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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

US Unleashes New Sanctions Blitz on Iran

WASHINGTON — The United States has announced a new wave of sanctions targeting individuals and entities allegedly involved in financing Iran's military operations. The U.S. Treasury Department revealed on Tuesday that the sanctions focus on networks that support the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) — Quds Force and Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAF). According to the Treasury, the targeted individuals and companies — some based in Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates — have facilitated the transfer of funds generated from Iranian oil sales. These transactions, the U.S. claims, help fund Iran's military activities and violate existing sanctions.



The new sanctions are part of Washington's ongoing strategy to pressure Tehran over its military activities and nuclear ambitions. U.S. authorities say these financial networks enable Iran to continue its destabilizing actions in the Middle East and beyond, despite previous international restrictions. The action freezes any U.S.-based assets of the designated parties and generally bars American individuals and companies from doing business with them. The use of cryptocurrencies to move and obscure funds has become an increasing focus of U.S. sanctions enforcement in recent years, as digital currencies offer new ways to bypass traditional financial channels. This latest move follows a broader pattern of

sanctions the U.S. has imposed on Iran in response to what it sees as Tehran's continued threats to regional stability, including support for proxy militias and development of missile and nuclear programs. The Treasury did not specify the exact number of individuals or firms affected, but stressed that operations through front companies abroad pose a persistent challenge to sanctions enforcement. The involvement of financial entities in Hong Kong and the UAE underscores how Iran-linked networks operate transnationally to access global markets. The U.S. reiterated its commitment to disrupting these financial operations and warned that further measures could follow if Iran continues its current trajectory. —RT/Agency

Shehbaz and Qatar's Emir Forge Closer Strategic Ties

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad agreed to maintain close ties in view of the regional situation. The prime minister met with the Emir the other day and strongly condemned the Israeli attack on a residential area in Doha and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives.



Prime Minister Shehbaz once again described Pakistan-Qatar relations as historic and enduring, expressing the hope that ties between the two countries would grow even stronger in the future. He stated that Israeli aggression in the Middle

East must be halted immediately. In light of the Israeli aggression, unity among the Muslim Ummah is extremely important. He also appreciated the emergency summit of Arab and Islamic countries. Prime Minister She-

hbaz said that Pakistan supports Qatar's call for an emergency session of the UN Security Council in light of the worsening situation in the Middle East. The Emir of Qatar praised Prime Minister Shehbaz for attending the summit and thanked him

for visiting Doha on September 12 and expressing solidarity with Qatar. The Pakistani delegation included Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Atta Tarar, and Adviser Tariq Fatemi. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz, while addressing the Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit, stated that Israel has violated the sovereignty and security of our brotherly country Qatar. He emphasized that Israel must be held accountable for war crimes against humanity, and Pakistan stands in full soli-

arity with Qatar. He further said that humanity is suffering in Gaza and Israel must be brought to justice for war crimes. He added that Pakistan supports the proposal to suspend Israel's membership in the United Nations and demands immediate and urgent humanitarian aid for the civilian population in Gaza. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during which bilateral relations were discussed. —RT/Agency

Dar Roars: Pakistan Will Defend Sovereignty, World Must Stop Israel's Aggression

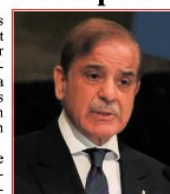


DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said that condemning Israel is not enough — the world must now stop Israel's actions. An unconditional ceasefire in Gaza must be ensured. Pakistan is a nuclear power; if its sovereignty is attacked, we will defend it at any cost, no matter which country is involved. In an interview with Qatar's Al Jazeera, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan strongly condemns the attacks on Qatar. There is no justification for Israel attacking a sovereign state; Israel attacking Qatar after Lebanon and Syria is unacceptable.

He said the OIC forum condemned the Israeli attacks in strong terms. Pakistan has always supported resolving disputes peacefully through dialogue. After the attack on Qatar, Pakistan joined Somalia in requesting an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. As a friendly and brotherly country to Qatar, Pakistan played an active role. The Arab-Islamic emergency meeting in Doha is very important. Israel's attack on Qatar was completely unexpected; mere condemnation of the attacks is not enough — now we must adopt a clear course of action. Ishaq Dar said the people of Gaza are facing extreme hardship; the time has come to ensure an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. Israel's provocations show that it does not want any restraint. He added that Pakistan has always called for unity within the Muslim Ummah and believes negotiations are the best way to resolve issues. Seriousness is necessary for negotiations and dialogue to succeed. —RT/Agency

UNGA Showdown: Shehbaz Set to Meet Mercurial Trump on Sept 25

WASHINGTON: In what is being viewed as a significant diplomatic development for Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to hold a meeting with United States President Donald Trump on September 25, sources said on Tuesday.



The insiders said that the meeting, expected on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, will also be attended by Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir. The huddle — taking place with the consultation, support, and endorsement of Qatar and Saudi Arabia — will, according to sources, have a wide-ranging agenda from floods in Pakistan to the repercussions of the Israeli attack on Qatar. Pakistan-India situation is also likely to be discussed during the high-level meeting, the sources added. Diplomatic sources told this correspondent that Riyadh and Doha are supporting this Shehbaz-Trump meeting. However, Pakistan's embassy has refrained from commenting or denying the possible meeting. The prospective development comes against the backdrop of improving diplomatic rela-

tions between Islamabad and Washington — especially following the armed conflict between Pakistan and India in May, which ended after President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. It may be noted that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation on Sunday with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wherein both dignitaries reaffirmed their resolve to bolster Pakistan-US ties and strengthen bilateral relations across multifaceted areas of cooperation. Dar had met Rubio back in July where the two sides discussed a broad range of issues, including bilateral ties, prospects for enhanced cooperation in trade, economy, in-

vestment, counter-terrorism, and regional peace. Soon after the meeting, the two countries announced reaching a trade agreement, which aimed at boosting bilateral trade, improving market access, attracting investment, and strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Under the agreement, there will be a reduction in tariffs, particularly on Pakistani exports to the US, and a fresh start in economic cooperation between the two countries, which also includes developing oil reserves. Earlier this month, Pakistan secured around \$500 million investment from the US in its critical minerals sector under a newly signed agreement with United States Strategic Metals (USSM). —RT/Agency

Pakistan, Iran Unite Muslim Ummah Against Israel's Brutality

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian expressed their solidarity and support for Qatar and called for unity among the ranks of the Ummah in the face of Israeli aggression.



The premier held a bilateral meeting with the Iranian president on the sidelines of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit convened in Doha and reiterated Pakistan's strongest condemnation of Israeli aggression against Qatar on September 9. He said that the Doha Arab-Islamic Summit had sent a strong and unified message on behalf of the Muslim world that Israel's aggression could no longer be tolerated. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad

Ishaq Dar, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar were also present in the meeting. Recalling the Iranian President's visit to Pakistan last month, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance its bilateral relations with Iran across all areas of mutual interest. The prime minister conveyed his

warm regards and respects for Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatullah Ali Khamenei. President Pezeshkian appreciated Pakistan's strong position on the Palestine issue and expressed his desire to continue working closely with the prime minister to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran relations. The two leaders agreed to continue to remain in contact, in view of the rapidly evolving regional situation. —RT/Agency

Five Brave Soldiers Martyred in Kech IED Blast



RAWALPINDI: At least five brave soldiers, including a Captain, embraced martyrdom in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blast in Balochistan's Kech district while five terrorists of the Indian-backed group "Firma al-Hindistan" were killed during clearance operation in the area.

Naik Junaid Ahmed, Khan Muhammad, and Sepoy Muhammad Zahoor. The ISPR further stated that during the clearance operation, five terrorists associated with the Indian proxy network "Firma al-Hindistan" were sent to hell. Search and sanitization operations are ongoing in the area to eliminate any remaining terrorists supported by India. The ISPR added that the great sacrifices of the martyrs further strengthen our resolve. The spokesperson for the Pakistan Army said the security forces, standing shoulder to shoulder with the entire nation, will continue their struggle until the country is completely rid of terrorism backed by India. —RT/Agency

UK Fighter Jets Rush to NATO Frontlines Over Poland

LONDON: UK fighter jets will join a NATO operation over Poland to help defend the alliance's eastern flank after Russian drones entered Polish airspace last week, the defence ministry said. "British fighter jets will fly air defence missions over Poland to counter aerial threats from Russia, including drones," the ministry said in a statement, adding the missions by RAF Typhoons would start "in the coming days".



NATO chief Mark Rutte said Friday the alliance would reinforce the defence of its eastern flank following a Russian drone raid into Polish airspace. Poland and its NATO allies last week scrambled jets to shoot down Russian drones over allied airspace for the first time since the war in Ukraine started three-and-a-half years ago. And on Saturday, Romania became the latest NATO

member state to report a drone incursion, as Poland also scrambled aircraft in response to fresh Russian drone strikes just over the border in Ukraine. "Russia's reckless behaviour is a direct threat to European security and a violation of international law," UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement. He said the "aircraft are not just a show of strength, they are vital in deterring aggression" as well as securing NATO airspace and protecting the UK's national security. Allies, including France

Israel Vows to Hunt Hamas 'Anywhere' as Qatar Hosts Summit

DOHA/JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he did not rule out further strikes on Hamas leaders "wherever they are", as the heads of Arab and Islamic states held a summit to back Qatar after Israel's attack last week in the Gulf state.



The September 9 strike targeting leaders of the Palestinian group in Doha was a significant escalation of Israeli military action in a region shaken by conflict since the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks that ignited the Gaza war. While the assembled Arab and Muslim leaders were expressing solidarity with Qatar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Netanyahu and gave strong backing for Israel's hardline stance, although Washington has expressed unease over the Qatar strike. Speaking alongside Netanyahu in Israel, Rubio said the only way to end the war in Gaza would be for Hamas fighters to free all hostages and surrender. While the US wants a diplomatic end to the war, "we have to be prepared for the possibility that's not going to happen," he said. Washington has said it was not warned in advance before Israel attacked Qatar, which houses the biggest US military base in the Middle East. President Don-

ald Trump said on Sunday that Israel had to be "very, very careful". "They have to do something about Hamas, but Qatar has been a great ally to the United States," Trump said. QATAR DENOUNCES 'COWARDLY AND TREACHEROUS' STRIKE HAMAS SAID THE ISRAELI STRIKE killed five of its members, including a son of its exiled Gaza chief, but its leadership survived. Qatar says one of its security agents also died. Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani urged the summit to take "practical and decisive steps" in response to the "cowardly and treacherous" strike, saying it occurred as Hamas leaders were studying a US ceasefire proposal. The final communique of the summit, which brought together states including Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, did not contain language that appeared

in a draft seen by Reuters which said the Israeli attack and other "hostile acts" threaten coexistence and efforts to normalise ties in the region. A separate statement by the Gulf Cooperation Council said Israel's "continuation of these aggressive policies undermines ... the future of existing understandings and agreements with Israel". The summit's communiqué did call on countries to review diplomatic and economic ties with Israel, in what Arab League Assistant Secretary General Hossam Zaki said was an invitation to states that have relations with Israel to revise them. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, a US ally which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, told the meeting Israel's actions "put obstacles in the way of any opportunities for any new peace agreements and even aborts existing ones". —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Pakistan's NDF Chief Champions Disability Inclusion at World Congress 2025 in Sharjah

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD/SHARJAH: Haji Abid Lashari, President of the National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan and CEO of the Pakistan Down Syndrome Association (PDSA) Karachi, represented Pakistan at the World Congress 2025-We Are Inclusion, held at Sharjah Expo from September 15-17. Organized by Inclusion International, the event brought together global leaders and advocates for disability inclusion. Mr. Lashari shared Pakistan's experiences and challenges in promoting the rights of individuals with Down syndrome and in-



tellectual disabilities, while learning from international best practices. His efforts were widely appreciated, and a key development during the congress was the proposal for PDSA Karachi to become Inclusion International's official representative from Pakistan. Mr. Lashari emphasized that inclusion is a global responsibility and highlighted the commitment of the Government of Sindh, particularly the DEPD Department, toward ensuring equal opportunities for children with disabilities.

