Mangla Dam has reached 92% of its capacity, while Tarbela Dam is completely filled. On the Indian side, Bhakra Dam is 90% full, Pong 99%, and Thein 97%, the report added.—RT/Agency

Govt Approves Rs25.5bn Rescue Package For 11,000 Laid-Off Utility Stores Staff

ISLAMABAD: The government laid off all 11,406 employees of the Utility Stores Corporation effective September 1, offering over Rs25 billion severance package as part of a sweeping restructuring plan, official documents show.

The package covers the country's largest state-run retail chain's 5,229 regular employees (Rs13.18 billion set aside), 3,323 contract employees (Rs3.6 billion) and 2,854 daily wage workers (Rs2.71 billion). An additional Rs5.75 billion has been earmarked for organisational closure costs and support for widows of deceased employees.

Under the circular, permanent staff with two years or less remaining in service will receive gross pay for the remaining months. Employees with more than 20 years of service will receive two times their current basic pay for each completed year.

Those with fewer than 20 years may receive three current basic pays for each completed year or 1.25 times their running basic pay for remaining months of service — capped at 50 months — whichever is higher.

Contract employees will be paid as follows: running basic pay for each remaining month for staff with two or fewer years left; 30 running basic pay for employees with up to 16 years' service; and 35 running basic pay for those with more than 16 years.Daily wagers will receive a flat calculation based on a Rs37,000 benchmark. Rs37,000 for each remaining month for those with two or fewer years remaining; 15 × Rs37,000 (Rs555,000) for up to 10 years of service; 28 × Rs37,000 (Rs1,036,00) for those who had served for 10 to 15 years; and 30 × Rs37,000 (1,110,000) for those who had served USC for more than 15 years.The circular also instructs that pending salaries, wages and terminal dues admissible under USC service rules will be paid and that affected employees are being notified separately and will be helped to obtain NOCs from relevant departments so that the dues can be processed once federal funds are released.—RT/Agency

UN Endorses Declaration Backing Two-State Solution For Israel And Palestinians

US: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) overwhelmingly voted to endorse a declaration outlining "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" towards a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians ahead of a meeting of world leaders.

The seven-page declaration is the result of an international conference at the UN in July — hosted by Saudi Arabia and France — on the decades-long conflict. The United States and Israel boycotted the event.

A resolution endorsing the declaration received 142 votes in favour and 10 against, while 12 countries abstained.—RT/Agency

US Strategy Falters As India Tilt Strains Relations With Pakistan

US: The United States strategy of leaning on India over Pakistan has been faltered.

According to details surfaced on Friday, despite being backed by the US frequently, India failed to become the trustable partner of it. The US magazine has emphasised with the historical facts that India has never fulfilled the expectations of the US.

The magazine said that Pakistan can once again bridge the gap between China and the US. Moreover, the magazine said that India has purchased the defence system from Russia. India has invested in Iran despite the US sanctions. The US singed a nuclear deal with India by ignoring the priorities of the New Delhi.

According to the magazine, the US will have to repose confidence in Pakistan. It has been said that showing confidence in India might put the region on the verge of further escalation.

The magazine said that US President Donald Trump has acknowledged the measures taken by Pakistan to end the menace of terrorism and reduce tensions with India.

The US investment in the project, like Reko Diq, will bring stability to the region. Both the US and Pakistan will reap the benefits from the power and trade agreements.—RT/Agency

Govt Stands Firm On PTI Committee Resignations Strategy

ISLAMABAD: The government has finalised its strategy regarding the issue of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members' resignations from the standing committees.

According to details surfaced on Friday, the decision of National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq not to accept the resignations of opposition members remained unchanged, and government members have been directed to ensure the quorum is met.

Standing committee meetings will continue as usual in the absence of PTI members. The Speaker has issued instructions to the Assembly Secretariat in this regard. According to sources, in the absence of an opposition chairman, the convener will chair the meetings.

Government members have been directed to ensure quorum for the committee meetings.

The Speaker said the work of standing committees will not be disrupted by the opposition's resignations. It is necessary for the committees to remain active for legislative work and parliamentary oversight.—RT/Agency

CJP Afridi Bars Justice Mansoor From Yale Conference Trip

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi has once again refused to grant Justice Mansoor Ali Shah a no-objection certificate (NOC) to attend an international event abroad.

Last month, Yale Law School in the United States invited Justice Mansoor to participate in a conference — "Global Constitutionalism 2025" — scheduled for September 10 to 13, The News reported.

It was learnt that the school has been inviting Justice Mansoor to the conference for the past five years. The gathering is attended by senior judges from around the world as well as renowned scholars from Yale, Harvard and Princeton universities.

Sources said that Justice Mansoor was scheduled to present a paper on artificial intelligence and the judiciary at the event. Yale Law School had also made a formal written request to the CJP to officially nominate Justice Mansoor.

On August 6, Justice Mansoor himself submitted the same request to the chief justice. Sources revealed that the Supreme Court Registrar office conveyed in its response to the school that the new judicial year would begin on September 8, marked by a full-court session in which the annual programme is reviewed.

The office had further informed the school that this session, along with key institutional events and interactions with the legal community, has become a tradition. It added that the participation of all judges in the opening ceremony of the new judicial year is essential for collective deliberation, setting priorities, and determining the institutional direction.

In these circumstances, the Registrar Office conveyed that the Supreme Court was not in a position to facilitate Justice Mansoor's participation in the event.

Sources said that Justice Mansoor, in a letter dated August 15, once again requested the chief justice to issue him the NOC, citing several reasons why it should be granted. Earlier, in February, Justice Mansoor's request for leave to attend arbitration events in Saudi Arabia was also denied, forcing him to cancel his trip.—RT/Agency

Fazlur Rehman Calls For Islamic Defense Bloc To Counter Israel

KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that if Pakistan's armed forces possess the strength to counter India within hours, then they also have the power to confront Israel in a similar manner.Addressing the "Khatm-e-Nabuwwat and Defence of Pakistan Conference," Fazlur Rehman said the Muslim Ummah is facing challenges on multiple fronts. He stressed the need for Muslim nations to unite under a joint defense agreement and proposed the creation of an Islamic bloc to collectively safeguard Islamic interests.

He urged Muslim rulers to use such a defense pact for the liberation of Baitullah, emphasizing that unity was the only way to counter global threats. Criticizing the two-state solution narrative, Fazlur Rehman warned that Israel harbors ambitions of encroaching on the Haramain Sharifain, and therefore, Muslim nations must adopt a stronger and more united stance.—RT/Agency

Singapore Pledges $50,000 Aid For Pakistan Flood Victims

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Singapore on Friday announced a contribution of $50,000 in humanitarian assistance for the people of Pakistan affected by devastating floods.

According to a statement from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the amount will serve as seed money to support the Singapore Red Cross (SRC)'s public fundraising efforts for the humanitarian crisis caused by the floods in Pakistan.

The ministry said the Singapore government's contribution will supplement the SRC's own pledge of $50,000 to support the immediate needs of affected communities. It also conveyed its deepest condolences to the families of the flood victims.

In a statement, the Pakistan Embassy in Singapore said the contribution reflected Singapore's solidarity with the people of Pakistan during this difficult time and would support ongoing relief and recovery efforts to assist affected families and communities.—RT/Agency

Chinese Envoy Reaffirms Full Support For Pakistan's Flood Relief

BEIJING: Chinese Chargé d'Affaires Shi Yuanqiang has vowed to extend full support for the Pakistan's flood victims.

According to details, a Chinese delegation led by Yuanqiang has visited the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Chinese envoy has been briefed about the flood-relief operations conducted by the NDMA teams.

NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik has apprised the Chinese envoy of the measures taken to provide relief to people in the flood-hit areas. The Chinese envoy was also informed about the ongoing measures for rehabilitation of the flood victims.

The Chinese envoy has acknowledged the efforts of the NDMA for taking the timely and effective measures for combating the challenges posed by the natural calamities. —RT/Agency

Former CJ Karki Named Nepal's First Female Leader After Unrest

KATHMANDU: Sushila Karki, a former chief justice, will become the first woman to lead Nepal, to be sworn in as interim leader later on Friday after violent anti-graft protests forced Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign, the president's office said.

President Ramchandra Paudel's office announced Karki's appointment following negotiations between Paudel, army chief Ashok Raj Sigdel and the protesters who led Nepal's worst upheaval in years.

Fifty-one people were killed and more than 1,300 injured this week in the anti-graft protests by the "Gen Z" movement, named for the age of its mainly young supporters.

The protest was sparked by a social media ban that has since been rolled back. The violence subsided only after Oli resigned on Tuesday.

Karki, 73, would take the oath of office at 9:15pm local time, said Archana Khadka Adhikari, information officer at the president's office.

Two other ministers would also be sworn in along with her, local TV channels reported.

The only woman to have served as chief justice, Karki was the preferred choice of the protesters who cite her reputation for honesty and integrity and a stance against corruption.

She held the top judicial post for about a year until mid-2017.—RT/Agency

Chahat Fateh Ali Khan Explodes At UK Restaurant Over 'Deceptive Egg Attack Video'

LONDON: Viral sensation Chahat Fateh Ali Khan has vowed legal action against a Blackburn restaurant after it released footage of him being egged—months after claiming no such video existed. The attack, carried out by masked men on June 19, left Chahat shaken and unwell for days. Furious over the restaurant's denial and belated Instagram post, the singer accused its management of staging the drama for publicity. "They lied to me and used my humiliation for views," he said. Chahat now plans to sue, warning he will "shut down their business" while receiving overwhelming support from Pakistani showbiz stars.-RT

Karachi Edition, printed by Hassan Mohiuddin at CitPress, Talpur Road, Karachi and published by Kazi Sajjad Akbar from 6/ 1 E, MAHS Karachi Sindh