SSP Khairpur, Overseas Committee Tighten Security with Surprise Jail Inspection

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: SSP Khairpur Hassan Sardar Niazi, accompanied by Overseas Committee Chairman Syed Ubaid Shah Jilani, visited Central Jail Khairpur. Welcomed by Jail Superintendent Naib Ali Bhanbhan, the officials inspected the facility and engaged with inmates to understand their concerns. Following a security assessment, SSP Niazi ordered an immediate increase in security personnel, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the jail, which houses dangerous terrorists from Karachi. He



also assured enhanced security during prisoner transport to courts to prevent violence. Overseas Committee Chairman Syed Ubaid Shah Jilani highlighted their ongoing support for prisoners through medical aid, food, and legal assistance to expedite case resolutions. The visit included committee members Zabeer Abbas, Deputy Jail Superintendent Roop Kanhere, and others. Efforts are underway to improve inmate welfare, including keeping prisoners close to home districts for family access.

Ghotki District Council Passes Rs 1.18 Billion Budget for 2025-26

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Under the chairmanship of Bangal Khan Mahar, the Ghotki District Council unanimously approved a budget of Rs 1.18 billion for the fiscal year 2025-26 during a session held at the District Council Hall in Mirpur Mathelo. Vice Chairman Mir Bahar Khan Lund also presided over the session. According to details, Rs 567 million have been allocated for salaries and pensions, Rs 139 million for new development projects, and Rs 82.6 million for ongoing schemes. Additionally, Rs 50.4 million have been set



aside for non-development expenses including aid, scholarships, emergency funds, and fuel, while Rs 378.5 million have been allocated for maintenance and repair. The approved budget also reflects an income of Rs 16.4 million under security deposits and Rs 113.7 million as leftover funds under OZT. Speaking at the session, Chairman Bangal Khan Mahar emphasized collaborative governance with all council members and promised to prioritize development projects and public welfare despite limited resources.

Mirpurkhas Council Meeting Puts Health and Education on the Table

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: A meeting was held at the District Council Hall under the chairmanship of District Council Chairman Mir Anwar Ali Khan Talpur. The session focused on health and education facilities, animal vaccination, mosquito spraying, and recruitment for vacant posts in the district council. Chairman Talpur stated that providing quality education to children and basic health services to the public are top priorities of the Pakistan People's Party, with the party's leadership emphasizing these goals. Issues such as poor conditions at Kot Ghulam Muhammad Taluka Hospital, repair of school buildings, improving water supply schedules, animal vaccination, and misconduct by NADRA office staff were raised. Deputy Commissioner Dr.



Rasheed Masood Khan advised members to submit repair requests for institutional buildings to include them in development plans. District health officer, education officer, and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

Deadly Sewani-Sunani Feud Claims Lives of Two Brothers

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Two young brothers, Zakir (32) and Sharafuddin (25) sons of Hayruddin from the Sunani Jakhani community, were shot dead amid a longstanding dispute between the Se-

wani and Sunani groups in village Shadi Khan Jakhani, under the jurisdiction of Gadhikhar police station. Police arrived at the scene and confirmed the killings resulted from ongoing tensions between the groups. The bodies were taken to the hospital for postmortem and then handed over to the families, causing chaos in the homes. Despite the brothers previously signing a peace affidavit, they were targeted. As of now, no FIR has been registered, and investigations are ongoing.

Shock in Village as 20-Year-Old Muhammad Gul Shahani Dies Suddenly

By Muhammad Bachai

UMERKOT: Muhammad Gul Shahani, 20-year-old nephew of Muhammad Aslam Shahani and son of newspaper agent Bashir Shahani, suddenly passed away near Samaro Road. His unexpected death has cast a wave of grief over the village and surrounding areas. The funeral prayer was led by Maulvi Pir Hujjatullah Jan Sarhandi, attended by a large number of people including political, social, and journalistic figures from the region. Muhammad Gul Shahani was laid to rest in his native village



of Muhammad Aslam Shahani amid heartfelt condolences. The community remains in mourning, with local leaders and residents expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss.

HPV Vaccination Drive Kicks Off in Kotri to Curb Cervical Cancer



By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The District Health Office Jamshoro inaugurated the HPV vaccination campaign at Government Girls Elementary School, Telegraph Workshop School, Kotri, to prevent cervical cancer in girls aged 9-14. The campaign was jointly launched by MPA Dr. Sikandar Ali Shoro and Deputy Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Qadri. Speakers urged parents to ensure their daughters are

vaccinated during the campaign, running from September 15 to 27. District Health Officer Dr. Pir Manzoor Ahmed confirmed that vaccination efforts are actively underway in schools and health centers. The ceremony was attended by health officials, education officers, and civil society representatives, who expressed full support for the initiative aimed at protecting girls from a life-threatening but preventable disease.

Sindh United Party Marks Jalal Mehmood Shah's 63rd Birthday in Thul



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The Sindh United Party (SUP) organized a cake-cutting ceremony at the Thul Press Club to celebrate the 63rd birthday of SUP Chairman Syed Jalal Mehmood Shah. Party leaders and activists, including Jamal Josh Burro, Ghulam Hussain Kanrani, Comrade Waseem Qureshi, and others, attended the event. They extended warm birthday wishes and prayed for his good health and continued leadership, expressing their support and solidarity with the party chairman on this special occasion.

Hyderabad Marks International Literacy Day with Digital and Non-Formal Learning Pledge

By Muqem Koerio

HYDERABAD: On International Literacy Day, a grand event titled "Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era" was held at a local hotel in Hyderabad by the Directorate of Literacy and Non-Formal Education, Government of Sindh, in collaboration with various partner organizations. Chief Guest Divisional Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi and Director Abdul Jabbar Manni reaffirmed their commitment to expanding educational access through 5,000 active non-formal centers and the planned opening of 1,500 more in underserved areas.

lessness, illegal taxes, and poor health and education services in Sindh. He warned against the theft of Sindh's resources, especially water, promising strong resistance. He called on the people to unite to bring peace and progress to Sindh. Several party leaders also attended the event.

Anjuman Ghulaman-e-Qalandar Hosts Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Devotional Spirit



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: Anjuman Ghulaman-e-Qalandar Welfare Sindh organized a grand Milad-un-Nabi gathering at Sain Roshan Shah's shrine. Led by Sain Ghulam Hyder Shah Qalandari, the event featured speeches on

Tauheed, spiritual awareness, and Quranic teachings. Over 95 million Darood and 200 Khatm-ul-Quran were offered. Thousands attended, enjoyed Naat recitations, and joined prayers for peace. The event concluded with Langar distribution to all participants.

Spiritual Eid Milad-un-Nabi Gathering Draws Hundreds at Qazi Ahmed Mor

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi gathering was organized at Qazi Ahmed Mor by Dr. Mir Mataro Khasakheli, attended by hundreds of devotees of the Holy Prophet. On this occasion, the Sajjada Nasheen of Dargah Faiz Hashmi, Khadim Fuqra Sufi Basafa Faqir Ali Nawaz Hashmi, delivered a soul-stirring spiritual speech. Renowned local Naat Khawans including Dost Ali Dahri, Hussain Bux Chandio, and others



recited Naats in praise of the Holy Prophet. The event also witnessed the participation of respected figures from various schools of thought, including Dr. Shafiq Arain, senior journalist Yousuf Rind, Khasakheli, and other notable dignitaries. The gathering concluded with the distribution of Langar (free food) among attendees.

Chairman Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi Supervises Road Repair Work in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Chairman Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar, Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi, personally initiated repair work on damaged sections of the Hyderabad Road from Keeriya Shakh to Tando Adam Naka affected by recent rains. The damaged roads had caused serious inconvenience to the public, prompting immediate action. Chairman Rizvi also visited the site to ins-



spect the ongoing work. Aijaz Shah, Haji Saleem Jani Khanzada, Raja Ghulam Mustafa Halepoto, Jumman Gul Zavar Parvez Samo, Pathan, Prem Kumar, Zavar Muhammad and Ramzan Memon Faisal Mirjat, Syed were also present.

Girls' School in Tando Allahyar Launches Cancer Prevention Vaccine Drive

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A vaccination campaign to prevent cancer was inaugurated at Girls Higher Secondary School in Tando Allahyar. The event was attended by MNA Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani, MPA Imdad Pitafi, DC Tando Allahyar Noor Mustafa Laghari, DHO Bharmal, and female students. Leaders highlighted that the vaccine targets girls aged 9 to 14, a group at risk for certain cancers. They



announced that 66,000 girls in the district will receive the vaccine. Officials urged parents to vaccinate their daughters, dismissing opposition and emphasizing that the project, successful in other countries, has now begun in Pakistan. Local leaders Waseem Latif Mangrio, Ashfaq Laghari, Shaikat Khaskheli, and Raju Thakur were also present.

Sindh Aman March Greeted by Throngs in Matiari

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The Sindh Aman March caravan, led by JUI-F Sindh Ameer Maulana Abdul Qayoom Halevi and General Secretary Allama Rashid Mehmood Soomro, reached Matiari on its third day. The caravan was warmly welcomed by the public with flower petals showered and gifts of shawls and traditional Ajrakas presented. Speaking at the rally, Maulana Abdul Qayoom Halevi highlighted issues of law-



lessness, illegal taxes, and poor health and education services in Sindh. He warned against the theft of Sindh's resources, especially water, promising strong resistance. He called on the people to unite to bring peace and progress to Sindh. Several party leaders also attended the event.

Robbery Victims Storm Kandiaro Press Club Demanding Justice

By Osama Ayaz

KANDIARO: Near Kandiaro on Kot Ghulam Shah Link Road, five unidentified armed men looted residents of Mitho Khan Rind village and guests returning from a wedding in Wahano, including Mubarak Rind, Mazhar Rind, Bagan Rind, Long Rind, Pandhi Rind,

Mukhtiar Rind, and others. The robbers carried out two separate robberies near the city and also injured Pandhi Rind by beating him. Following the incident, the victims filed a complaint at the Kandiaro police station. The affected villagers also used tracking dogs to follow the trail, which led them to a house near Juma Shaheed in Kandiaro. They later staged a protest at the Kandiaro Press Club. During the protest, PPP Councilor Meeral Rind, Nazir Rind, Dilbar Rind, Babar Rind, and others accused members of the Pira Rind community of being involved and claimed that the accused locked them inside their house at gunpoint.

Truck Robbery Attempt Thwarted on Thatta-Hyderabad Road, Suspect Caught

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Acting on the directives of SSP Thatta Farooq Ahmed Bijarani, Jhirk Police successfully foiled an attempted truck robbery on the Thatta-Hyderabad Road during an overnight operation. According to DSP Jhirk Wajid Thehim and

SHO Keenjhar Zahid Sheikh, police arrested Ali Hassan Shoro while he was transferring stolen goods from a truck into a Suzuki Ravi pickup. Recovered items include three bags of rice, 14 bags of pulses, a pistol, and the vehicle used in the crime. Two FIRs have been registered at Keenjhar Police Station: FIR No. 67/2025 under Sections 324, 353, and 402 of the PPC, and FIR No. 68/2025 under Section 23(i)-A/25 of the Sindh Arms Act. SHO Zahid Sheikh stated that the accused is part of a gang involved in goods theft along the highway, and more arrests are expected based on his interrogation.



Mohsin Naqvi Marks Silver Jubilee with High-Profile Visit

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the office in Lahore on Tuesday to join the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of where he also cut a cake to commemorate the milestone.

Speaking at the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that the journey began 25 years ago with the vision of Haji Abdul Razzaq and Haji Mohammad Iqbal. He praised the President and CEO of Salman Iqbal, for successfully carrying forward this legacy and elevating the network to new heights.

Mohsin Naqvi described as one of Pakistan's pio-



neering TV channels. He expressed deep respect for Haji Mohammad Iqbal, whom he referred to as his senior and mentor, stating that he has learned a lot from him.

Congratulating the entire network continued success in the future. He prayed that would go on to celebrate 50 and eventually 100 years of excellence.

Meanwhile, on the 25th anniversary of President and CEO Salman Iqbal extended heartfelt appreciation to viewers, team members, and advertising partners, crediting them for the organization's continued success.—RT/Agency

FIA Exposes Hidden Dangers of Fake Job Offers and Deadly Migration Traps



ISLAMABAD: The FIA held an awareness session at Islamabad Model College for Girls, alerting over 100 students to the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration. Led by Deputy Director Mehmood Ali Khokhar and Inspector Ammar Mazhar, the session stressed the risks of fake overseas job offers—especially in IT—and the life-threatening consequences of illegal migration. Students were urged to pursue safe, legal pathways. The faculty praised the FIA's efforts and called for expanding such programs to protect more youth from exploitation and trafficking traps.—RT

Moderate Earthquake Shakes Multan and Parts of Punjab

LAHORE: Earthquake tremors jolted Multan and several other parts of Punjab, PDMA Punjab said in a statement on Tuesday.

The earthquake intensity measured 4.8 on the Richter scale, a spokesman of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said in its report.



"The epicentre of the earthquake was 126 kilometers' distance in the west of Multan at a depth of 55 kilometers," PDMA stated. Provincial administration engaged in scrutiny of damage to building structures.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Toba Tek Singh Officials Pledge to Win Back Trust of Overseas Pakistanis

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Following the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration is prioritizing the resolution of overseas Pakistanis' issues. Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu, a meeting of the District Overseas Committee was held, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Zeeshan Labha Maseeh. The session included a detailed



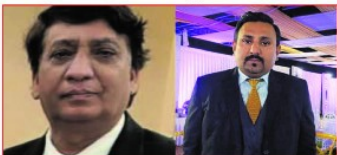
review of applications from overseas Pakistanis and updates on their progress. Officials from relevant departments presented their reports and outlined steps taken to address complaints. ADC Zeeshan Labha emphasized that overseas Pakistanis are a valuable national asset, urging officials to cooperate fully to strengthen their trust and resolve their concerns promptly.

METRO KARACHI

Journalists Sound Alarm as Press Freedom Comes Under Fire in Country

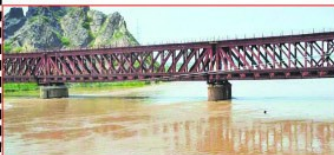
By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Karachi Union of Journalists-Workers (KUJ-W) have expressed concern over declining press freedom in light of the Global State of Democracy Report 2025 by International IDEA, which notes the lowest global media freedom in fifty years. Journalists in Pakistan are facing financial hardship, delayed salaries, job inse-



curity, and increasing pressure from corporate forces. The unions emphasized the importance of a strong, independent media in protecting democracy and serving the public interest.

PDMA Punjab Issues Fresh River Flow Alert



LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued an update on river water flows across the province.

According to PDMA, the levels remain normal at most locations in Punjab rivers, while a medium-level flood has been observed at Panjnad.

The Indus River at Tarbela is flowing at 196,000 cusecs, at Kalabagh 169,000 cusecs, at Chashma 178,000 cusecs, and at Taunsa 161,000 cusecs, with all points reported to be at normal levels.

The Chenab River is also maintaining normal flow, registering 56,000 cusecs at Marala, 68,000 cusecs at Khanki, 75,000 cusecs at Qadirabad, and 80,000 cusecs at Trimmu.

The only exception is at Panjnad, where the water flow has surged to 234,000 cusecs, resulting in a medium-level flood.—RT/Agency

Top Police Brass Inspect Riot Management Readiness in Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Additional IGP Riot Management Police Khurram Shakoor and DIG Asad Sarfaraz visited District Police Lines at Qila Gujjar Singh to pay tribute to fallen martyrs. They laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial and offered prayers for their elevation. During the visit, they inspected training contingents and praised the professionalism and preparedness of the Riot Management Police.



personnel, honest in protecting public life and property. The officers also reviewed residential barracks and facilities. Addressing the personnel, Additional IGP Khurram Shakoor assured prompt resolution of Saifi and SP Police their concerns and urged them to remain vigilant, dedicated, and ing the visit.

Landhi Residents Demand Urgent Action on Garbage and Hazards

By Zafar Alam Malik

KARACHI: Landhi's 36 G Main Road, located in front of Nabena School, has become a cause for concern due to a large pile of garbage and an open pit posing risks to residents. Many families, especially at night, accidentally fall into the pit and suffer injuries. Additionally, this unsafe area



has unfortunately become a spot for unwanted incidents. Residents kindly appeal to the relevant authorities and the TMO to take prompt action to clean the area and repair the pit to ensure the safety and peace of the community.

Flood-Hit Punjab Reports 33,000 New Disease Cases in Just 24 Hours



The number of patients in Punjab's flood-affected areas has continued to rise sharply, with health officials warning that cases of illness are likely to increase further.

In the past 24 hours alone, more than 33,000 people reported various diseases, adding to a total of 755,000 patients since the floods began.

According to the Punjab Health Department, the past 24 hours saw 5,000 cases of respiratory problems, 4,300 of fever, and 4,000 of skin allergies.

Additionally, 700 patients were treated for eye infections, while 1,900 cases of diarrhoea were recorded.—RT/Agency

Official Report Denies Roof Collapses, Dam Breaks or Bridge Damage in Lahore Flood



LAHORE: The Lahore district administration has issued a comprehensive report on the recent floods, confirming that over 82,000 people and dozens of villages across the city's five tehsils were affected. According to the findings, 26 villages in City, Ravi, Allama Iqbal, Raiwind, and Wagah tehsils were impacted, with Ravi suffering the highest number of affected villages. In total, 82,952 people were directly affected by the flooding. Relief operations were carried out on a large scale, with 7,888 people provided transport to safe areas, while 36,658 individuals trapped in floodwaters were successfully evacuated. Fortunately, no deaths were reported, though three people sustained injuries. The damage to infrastructure remained minimal, with only one road affected, while no bridges, dams, or roofs were damaged.—RT/Agency

Gujranwala Police Nab Illegal Liquor Haul in Sialkot

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Patrolling Police Post Civic in District Sialkot took action against a notorious liquor supplier named Natash, confiscating 30 bottles of provincial liquor. Under the direction of SP Patrolling Sohail Fazil and DSP Patrolling Malik Atta, specialized teams are actively targeting criminal elements involved in ille-



gal alcohol distribution. a top priority to ensure SP Sohail Fazil emphasized that creating a safe and secure future for the younger alcohol-free society is generation.

Social Leaders Rally to Aid Flood-Ravaged Lasi and Bheel Communities

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: During recent torrential rains, the Lasi and Bheel communities living in makeshift settlements near Thado Nadi in Gadap City were severely affected. Their food, belongings, and valuables were swept away by flash floods. Upon learning of the tragedy, social leaders including KMC President Town Municipal Corporation Noor Hassan Jokhio and Taro Mal Kirpalani visited the victims, offered financial aid, and relocated them to safer



areas. Their humanitarian efforts won the hearts of the locals. Speaking to District Press Cliv Malik, they emphasized that help was purely out of compassion, without any personal gain.

Widow Fights Back Against Illegal Seizure of Karachi Home

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Widow Mumtaz Bibi, from Allah Bux Goth, protested outside East Karachi Press Club after her brothers-in-law forcibly seized her home, threatening her and her two children. Despite com-



plaints to police officials, no action has been taken. She accused corrupt Site Super Highway police of collusion and demanded intervention to reclaim her house and ensure her family's safety. Authorities have yet to respond.

KMC East Launches Massive Anti-Encroachment Drive, Clears Key Karachi Route

By Dildar Seeloo

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) East launched a major anti-encroachment operation from Meteorology to Safoora Chowk, clearing

illegal stalls and structures blocking roads and footpaths. Led by Additional Director Ali Alamdaar, Deputy Director Junaid Raza, and Inspector Aqeel Ahmed Hingorjo, the drive used heavy machinery to re-



store public access. Alamdaar warned shopkeepers at Johar Commercialplex to remove encroachments immediately, stating the campaign would continue strictly, with no leniency shown.

DC Narowal Praised for Swift and Effective Flood Relief

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: A graceful ceremony was organized by the Hafiz Abdul Rehman Trust (Registered) at the office of National Press Registered to honour Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza for his commendable relief work during recent floods. The event was attended by prominent personalities from different walks of life, including lawyers, social activists, and community leaders. Speakers such as Abid Mahmood Butt, Muzamil Hafeez Babar, Pir Arshad Owaisi, and others lauded the DC's tireless ef-



orts, transparency, and commitment to public service in challenging circumstances. They said his hands-on approach and swift response not only brought relief to flood-affected families but also set a high standard of governance. A special shield was presented to Syed Hassan Raza in recognition of his services. In his concluding remarks, the Deputy Commissioner thanked the Trust and attendees, reaffirming his dedication to serving the public and continuing the mission of welfare and transparency in administration.

EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Once again the ICC has shamelessly let India blasphemize Cricket with its poisonous politics

Cricket, once called the gentleman's game, is being dragged through the mud by India's intoxication with hatred, petty politics, and ethnocentric arrogance. The shameful spectacle during the Asia Cup 2025 clash—where India's players refused to shake hands with Pakistan's team, allegedly at the behest of match referee Andy Pycroft—was not merely an unsporting act. It was a brazen assault on the very soul of cricket.

When even India's own Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann publicly ridicules the national team for its childish antics, it is clear this was no victory. Yes, Pakistan may have lost on the scoreboard, but in the eyes of the cricketing world,

India disgraced itself as the real loser. The refusal



to perform the simplest gesture of sportsmanship—the handshake—was a declaration of venom, not valor.

What is even more sickening is the International Cricket Council's (ICC) deafening silence and refusal to act. Instead of defending the game's traditions and penalizing those responsible, the ICC has once again bent to India's political weight. By rejecting Pakistan's rightful demand to remove

Pycroft, the ICC has proven itself complicit in letting India blasphemize cricket. The governing body has become nothing more than a spineless bystander, hiding behind bureaucracy while the game it is meant to safeguard is mutilated before millions.

This is not just about Pakistan versus India. This is about whether cricket still stands for integrity, respect, and brotherhood—or whether it has become a hostage to India's drunkenness on hate. If cricket's custodians refuse to act, the spirit of the game dies a little more with every ball bowled. The world must decide: do we allow India's venom to define cricket, or do we reclaim the gentleman's game from this pit of petty politics?

THE HEARTLAND



PPP MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro Leads Larkana Team in Flood Readiness Inspection at Moria Loop Bund

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's political secretary and Larkana MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro, along with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa and other officials, visited the Moria Loop Bund and Burra Patan to review flood preparations. Chief Engineer Mukhtiar Abro briefed them on the current water flow and embankment status. MPA Soomro said that heavy floodwaters from India have caused severe damage in Punjab, submerging many areas, with an expected inflow of 1.1 to 1.15 million cusecs



into the Indus River. The Sindh government and Irrigation Department have prepared for a super flood by reinforcing embankments, including a 100-foot stone wall at the sensitive Moria Loop Bund. Water discharge at Sukkur Barrage is currently at 518,000 cusecs. Soomro emphasized that the

flood-affected people of Punjab are like brothers to Sindh and praised Chairman Bilawal for suspending all party activities until relief efforts are completed. He also welcomed the closer ties between prominent Bhutto families, hoping that their unity would strengthen the region politically.

PPP Unveils Fresh Cultural Wing Leadership in Matiari



By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Under the leadership of Sindh Government spokesperson MPA Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman's coordinator Ghulam Akbar Bhutto, the PPP held a ceremony at PS-57 Public Relations Office to welcome new office-bearers of the party's Cultural Wing in Matiari. The new leaders were honored with

shawls, ajraks, and flower garlands in the presence of senior PPP leaders and workers. Speakers praised the party leadership for strengthening the organization in the district and urged the new appointees to work hard to support PPP candidates in the upcoming elections, aiming to bring Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the position of Prime Minister.

Sindh Civil Servants Stage Major Uprising Against Pension Cuts and Pay Reforms

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Thousands of civil servants across Sindh, led by the Sindh Employees Alliance (SEA), have launched a major protest against recent government austerity policies, bringing government services across the province to a near standstill. The strike began in Hyderabad and quickly spread, paralyzing administrative and educational activities. The protesters demand the rollback of the new contributory pension scheme introduced under the Sindh Civil Servants (Amendment) Act, 2024, which replaces the traditional defined-benefit pension with a contributory model, significantly



reducing retirement security. Other demands include restoring old pension benefits slashed under austerity, reviving job quotas for families of deceased employees, continuing group insurance payments after retirement, and substantial salary and pension increases to match soaring inflation. Protesters criticized the government for imposing tough austerity

on employees while granting massive pay hikes to parliamentarians, calling it a glaring hypocrisy. Despite sporadic clashes with police, the protesters remain united and determined to continue until their demands are met, challenging the provincial government to negotiate or face prolonged disruption of public services.

HESCO Ramps Up Crackdown on Power Theft and Defaulters Across Sindh

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Under the strict directives of HESCO Chief Executive Officer Faizullah Dahri, the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has ramped up its crackdown on electricity theft and non-payment of dues across multiple districts in Sindh. With support from the DSU, recent operations were conducted in key sub-divisions including Shaheed Umeed Ali, Citizen Colony, Talhar, Nawabshah I & II, Khipiro, Mirpurkhas City, and Mirwah Gorchani, resulting in the disconnection of 225 illegal connections, seizure of 1,273 meters of PVC wires, and recovery of over Rs. 2.7



million in dues. Since the launch of the anti-theft campaign on January 19, 2025, HESCO has disconnected 23,197 illegal connections, arrested 650 culprits, cut 1,443 meters, removed over 158,000 meters of illegal wires, disconnected 684 transformers, and recovered more than Rs. 561.2 million. Subdivisions continue to make local announcements urging residents to clear dues or face strict legal action, including arrest. HESCO emphasized that electricity theft is a national crime and will no longer be tolerated. The company also urged consumers to participate in open courts, pay bills on time, and support efforts to improve service quality and eliminate theft entirely.

Books Hold Their Ground in Digital Age, Sindh University Scholars Stress



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Scholars, writers, and educationists emphasized the enduring importance of books at a lecture titled "Relevance and Importance of Books in the Modern Age" held at the Institute of Sindhology, University of Sindh Jamshoro. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Khalil ur Rehman Khumbati highlighted the success of the university's discounted book fair, where over 100,000

books were sold. He stressed the need for research-based publications to preserve language and culture. Renowned writer Javed Raza urged families to cultivate libraries at home and warned that without reading, both language and wisdom would fade. The event saw wide participation and concluded with a call to revive the reading culture in Sindh. Certificates were awarded to Sindhology staff for their efforts in organizing the fair.

Sindh Abadgar Forum Meets SUP President Zain Shah on Worsening Farm Crisis

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A high-level delegation of the Sindh Abadgar Forum, led by Chairman Dr. Afzal Arain, met with Sindh United Party (SUP) President Syed Zain Shah at his residence in Karachi to discuss the worsening agricultural crisis in Sindh. The meeting focused on key issues including the declining agricultural economy, flood-induced damages, poor law and order, and government negligence. Syed Zain Shah highlighted that Sindh's economy heavily depends on agriculture, and the prosperity of farmers is crucial for economic stability, food security, and



employment generation. He criticized the unfair distribution of water and high farming costs, which have pushed growers into deep distress. The delegation, which included anti-agriculture policies, stressing that strengthening agriculture is essential for government to adopt both provincial and national progress.

Free Eye Camp Organized for Lawyers and Court Staff at Hyderabad High Court

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences organized a free eye camp at the Hyderabad High Court Bar, providing comprehensive eye exams, free glasses, and medicines to lawyers and court employees from Hyderabad and nearby districts. Led by Advocate Ashraf Ali Lohar, President of the High Court Bar Association, the camp aimed to prevent eye diseases and raise awareness



among the legal community. Key office bearers and members expressed gratitude to the medical staff, public health within the who were honored with legal fraternity.

PPP Leaders in Sanghar Pay Tribute to Late Veteran Roshanuddin Junejo

By Khadim Hussain Khaskheli

SANGHAR: PPP district leaders of Sanghar, including District President Ali Hassan Hingorjo, District Secretary Imran Dhamrah, PPP Cultural Wing President Sattar Khaskheli, and SPSP District President Khadim Hussain

Khaskheli, in a joint statement expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of veteran PPP leader and former MNA Roshanuddin Junejo. They remembered him as a prominent political figure who upheld the legacy passed on by his father, the late Shah-nawaz Khan Junejo, with great dedication. The sudden loss is a significant void for the party and Sanghar district. They prayed to Allah Almighty to forgive the departed soul and grant him a place in His mercy, extending heartfelt condolences and prayers for patience to the Junejo family in this difficult time.

Thatta Model Criminal Court Orders SHO's Removal Over Illegal Detention

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: In a significant verdict, the Model Criminal Trial Court Thatta has ordered the immediate removal of SHO Ayaz Bughio of Gharho Police Station for the unlawful detention of a 14-year-old boy. The court directed that the SHO should not be reappointed anywhere within the district. Furthermore, strict action has been mandated against a total of eight police personnel involved in the case.

REGIONAL TIMES

SPORTS



World Athletics Championship Unveils Javelin Throw Qualifying Groups



JAPAN: The groups for the javelin throw qualifying round at the World Athletics Championship have been announced, with Pakistan's Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem and India's Neeraj Chopra placed in separate groups.

Arshad Nadeem will compete in Group B, with his qualifying round scheduled to start at 4:45 PM Pakistan Standard Time.

Group B also includes Indian athletes Rohit Yadav and Yashvir Singh, along with World No. 3 Anderson Peters, former world champion Julius Yego, and Luis Mauricio da Silva.

According to the qualification rules, any athlete throwing 84.50 meters or more will automatically advance to the final. Additionally, scheduled for the next day, the top 12 performers overall will also qualify.

Ahead of the event, Arshad Nadeem appealed to his fans for support, saying: "You all know I have come to Tokyo for the World Athletics Championship. Tomorrow, I will compete in the qualifying round. Pray for me that I perform well and qualify for the final."

In 2025, Julian Weber of Germany has recorded the season's longest throw at 91.51 meters.

While Neeraj Chopra has surpassed 90 meters, Nadeem's best this year is 86.40 meters, achieved in May — his only competition since the 2024 Paris Olympics.

For the unversed, the qualifying round will start on September 17, with the final, scheduled for the next day. —Agency

Doping Scandal Jeopardizes India's Olympic Dreams and Athletes' Futures



Indian sport is battling to shake off its reputation for being one of the world's worst doping offenders as the country pushes an ambitious bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has raised concerns about the number of Indian competitors taking performance-enhancing drugs and so too has the country's best-known athlete.

The 2021 Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra made a blunt admission earlier this year.

"Doping is a big problem in India among our athletes," he told local media, saying they instead should "eat well, rest well and work hard".

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) last month formed a new anti-doping panel after the IOC flagged India's poor record.

The government has passed a new national anti-doping bill aiming to tighten enforcement, expand testing facilities and "ensure the highest standards of integrity" in sports.

"Obviously the IOC would want to make sure that in awarding the Games to a country, the host has a robust doping policy and governance," Michael Payne, former IOC marketing director, told AFP.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) lists India among the worst offenders among nations submitting more than 1,000 samples.

India's national anti-doping agency, NADA, insists the figures reflect more aggressive testing in the nation of 1.4 billion people.

From 5,606 samples collected in 2023, 213 came back positive.

The synthetic steroid stanozolol is the most widely used banned substance taken by Indian athletes, experts say. —Agency

Bangladesh Crush Afghanistan to Keep Super Four Hopes Alive

ABU DHABI: A disciplined bowling performance handed Bangladesh an eight-run victory over Afghanistan in the 9th match of the Asia Cup 2025 at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Set to chase 155, Afghanistan could score 140 before getting bowled out on the final delivery of the innings and thus succumbed to their first defeat in the eight-team tournament.

Experienced opener Rahmatullah Gurbaz remained the top-scorer with a cautious 35 off 31 deliveries, while all-rounders Azmatullah Omarzai (30) and Rashid Khan (20) made notable contributions down the order with brisk cameos.

Mustafizur Rahman led the bowling charge for Bangladesh with three wickets, while Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed and Taskin Ahmed chipped in with two each.

Bangladesh captain Litton Das's decision to bat first bore fruit as his team's batting unit yielded 154/5 in the allotted 20 overs.

The Tigers got off to a flying start to their innings, with their opening pair of Tanvir and Saif Hassan putting together a brisk 63 before



respectively, until eventually falling victim to Noor Ahmad in the 13th over. He remained the top-scorer for Bangladesh with 52 off 31 deliveries, studded with four fours and three sixes.

Middle-order batter Hridoy took the reins of Bangladesh's innings following Tanvir's departure and scored a 20-ball 26 until eventually falling victim to Azmatullah Omarzai in the penultimate over.

Jaker Ali and Nurul Hasan then added valuable runs at the backend, scoring 12 not out each.

For Afghanistan, Noor and Rashid picked up two wickets each, while Omarzai made one scalp. —Agency

Hong Kong Captain Murtaza Proud of Batters Despite Sri Lanka Defeat



DUBAI: Hong Kong captain Yasim Murtaza lauded his team's batting unit for their grit against Sri Lanka in the eighth match of the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat first in the must-win fixture, Hong Kong accumulated a decent total of 149/4 in their 20 overs, courtesy of Nizakat Khan's unbeaten half-century and Anshay Rath's anchoring 48-run knock.

In response, Sri Lanka had to make hard yards to amass the modest target, losing six wickets in the process.

Murtaza stood out with the ball for Hong Kong, returning figures of 2/37 in his four overs, which caused a major stir in the defending champions' pursuit as they slipped from 119/2 to 127/6 in the span of two overs.

But

Hasaranga's counterattacking blitz steered Sri Lanka over the line after opening Patham Nissanka's 68-run knock, which laid a solid foundation.

Reflecting on the narrow defeat in their final Asia Cup 2025 match, Murtaza lauded the batting unit, especially opener Rath and veteran Nizakat, for stepping up against Sri Lanka, but rued that dropped catches cost them the game.

"I am really proud of the way the boys stood up today, especially in the batting. Nizakat and Anshay, their partnership was crucial. We missed a few chances, but in the end, the way the bowlers and batters (played), very proud of them," said Murtaza.

"We wanted 150-160, so to get what we wanted, we dropped a few catches and that cost us the game," he added. —Agency

Ricky Ponting Finally Breaks Silence on Viral India-Pakistan Handshake Row



Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has broken his silence over a statement falsely attributed to him on social media regarding the no-handshake controversy during the India-Pakistan Asia Cup 2025 clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

A fabricated comment, widely circulated online, suggested that Ponting had criticised India for avoiding a post-match handshake with Pakistan.

"This match will be remembered forever, India the big loser. Pakistan's gesture to shake hands despite defeat has immortalised them as true champions of the gentleman's game, while India remains the perpetual sore loser," the rumoured comment read.

However, the 50-year-old

clarified through social media platform 'X' that he had made no such remarks.

"I am aware of certain comments being attributed to me on social media. Please know that I categorically did not make those statements and indeed have made no public comment about the Asia Cup at all," Ponting wrote.

Meanwhile, on the field, India clinched the high-octane encounter by restricting Pakistan to 127-9 before chasing the target with seven wickets in hand inside 16 overs.

Suryakumar Yadav sealed the victory with a six, after which he and teammate Shivam Dube exchanged a hug and handshake before heading straight to the dressing room.

Notably, Indian players avoided any handshake with the opposition.

In contrast, Pakistan's players shook hands among themselves before returning to their dressing room.

The Pakistan team even waited for their opponents for the customary gesture, but the Indian players closed the dressing room gate instead.

The snub echoed an earlier incident during the toss, where neither Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha nor his Indian counterpart offered a handshake.

Following the match, Salman also skipped the post-match presentation ceremony. Pakistan coach Mike Hesson addressed the media, expressing disappointment over India's actions.

"Obviously, we were ready to shake hands at the end of the game. We were disappointed that our opposition didn't do that." —Agency

Phillies Crush Dodgers to Seal NL East Title



ANGELES: J.T. Realmuto's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning brought in a go-ahead run, Kyle Schwarber and Bryce Harper each homered as the visiting Philadelphia Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers secured the National League East title.

The Phillies started the 10th with Harrison Bader at second base, and Schwarber lined out to second base before Bryce Harper was intentionally walked by Dodgers' pitcher Blake Treinen.

With runners on first and second, Bader and Harper successfully executed a double steal to set up Realmuto's sacrifice fly to right field that brought home the winning run.

Los Angeles started the game with Anthony Banda instead of right-hander Emmet Sheehan, but Banda surrendered a home run to Schwarber in the first inning, his NL-best 53rd of the season.

Mookie Betts tied the game 1-1 for the Dodgers in the third when he hit the first of his two sacrifice flies.

The Dodgers scored two runs to lead 3-1 in the fifth inning. Max Muncy hit a lead-off home run to start the inning, his 18th, and Betts delivered a second sacrifice fly.

The Phillies rallied in the seventh inning to go ahead 4-3 thanks to Bryson Stott, who drove in an RBI single and Weston Wilson, who hit a two-run homer, his fifth, both against Jack Dreyer. —Agency

Ton-up Kapp, Brits hand South Africa dominant victory over Pakistan



South Africa clinched a commanding win in the opening match of the women's ODI series on Tuesday as unbeaten centuries from Marizanne Kapp and Tazmin Brits guided them to an eight-wicket triumph over Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Sidra Amin's resilient 121 not out could not prevent the defeat.

Set to chase 256, the Proteas women comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just two wickets and 10 balls to spare, courtesy of a monumental 216-run partnership for the third wicket between centuries Kapp and Brits.

The visitors, however, had a contrasting start to the pursuit as Sadia Iqbal cleaned up their captain, Laura Wolvaardt (four), on the third delivery of the second over with just five

runs on the board.

Following the early blow, Sune Luus joined Brits for a brisk 38-run partnership for the second wicket until falling victim to Rameen Shamim in the 10th over. She scored 30 off 35 deliveries with the help of seven fours.

Her dismissal followed a match-defining partnership as Kapp and Brits outlasted Pakistani bowlers to guide South Africa to a commanding victory.

Kapp remained the top-scorer for the Proteas women with an unbeaten 121 off 128 deliveries, studded with 13 fours and two sixes, while Brits made 101 not out from 121 balls, featuring nine boundaries.

For Pakistan, Sadia and Rameen could take a wicket apiece.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan accumulated 255/4 in their allotted 50 overs, courtesy of Sidra's anchoring century.

The hosts got off to a dismal start to their innings as they lost opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar (zero) in the second over with just three runs on the board.

Following the early setback, Sidra joined Muneeba in the middle, and the duo dominated the Proteas bowlers to add a record-setting 147-run partnership for the second wicket to put Pakistan in a comfortable position.

Ayabonga Khaka eventually broke the monumental stand in the 31st over when she trapped Muneeba lbw, who walked back after scoring 76 off 94 deliveries, laced with 11 boundaries.

Sidra was then involved in another crucial partnership for Pakistan when she, alongside Aliya Riaz, put together 68 runs for the third wicket until the latter got run out in the 43rd over. She scored 33 off 34 deliveries with the help of five fours. —Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

ENTERTAINMENT



Sabrina Carpenter Responds After Biker Gang Crowns Her the G.O.A.T.



Sabrina Carpenter has broken her silence after you for joining me in the club on short notice. As you all know, something happened over the weekend," adding, "I'm sure you heard about what I'm referring to. We need to talk about it."

However, Nicholas barges in with Sabrina's album poster, "Sabrina Carpenter dropped her new album, 'Man's Best Friend'."

Sabrina took to her Instagram Stories later and shared a comedic sketch featuring its tribute to her latest album, Man's Best Friend.

In the video, Dave began, "My brothers, thank you for joining me in the club on short notice. As you all know, something happened over the weekend," adding, "I'm sure you heard about what I'm referring to. We need to talk about it."

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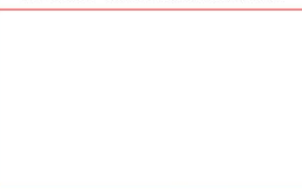
Coachella 2026 unveils its official lineup for the 2026 Music and Arts Festival.

Justin Bieber, Sabrina Carpenter, and Kajol G are all set to perform at the famous U.S. music festival, which will be held in April 2026.

Other artists who will perform at the musical festival include Teddy Swims, Central Sea, Sexy Red, Labyrinth, Ethel Cain, Dijon, The Strokers, Swan Lee, Labyrinth, Swan Lee, Royal Oates, David Byrne and Addison Rae.

As per schedule, Young Thug, Laufey, Iggy Pop, FKA Twigs,

Coachella 2026 Locks Justin Bieber, Sabrina Carpenter and More as Headliners



Coachella 2026 unveils its official lineup for the 2026 Music and Arts Festival.

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Kate Hudson Revives Her Most Iconic Movie Look at Star-Studded Emmy Party



Kate Hudson takes fans back to 2003 with her latest look!

On the red carpet at Warner Bros. Television Group's 77th Primetime Emmy Awards Nominees Celebration, the actress channeled her most iconic movie look.

Hudson stunned everyone as she donned a butter yellow gown that reminded fans of her unforgettable role as Andie Anderson in *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

For her look on September 13, 2025, Hudson opted for a dress featuring a sweetheart neckline, ribbed bustier cups, and a fitted bodice that flared at the knees, creating a nearly identical silhouette to the iconic gown she wore in the rom-com opposite Matthew McConaughey.

Moreover, the *Almost Famous* star paired the look with a boxy gold clutch, pointed gray heels, and soft glam.

In the movie, Hudson's outfit was designed by costume designer Karen Patch for the 2003 film.

Previously, she told Elle in an interview that "I have no idea where that dress is." However, in 2022, Kate Hudson said that she "loves" seeing fans recreate it.

Face of the Day

Name: Abdul
About Me: I'm a gaming enthusiast!
Location: Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Father's Heartbreaking Plea as Son Goes Missing from Bharia Village

By Osama Ayaz

KANDIARO: A 32-year-old man, Imran Solangi, has been mysteriously missing for the past 11 days after leaving his home in the village of Murad Solangi, located in Bharia Taluka. De-



spite efforts, there son.

has been out of his whereabouts. His father, Kamil Solangi, visited the Kandiaro Press Club and appealed to journalists, social activists, and relevant authorities for assistance in locating his missing son.

Hyderabad Woman Confronts Landlord Over Attempted Land Grab and Assault

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A woman named Naseeban, wife of Zaman and a resident of Hatri, staged a protest outside the Hyderabad Press Club, alleging that local landlord Taj Muhammad Chhalgari and his associates forcibly entered her home, assaulted women and children, and attempted to illegally occupy her plot. Despite filing a complaint at Hatri



Police Station, she claims no action has been taken. She also accused the landlord of issuing threats and beginning

construction on her land. Naseeban appealed to the authorities to take immediate action and ensure justice.

Thousands Mourn Former MNA Roshanuddin Junejo in Sanjar Khan Junejo Village Funeral

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The funeral prayers of former PPP MNA Roshanuddin Junejo were held in his native village Sanjar Khan Junejo, attended by thousands including prominent political leaders such as National Assembly Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, MNAs Salahuddin Junejo, Abdul Qadir Gilani, Sadiq Memon, Provincial Ministers



Zulfiqar Ali Shah and Makhdoom Mehboobul Zaman, and other dignitaries. The late leader was laid to rest at the historic cemetery amid

tearful farewells from family, tribal elders, and locals. Condolences continue to pour in at the Junejo family residence.

Grand Milad Ceremony Draws Massive Crowds in Village Soofan Shah

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: A grand Milad ceremony was held in the village Soofan Shah near Digri, where praises and salutations were recited in honor of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), filling the atmosphere with devotion. Organized by Haji Muhammad Isa Chelvo and his sons Ghulam Mustafa, Sajjad Ali, and Noor Ahmed, the event



featured speeches by Maulana Muhammad Bakhs Khaskheli, Maulana Azam Qadri, and

others, who described the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a shining example for humanity.

Family Issues Urgent Appeal as Young Mateen Ahmed Disappears in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Nine-year-old Mateen Ahmed, son of Ahmed Din Soomro, resident of Jungal Mor, Qadri Mohalla, has been missing since early morning. According to his family, Mateen went out to get a mobile phone but did



not return. Despite a search, no trace of him has been found. Following the complaint by his mother, an FIR has been registered at the A-Section police station. The family is deeply worried and urges authorities to help find the missing child.

Bibi Aseefa Dental College Larkana Opens Applications for House Jobs

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Medical Superintendent of Chandka Medical College Hospital has announced that graduates of Bibi Aseefa Dental

College, Batch-9 (Session 2025-2026), can apply for the second term of six-month house job training. The last date to submit applications is 22nd September 2025, with interviews

scheduled for 27th September at 10:00 AM. Training begins on 1st October 2025. No TA/DA will be given, and no separate interview call letters will be issued.

Tragedy Strikes: 17-Year-Old Girl Found Hanging in Suspected Suicide

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In a tragic incident near Sheikh Bhirkio, a 17-year-old girl, Salma Bheel, daugh-

ter of Mangal Bheel, was found hanging from a tree in nearby farmland. Police are investigating and say the true cause will be determined after medical reports.

teress and disagreement at home as potential reasons. Police are investigating and say the true cause will be determined after medical reports.

Roads of Death in Qazi Ahmed: Teen Killed, Three Critical in Four Crashes

By Sajid Ali Anar

QAZI AHMED: Four separate road accidents rocked Qazi Ahmed, leaving one dead and three seriously injured. A horrific collision on the bypass road saw 15-year-old Latif Solangi of Faqir Abdul Nabi Colony crushed to death by a speeding trailer while crossing the road. Mean-

while, three others—youth Junaid Ahmed, elderly Misri Dahri, and Moor Solangi—were badly injured and rushed to Taluka Hospital. Junaid and Misri were later shifted to Nawabshah in critical condition. The victim's body was handed to family after legal formalities, plunging the neighborhood into grief.

Major Cleanup Drive Launched in Dadu on Chairman Pir Danish Ali's Orders

By Javed Laghari

DADU: On the strict directives of Chairman Pir Danish Ali, a rapid citywide sanitation campaign is underway in Dadu. A dedicated complaint cell has also been set up at the Municipal Committee Office for citizens to report hygiene issues for immediate action.



Led by tireless focal person Haji Liaquat Soomro, along with Municipal Officer Javed Ahmed Rahupoto, CMO Mukhtiar Ahmed Rahupoto, and team members Alauddin Mangi and Rajab Ali

Channa, the operation is progressing swiftly. PPP Coordinator Imdad Hussain Dawchoha and activists Aslam Chohan and Tahir Hussain Laghari were also present on-site.

Citizens Warn of Office Siege Over Flood Mismanagement



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Outraged by weeks of stagnant rainwater in areas like Talpur Town, Ahmed Sher Colony, and Karimabad, residents, and lawyers staged a powerful protest and sit-in at Hyderabad-Badin Road, bringing regional traffic to a halt.

Women now cook on rooftops, families sleep on rooftops, schools are shut, and disease is spreading. Protesters warned of a full siege of the Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Committee offices if immediate drainage isn't carried out. Authorities gave hollow assurances; residents demand action now.

Cow Theft Ignites Bloody Clash: One Dead, Six Injured



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Near Dadra Shakh, a deadly clash broke out between the Laghari and Nizamani clans over a recovered stolen cow. Ramzan Laghari (45) was killed on the spot by axe blows,

while six villagers were seriously injured. Tensions remain high, and both sides have yet to file formal complaints. Locals demand immediate arrests and FIR registration. The clash, despite the cow's return, shows deepening rifts in the area, where fear and unrest now loom large.

Three Jatoi Youth Walk Free in Moro Tragedy Case

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In a dramatic turn, the Sindh High Court Sukkur has granted bail and ordered the release of three young men—Amjad Jatoi, Javed Jatoi, and Muhammad Yousuf Jatoi—arrested in the controversial Moro tragedy case. Renowned lawyer Farooq Ahmed Jatoi represented the accused, all affiliated with the National Peoples Party

(Jatoi Group). The youths were allegedly abducted from their homes in Sindh Colony, Moro, by local police and CIA, who looted their homes and later falsely implicated them. Their bail was earlier denied by the ATC Nowsheero Feroze, but today, justice prevailed. The trio, currently jailed in District Prison Nowsheero Feroze, are expected to be released shortly.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

US and China Strike Landmark Framework on TikTok Ownership

MADRID: A framework deal has been reached between China and the U.S. for the ownership of popular social video platform TikTok. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after weekend trade talks in Spain.



Bessent said in a press conference after the latest round of trade talks between the world's two largest economies concluded in Madrid that U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping would speak Friday to possibly finalize the deal. He said the objective was to switch to U.S. ownership from China's ByteDance.

"We are not going to talk about the commercial terms of the deal," Bessent said. "It's between two private parties. But the commercial terms have been agreed upon."

The meeting in Madrid is the fourth round of trade talks between U.S. and Chinese officials since Trump

launched a tariff war on Chinese goods in April. A fifth round of negotiations is likely to happen "in the coming weeks," Bessent said, with both governments planning for a possible summit between Trump and Xi later this year or early next year to solidify a trade agreement.

Charlie Kirk shooting suspect charged with aggravated murder, other crimes

US: The suspect in the murder of prominent US conservative political activist Charlie Kirk has been formally charged with his murder, prosecutors in Utah announced Tuesday.



Kirk, a close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot dead last week during a speaking event on a Utah university campus. He was the founder of the influential conservative youth political group Turning Point USA.

Charlie Kirk under circumstances that created a great risk of death to others." Robinson, age 22, with the following crimes: Utah County attorney Jeff Gray told a press conference. "Count one, aggravated murder, a capital offense, for intentionally or knowingly causing the death of

China replaces Germany in top 10 of UN's most innovative nations

CHINA: China moved into the top 10 of the United Nations' annual ranking of most innovative countries for the first time on Tuesday, replacing Europe's largest economy, Germany, as firms in Beijing invest heavily in research and development.



Switzerland remained in first place, a position it has held since 2011, followed by Sweden and the United States, while China was in 10th place in the Global Innovation

Index (GII) survey of 139 economies that ranks them based on 78 indicators. China is on track to become the biggest R&D spender as it rapidly closes the gap in private sector financing, the GII showed. At the same time, the outlook for global innovation is clouded by declining investment, according to the survey. R&D growth is set to slow to 2.3% this year from 2.9% last year, which was its lowest since 2010 after the financial crisis.—RT/Agency

KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION

NOMINATION FOR KARACHI MEDAL

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has decided to award the Tamgha-e-Karachi (Medal of Karachi), along with a certificate and a cash prize every year, to individuals who have rendered valuable services to the city of Karachi in various fields of life. This initiative aims to establish a tradition of appropriately recognizing the contributions of heroes who play a vital role in the development, greatness, and beauty of Karachi. By highlighting their achievements, the public especially the youth—will be inspired to serve their city.

For the Tamgha-e-Karachi (Medal of Karachi), individuals will be selected from among those who have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Literature and culture | • Medical services |
| • Journalism | • Solid waste management |
| • Production | • Education |
| • Acting and voiceover | • Vocational training |
| • Research | • Engineering |
| • Urban planning | • Sports |
| • Municipal services | • Recreation |
| • Fire brigade | • Transport |
| • Police | • Industry and trade |
| • Rangers | • And other sectors |

Nominations for the Tamgha-e-Karachi will be received through prominent institutions of Karachi, including The Commissioner Karachi, Inspector General of Police, Director General Rangers, President, Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Secretary, Press Club, General Manager, Pakistan Television Corporation and other relevant organizations.

According to the officially established procedure, in the initial phase, nominations for the Tamgha-e-Karachi including a detailed account of services rendered in the relevant field must be verified and endorsed by any one of the aforementioned institutions. After verification, the nomination applications can be submitted to the following address by October 31, 2025 to the office of the Senior Director, Culture and Sports, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) at the Faizi Rahmeen Art Gallery, opposite Shaheen Complex, M.R. Kiyani Road, Karachi.

Senior Director
Culture and Sports
Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

KMC/MM/0069/2025

METRO KARACHI

Sharjeel Promises Relief and Support as Sindh Battles Floods

KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that the provincial government remained fully committed to providing relief during natural disasters and emergencies, ensuring that affected citizens are not left alone in times of need.

In his official statement, Memon said that ongoing relief operations include the safe relocation of flood-affected individuals, along with arrangements for food, drinking water, medical care, and livestock protection. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to standing by its people during crises.



All government departments, district administrations, and rescue teams are working around the clock to safeguard lives and property. He shared that high-level flooding is occurring at Guddu and Sukkur barrages, while Kotri is experiencing low-level flooding. The latest figures show inflow of 624,456 cusecs and outflow 594,936 cusecs at Guddu Barrage. At Sukkur Barrage, the inflow has been recorded at 560,890 cusecs while outflow is 508,830 cusecs.—RT

Karachi School Celebrates 100% Matric Triumph, Hails Talent and Dedication

KARACHI: Sarwar Education Trust Secondary School, Karachi, celebrated a 100% success rate in the 2025 Matric Exams with a vibrant prize distribution ceremony. Attended by proud parents, teachers, and guests like Khan Mameen Siddiqui and Madam Saima Khan, the event featured patriotic performances and heartfelt speeches. Principal Muhammad Javid praised 20 years of continued success, crediting dedicated teachers and hardworking students. Honored students included Saleh, Saba, and Noor Fatima. The ceremony concluded with prayers, national slogans, and a call to build an educated, values-driven society. "Pakistan Zindabad!" echoed with pride.—RT/Agency



Pakistani Textiles Storm Shanghai, Winning Global Spotlight

KARACHI: Ten leading Pakistani textile firms impressed global buyers at the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics and Yarn Expo Autumn 2025. With seven firms at Intertextile and three at Yarn Expo, they showcased innovative products to thousands of international attendees. Industry leaders hailed the event as a powerful gateway to influence in the global textile scene and drive to boost exports. Delegates reported strong buyer interest, reinforcing Pakistan's growing trade ties.—RT



Business Revolt Erupts as Sky-High Interest Rates Endanger Economy

KARACHI: Faisal Moiz Khan, President of NKATI, slammed the State Bank's decision to keep the policy rate at 11%, warning it will stifle investment, hurt exports, and derail economic recovery. He urged a shift to single-digit rates to spur industrial growth, employment, and price stability. Khan emphasized that ignoring business needs contradicts national efforts to stabilize the economy. He called for urgent monetary reforms to reduce borrowing costs and support sustainable growth.—RT

KIHD's Milad-un-Nabi Gathering Draws Huge Crowds, Sacred Relics on Display

KARACHI: The Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases (KIHD) held its annual Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) gathering at Markazi Sadat Amroha Community Centre, drawing doctors, professors, and the public for a night of deep spiritual reflection. Renowned Naat Khawans, including Zee-shan Qadri and Faisal Naqshbandi, regaled the gathered faithful with the prophetic verses of the Prophet (SAW), while Pir Syed Firasat Ali Shah delivered the keynote speech and dua. Attendees witnessed sacred relics, including Mo'e Mubarak, and received blessings. Prof. Dr. Riffat Sultana thanked all participants and hosted a dinner, marking the event's soulful conclusion.—RT



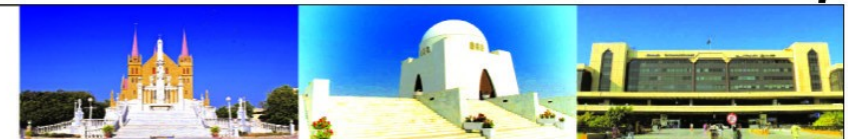
Water Line Bursts on University Road, Karachi Drowns in Traffic Chaos

KARACHI: A burst water line on University Road left Karachi commuters struggling as overflowing drinking water inundated the busy thoroughfare on Tuesday. The leakage turned the road into a waterlogged stretch, severely disrupting traffic flow and causing hardship for motorists and pedestrians alike. Commuters criticized the negligence of the concerned authorities, pointing out that poor maintenance and delayed response have become a recurring issue in the city. The incident not only created traffic jams but also raised concerns about wastage of clean drinking water. Citizens urged immediate repairs and preventive measures to avoid similar disruptions in the future.—RT



Sindh Rolls Out Lifesaving HPV Vaccine Drive for 4.1 Million Girls

KARACHI: The Sindh Government has launched a groundbreaking cervical cancer vaccination campaign, aiming to immunize 4.1 million girls aged 9-14 from 15-27 September 2025. The free HPV vaccine, delivered via schools, clinics, and outreach efforts, could prevent thousands of future deaths from one of Pakistan's deadliest yet preventable cancers. With 3,200 women dying annually from cervical cancer and low screening rates, officials urge parents to act now. The World Health Organization backs the vaccine, already adopted in over 100 countries. "This is a bold step to protect our daughters' futures," said Sindh health officials.—RT/Agency



CM Murad's Double Strike: Dacoits Routed in Katcha, Water Mafia Broken in Karachi



KARACHI: Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah declared the elimination of Katcha dacoits a top priority, ordering intensified operations as floods push out bandits. Since October 2024, 159 dacoits have been killed, 823 arrested, and 962 weapons recovered in over 1,100 operations. He also called for a full-scale development plan for Katcha post-floods. Meanwhile, in Karachi, Shah launched a crackdown on illegal water tankers—243 hydrants demolished, 103 arrests made, and Rs 60 million in increased revenue. With 3,200 tankers QR-coded, Shah vowed zero tolerance until both in and outflow operations are eradicated.—RT

Karachi Groom Who Vanished on Wedding Day Returns Home Safely



KARACHI: The mystery surrounding the disappearance of a groom on his wedding day in Karachi has been resolved. Police said Jehanzeb later confessed that the marriage had been arranged by his family and that he was under severe mental stress regarding the relationship. "After leaving home, I spent days wandering the streets," he reportedly told investigators. An abduction case had earlier been registered at Zaman Town Police Station on the complaint of his father, Waseem. Police confirmed they are still questioning Jehanzeb to close the case formally.—RT/Agency

Transporters Stage Protest Against Customs at Hub Chowki



Hub Chowki: Transporters staged a protest on Tuesday against the Customs check post at Hub Chowki, disrupting traffic on the main Quetta-Karachi highway. The protesters blocked the road, halting the flow of traffic between Quetta and Karachi. They accused customs officials of demanding bribes and harassing goods-carrying vehicles, instead of targeting smugglers. Tensions escalated when the scuffle broke out between the protesters and customs personnel. Reports indicate that a physical altercation occurred, followed by baton charges and aerial firing by customs officials to disperse the crowd. The situation created a state of chaos, with the area resembling a battlefield. Police later arrived at the scene and managed to bring the situation under control. However, the traffic system between Quetta and Hub remained severely disrupted for several hours.—RT/Agency

Karachi Road Crash Claims One Life



KARACHI: One person was killed when the motorcycle he was riding on was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Karachi on late Monday night. Road accidents are quite common in Pakistan, making it one of the most hazardous countries. Pakistan has one of the world's worst records for fatal traffic accidents, blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.—RT/Agency

Saeed Ghani Warns Climate Threat Could Devastate Pakistan's Date Industry



KARACHI: At the 2nd Pakistan International Date Festival in Karachi, Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani warned that climate change is severely impacting Pakistan's date industry. Speaking at the Expo Centre, he praised Sindh's high-quality date production and called for innovation and stronger exports. Ghani thanked the UAE for supporting the event, which connected local farmers with global experts. The festival also highlighted research efforts and product development. Ghani condemned Israel's aggression against Qatar and urged Muslim unity. Officials from the TDAP and UAE also addressed the ceremony.—RT

Bin Qasim Police Bust 15-Member Theft Ring Near Steel Mill

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Bin Qasim Police arrested a 15-member gang involved in stealing iron, copper, brass, and steel from the vicinity of the Steel Mill following a tip-off. A large quantity of stolen material was recovered. SHO Bin Qasim, Faisal Rafiq, told media that the arrested suspects identified as Ehsan, Irfan, Farooq Shah, Abdul Rahim, Saleem, Amjad, Ehsan Ali, Gulam Nabi, Gulam Yaseen, Qurban, Usman, Shahid, Fazal, Abdul Salam, and Abdul Rahim, were actively involved in the theft. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.



Muddasir Alam Joins CAP as Vice Chairman to Champion Consumers' Rights

KARACHI: The Consumers Association of Pakistan (CAP) has appointed media veteran Muddasir Alam as Vice Chairman of its Media Committee. With over two decades of experience in journalism, sales, and marketing, including key roles at Times, and Pakistan Daily Ummat, Daily Today — Alam brings strategic vision and leadership. Currently Director of Sales and Marketing, he will now spearhead CAP's media outreach to elevate consumer rights across Pakistan. CAP hails his appointment as a bold step toward greater public engagement and advocacy.—RT



Pakistan-Malaysia Trade Ties Hit New High as PMFA Awards Spotlight \$1.5B Partnership

KARACHI: At the 4th PMFA Appreciation Awards, Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal and Malaysia's Consul General H.E. Herman Hardynata Ahmad hailed growing Pakistan-Malaysia economic ties. With \$1.5B in bilateral trade, both sides pledged to boost B2B links and revisit trade agreements. PMFA President Shahid Jawad Qureshi emphasized opportunities under Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship. A tribute was paid to Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and top business leaders were honored for driving regional trade, investment, and cooperation across key sectors including rice, palm oil, pharmaceuticals, and machinery.—RT



Haji Ali Hassan Zardari Orders Immediate Prisoner Release, Promises Sweeping Jail Reforms

KARACHI — Sindh's Provincial Minister for Works & Services and Prisons, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, has issued a bold directive to immediately release all prisoners eligible for bail or those who have completed their sentences. During a surprise inspection of District Jail Malir, he instructed the jail superintendent to expedite the freeing of inmates as per court orders.—RT



Nationwide Crackdown on Illegal Immigrants Nets 297 in Sohrab Goth

By Fida Hussain Panhwar
Sohrab Goth and deported to their home countries. SSP Abdul Baqi Rind reported that raids were conducted in neighborhoods such as Nazimabad Colony, Chhipa Garden, Star Gate, Yaseenabad Colony, and Machhar Colony. Authorities are cooperating nationwide.

Nation Pays Tribute to Martyr Usman Ghani

By Habib-ud-Din Jundi
Ghani's activism led to repeated arrests, beginning with a protest speech at MCB's head office. His final arrest came in 1991, when he helped form APSEWAC, a national alliance against privatization. Following a successful nationwide strike, he was detained from MCB's head office. The author was also arrested days later during a protest in Ghani's support. Both were imprisoned in Karachi Central Jail, only released after the Nawaz Sharif government privatized MCB. Usman Ghani's legacy remains a symbol of unwavering commitment to labor rights — a martyr in the true sense.



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

—Albert Einstein

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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2025

Trump Slaps \$15 Billion Defamation Suit on New York Times

US President Donald Trump sued the New York Times, four of its reporters, and publisher Penguin Random House for at least \$15 billion on claiming defamation and libel, and citing reputational damage, a Florida court filing showed.

Trump's suit cites a series of New York Times articles, one an editorial prior to the 2024 presidential election, which said he was unfit for office, and a 2024 book published by Penguin titled "Lucky Loser: How Donald Trump Squandered His Father's Fortune and Created the Illusion of Success".

"Defendants maliciously



published the Book and the Articles knowing that these publications were filled with repugnant distortions and fabrications about President Trump," according to the filing lodged on in the US District Court, Middle District Florida.

The New York Times and Penguin did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside regular business hours.

The publications have harmed Trump's business and personal reputation, thereby causing massive

economic damage to his brand value and significant damage to his future financial prospects, Trump's lawyers said in the filing.

"The harm to the value of TMTG (Trump Media and Technology Group) stock is one example of how the Defendants' defamation has injured President Trump," said his lawyers, citing "a precipitous decline in the stock price."

TMTG stock has been under pressure in recent months fueled by worries about the end of a so-called lock-up period related to its stock market debut in March.

The filing comes after

Trump threatened last week to sue the New York Times for its reporting on an allegedly sexually suggestive note and drawing given to Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein, the disgraced financier and sex offender, died by suicide in a New York jail cell in 2019.

Trump has said he parted ways with Epstein before the financier's legal troubles became public in 2006.

"Today, I have the Great Honor of bringing a \$15 Billion Dollar Defamation and Libel Lawsuit against The New York Times," Trump said earlier in a post on his social media platform Truth Social.—RT/Agency

Tarar Slams India's Shameful Spillover of Hostility Into Sports

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar has said that India's irresponsible conduct has now extended to the sporting arena.

Information Minister Atta Tarar expressed these views during the launch of edited volume titled "Strategic Reckoning: Perspectives on Deterrence and Escalation Post-Pahalgam - May 2025" by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, in collaboration with the Center for Security Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR).

Tarar said that after suffering defeats on the battlefield, India is resorting to petty tactics in sports.

He added that Pakistan has exposed India's false propaganda and given a befitting response to its unprovoked aggression. He noted that Pakistan's achievements during the four-day war forced India to seek a cease-



fire.

The minister emphasized that Pakistan has always played a constructive role in ensuring sustainable peace in the region. He said the Modi government and the Hindutva ideology have faced a humiliating defeat, while India, despite being an aggressor, is trying to portray itself as a victim.

Tarar further said that the truth about incidents such as Pahalgam has been revealed before the world, and Pakistan had even offered independent investigations. "Our fight against terrorism is not

only for ourselves but also to ensure global safety," he added.

He underlined that a country violating international principles cannot feign victimhood. Pakistan, he said, strongly believes in peaceful coexistence and has played a crucial role in regional peace and stability.

Atta Tarar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir, stressing that the Kashmir issue must be resolved in line with UN resolutions.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Joins Global Cry to Safeguard Sumud Flotilla After Attacks

ERMOUPOLIS: Pakistan has joined the global call for the security of the Global Sumud Flotilla, a civil society initiative in which citizens of several countries are participating, following attacks on the vessels of pro-Palestinian activists carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Türkiye express their concern about the security of the aid flotilla.

Former senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, and Hollywood actress Susan Sarandon are also among the pro-Palestinian activists in the aid flotilla aiming to break the Israeli siege on the enclave.

Jamaat-e-Islami's senior leader and former senator Mushtaq, speaking on programme "Capital Talk", said that Israeli drones were continuously flying over the maritime convoy travelling from Tunisia to



Gaza.

"In one drone strike, two vessels have already been damaged. However, we will not be intimidated and will certainly proceed to Gaza with relief supplies," he added.

Mushtaq demanded that the Pakistani government should establish a rescue and relief mission for Gaza.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday: "The Global Sumud Flotilla has

informed about its objective of delivering humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and raising awareness about the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people and the need to stop the war in Gaza."

It added: "Both objectives, peace and humanitarian aid delivery, together with the respect of international law, including humanitarian law, are shared by our governments."

Pakistan, along with 15 other countries, called on "everyone to refrain from any unlawful or violent act against the Flotilla, to respect international law and international humanitarian law."

"We recall that any violation of international law and human rights of the participants in the Flotilla, including attack against vessels in international waters or illegal detention, will lead to accountability," it concluded.—RT/Agency

Hollywood Mourns: Legend Robert Redford Dies at 89

UTAH: Robert Redford, iconic actor and Sundance Film Festival founder, died peacefully in his sleep at 89 in Utah. Known for classics like All the President's Men and The Great Gatsby, Redford's career spanned over six decades. A two-time Oscar winner, he blended Hollywood stardom with passionate activism. While the cause of death remains undisclosed, his impact on film and politics remains timeless.



His last appearance was a 2022 cameo in AMC's Dark Winds.—RT/Agency

Zelenskyy Demands United European Air Shield as Russia Strikes Again

KYIV : Russian forces bombed the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia with rockets overnight, wounding 13 people, including two children, officials said Tuesday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged European leaders to make the continent safe by building an ambitious air defense umbrella.

With the war grinding on since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor more than 3½ years ago, there has been no let-up in Russian strikes on civilian areas of Ukraine and its army's push on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

A peace settlement appears to be no closer despite months of U.S.-led



peace efforts. U.S. President Donald Trump's ultimatums and deadlines for Putin to engage with proposals to stop the fighting have passed without obvious consequences.

Just over the past two weeks, Zelenskyy said on Telegram, Russia has launched more than 3,500 drones, more than 2,500 powerful glide bombs and almost 200 missiles at targets inside Ukraine.—RT/Agency

Trump Shocks Europe with Russia Sanctions Ultimatum

BRUSSELS: US President Donald Trump has demanded that allies stop buying Russian oil before he moves on punishing Moscow, and told them to hit China with tariffs.

But Trump's requests do not seem feasible, and the EU notes that it has already hammered the Kremlin with sanctions. Meanwhile, diplomats fear it could be a ploy by Trump to again stall on taking a tough stance against Russia himself. In a Truth Social post over the weekend, Trump said he would impose "major sanctions" on Moscow if all NATO countries stopped buying Russian



oil. The 27-nation EU has already banned most imports of Russian oil after the Russian's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, slashing the share of oil it imports from Russia from 29 percent in early 2021 to two percent by mid-2025. Currently Hungary and

Slovakia, both countries friendly to both Moscow and Trump, still buy oil from Russia. The EU is planning to end that entirely and has announced a plan to phase out purchases of all Russian oil and gas by the end of 2027.—RT/Agency

Justice Tariq Jahangiri Barred From Bench Over Fake Degree Scandal

ISLAMABAD : A major development has emerged in the alleged fake degree case of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, as the Islamabad High Court has barred him from judicial work.

The Islamabad High Court ordered him to stop working until the decision of the Supreme Judicial Council. A two-member bench of the IHC issued the order against Justice Tariq Jahangiri. Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Azam Khan passed the order



and also appointed two judicial assistants in the alleged fake degree case. Senior lawyer Barrister Zafarullah Khan and former Attorney General Ashtar Asuf have been appointed as judicial as-

stants. The court also issued a notice to the Attorney General of Pakistan for assistance, seeking his input on the maintainability of the case, and released a written order.—RT/Agency

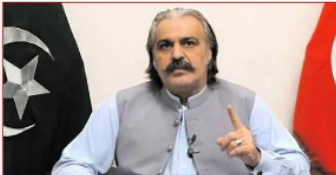
CM Gandapur Blasts PTI 'Hypocrites' for Sabotaging Party From Within

ISLAMABAD : Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has dropped a bombshell, saying that "hypocrites" within Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are busy weakening the party with their own agendas.

Speaking to the media at Dahlgate checkpoint, Gandapur claimed that no one has worked harder than him to secure PTI founder's release. "Not a single day passes when I don't try to get him out," he remarked.

He stressed that PTI's stance is crystal clear: "We follow the founder's vision, nothing else. Whoever spins a new narrative is on their own — not answerable to us."

On a question about social media, Gandapur clarified that the PTI founder's Twitter handle is managed only by those he personally authorized. Oth-



ers, he said, have no authority to speak for the party.

The KP CM blamed restrictions on meeting the founder for fueling confusion and unnecessary statements. He said the founder has always been willing to negotiate, but talks can only be held with those who truly hold power.

Gandapur further revealed that before the budget session, he had repeatedly requested a meeting with the PTI founder

but was barred due to internal party divisions. He warned that some individuals are pushing their own agenda: "I'm cautioning them — you are damaging the party."

He also rejected propaganda about Senate nominations, calling it baseless. "We've led some of the biggest marches and rallies in the country's history. On the 27th, we'll hold another massive rally in KP to get our message across.—RT/Agency

Rubio Presses Qatar to Keep Gaza Lifeline Alive Amid Israeli Onslaught

JERUSALEM/CAIRO: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday called on Qatar to continue to play a constructive role in resolving the Gaza conflict, speaking in Jerusalem on the same day that Arab leaders were meeting in Doha to respond to an Israeli strike.

Qatar, a US ally which has been co-mediating talks between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas, was angered last week by Israel's attack on its capital, which targeted Hamas leaders who reside there.

Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his office in Jerusalem, Rubio said Qatar could help reach the goals of releasing all 48 hostages still held in Gaza, dismantling Hamas and building a better future for Gazans.

"And so we're going to continue to encourage Qatar to play a constructive role in that



regard," he said.

Netanyahu, who has not backed down an inch since the Doha strike drew widespread condemnation, said he did not rule out further strikes on Hamas leaders "wherever they are".

While diplomacy was unfolding in Jerusalem and Doha, Israeli forces were continuing their assault on Gaza City, where they killed at least 16 Palestinians in strikes on two homes and on a tent housing a displaced family, local health authorities said.

The army also hit and de-

stroyed a 16-floor building in the west of the city, believed to be the tallest in the Gaza Strip, about an hour after warning displaced families sheltering inside and nearby to leave. It said the building was being used to hide "terrorist infrastructure".

Rubio gave strong backing to Israel, which has grown increasingly isolated on the world stage because of widespread indignation at the enormous death toll in Gaza and the ongoing humanitarian and hunger crisis in the Palestinian enclave.—RT/Agency

IHC Orders Immediate Removal of PTA Chairman Hafeez Ur Rehman



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the removal of Major General (retd) Hafeez Ur Rehman from his position as the chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA).

Justice Babar Sattar issued a detailed 99-page judgement, declaring the appointment unlawful and instructing that a senior member of the authority be appointed on a temporary basis.

In his verdict, Justice Sattar stated that the appointment of the PTA chairman was "not legally valid". The court observed that the recruitment process "lacked integrity" and was tainted by "malafide in law". The judgement noted that all subsequent

steps taken by the federal government in filling the post of Member (Administration) through the contested advertisement held no legal effect.

The one-member bench said that an entire edifice of processes built on an "illegal foundation" must crumble upon such a basis. Consequently, the appointment of Hafeez Ur Rehman as chairman was deemed invalid.

During proceedings, the petitioner argued that under Section 3 of the Telecom Act, three member posts were created within the PTA, and the government had not authorised any additional position. The introduction of the post of Member (Administration), the petitioner said, was in breach of the PTA Appointment Rules.—RT/Agency

Taiwan Rolls Out Civil Defense Playbook Amid Soaring China Tensions

BANGKOK: Taiwan launched a new civil defense handbook Tuesday, providing a more user-friendly ramp highlighting the urgency of strengthening a civilian response in case of an invasion by China.

The handbook, issued by the All-out Defense Mobilization Agency, features checklists and questions to help residents plan for crises ranging from military invasion to natural disasters on the earthquake-prone island. "Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, we have felt that much more information needs to be added," said Shen Wei-chih, director of the All-out Defense Mobilization Agency. "Today's new edition of the National Defense Handbook is about how to enhance and raise public awareness of



crises, as well as strengthen the ability for self-defense." Taiwan, a self-ruled island off the coast of China, is claimed by Beijing as part of its sovereign territory. In recent years, tensions between the two sides have risen sharply, as the governments have ceased official communications. While China has long made claims over Taiwan, it also has stepped up the number of Coast Guard patrols and the scope and scale of its military

exercises aimed at the island, such as large-scale exercises simulating a blockade. China's People's Liberation Army sends military planes and navy ships toward Taiwan on a daily basis. Between Monday and Tuesday, the PLA sent 24 fighter jets, drones and support aircraft towards the island, according to a statement from Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, which counted 11 navy vessels and six other Chinese ships.—RT/Agency

Pakistan's Gaza Relief Consignment Reaches Egypt

CAIRO: On the special directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation dispatched another shipment under the latest batch of humanitarian and relief consignment for the brotherly people of Gaza Strip through Egypt on a special chartered aircraft from Pakistan carrying 100 tonnes of humani-



itarian and relief supplies landed at El-Arish International Airport. Officials from Embassy of Pakistan, Cairo received the relief consignment, and handed

over to Egyptian Red Crescent Society for onward dispatch to Palestinian citizens inside Gaza. Pakistan's embassy in Cairo said the government and people of Pakistan express profound gratitude to the leadership of Egypt under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and Egyptian Red Crescent Society for facilitation in delivering aid from the government and people of Pakistan for the Palestinian brethren.—RT/Agency