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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. "Iranian 'shadow banking' networks—like these—run by trusted illicit financial facilitators—abuse the international financial system and evade sanctions by laundering money through overseas front companies and cryptocurrency," the department said in a statement.



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-

darity 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

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

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 supportive of this Shehbaz-Trump meeting. However, Pakistan's embassy has refrained from commenting or denying the prospective meeting. The 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 neighbours. 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

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 has 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

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 several 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

and Germany, have already said they would send more fighter jets to Poland, while Rute said Denmark would also join the operation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Russia is deliberately expanding its drone operations. The UK summoned the Russian ambassador to London, with the foreign ministry saying the "significant and unprecedented violation of Polish and NATO airspace by Russian drones ... was utterly unacceptable".—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 "Fitna al-Hindustan" were killed during clearance operation in the area. According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a vehicle of the security forces was targeted with an IED in the Sherbandi area of Kech district, Balochistan. As a result of the blast, five brave sons of the soil embraced martyrdom. The martyrs include Captain Waqar Ahmed, Naik Ismatullah, Lance

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 "Fitna al-Hindustan" 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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Gunmen Storm Shikarpur School, Three Killed and One Injured in Bloody Attack

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Near Shikarpur, in the jurisdiction of Rustam Police Station, armed men attacked the Government High School in Borri village due to an ongoing dispute between the Jatoi and Mehr communities. During the attack, the school's headmaster, Nisar Arain, was physically assaulted, and an attempt was made to abduct him. Upon receiving information about the incident, villagers arrived at the scene, leading to an exchange of gunfire. As a result of the firing by the armed men, three individuals were killed, including Abdul Razzaq Mahar from Borri Sethar village and Jameel Mahar from Thahirov Mahar village (both from the Mahar group), and Sobhat Gharani Jatoi from Jogi Jatoi village (from the Jatoi group). A student of the school, Faizan Sethar, was seriously injured. According to local residents, the armed



men from the Saad Khanani Jatoi group attacked the high school in Borri Sethar village, aiming to kidnap or kill clerk Niaz Mahar due to an old rivalry. This led to the gunfire exchange in which two members of the Mahar group and one from the Jatoi

Shazia Marri Condolences Death of Former MNA Roshanuddin Junejo



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Condolences continue to flow on the passing of former MNA Roshanuddin Junejo, father of PPP MNA Wadera Alauddin Junejo. On the occasion, central PPP leader MNA Shazia Marri visited village Sanjar Khan Junejo and expressed the grief alongside PPP MNAs Alauddin

MPA Nawab Burhan Khan Chandio Meets Lawyers, Lauds Qambar-Shahdadkot Bar's Role

SHAHADKOT: President of the District Bar Association Qambar-Shahdadkot and prominent lawyer Advocate Shafi Mohammad Khoso, along with fellow lawyers, met MPA Nawab Burhan Khan Chandio at his office to congratulate him on successfully performing Umrah.

They presented him with flower garlands and formally invited him to visit the District Bar. MPA Chandio accepted the invitation and,



on the occasion, acknowledged the significant role of lawyers in society. He especially appreciated the contribution of the Qambar Shahdadkot lawyers, calling their efforts in supporting the poor and ensuring justice commendable.--RT

Two-Day Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) Celebration Concludes at Dargah Hussainabad Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The two-day grand celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) at the famous Dargah Hussainabad in Larkana concluded with great fervor and devotion. Thousands of devotees participated in the second-day events. Pir Syed Atallah Shah Bukhari Hussaini, the custodian of the shrine, urged everyone to follow the Sunnah for divine pleasure. He stated that those who live with love and fear of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) attain success in this world and the hereafter. He further said that celebrating the birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a tradition supported by all prophets, saints, and righteous personalities, and those who observe this blessed day with joy are truly fortunate. Renowned scholars and religious leaders from across the region addressed the gathering, including Allama Mufti Abdul Sattar Saeedi from Lahore, who described love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as



the essence of all worship. Pir Karamullah Illahi, known as Dilbar Saen Naqshbandi Madani, highlighted the wisdom and mercy found in the Sunnah, urging everyone to follow the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) teachings. Other notable speakers, including Pir Abdul Khaliq Qadri from Dargah Bharchundi Sharif and Allama Muhammad Arif Saeedi from Sukkur, stressed the importance of sending salutations upon the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a means to earn Allah's blessings and forgiveness. The event witnessed a massive turnout of devotees from all over Pakistan, including participants

Police Nab Duo Selling Deadly Gutka in KGM



By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: In a major crackdown, police led by SHO Inspector Farman Ali Agham arrested two individuals for selling harmful and health-damaging gutka. The operation was carried out near the graveyard on Bypass Road, where the suspects were caught red-handed. The arrested individuals were identified as Ali Muhammad, son of Muhammad Ishaq, a resi-

Kotri Govt Girls Degree College Hosts Grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) Celebration

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) was celebrated with immense devotion and reverence at Kotri Government Girls Degree College. The event featured heart-touching Naats recited by students, filling the college with spiritual warmth. Principal Ms. Raheela Baloch, along with Ms. Shakeela Memon, Ms. Rizwana Qaimkhani, Ms. Asmat Waseem Channa, Ms. Rafia Subhani, Ms. Zamrad, and Ms. Zait Shah, organized the blessed gathering. Speakers highlighted that the Holy Prophet is a mercy for all creation and a perfect role



model. They emphasized that true faith is incomplete without love for the Holy Prophet and following his teachings. The event concluded with prayers and deep sentiments of devotion, attended by a large number of students and faculty.

Manzoor Wassan Foresees Seismic Political Shifts in Pakistan Within Three Months

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Pakistan Peoples Party provincial leader Manzoor Hussain Wassan has made significant predictions about the country's political future and regional developments. He stated that the next three months will be crucial for the government, with major changes possible. Wassan firmly rejected any idea of Sindh separating from Pakistan, saying no one can divide the province. He also revealed surprise over a historic defense pact between Pakistan and Arab nations, under which any attack on Pakistan will be considered an attack on all Arab coun-



tries, a move he called a major victory boosting public morale. Praising the JUI-F's peace march, he urged other parties to join for political stability. Regarding former PM Imran Khan, Wassan

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) Celebration Lights Up Shaheen Computer Center, Pithoro

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A vibrant program was organized at Shaheen Computer Center in Pithoro to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi, hosted by principal Ghulam Qadir Arisar. The event began with Quran recitation, followed by naats presented by renowned reciters Abdul Aziz Abro, Hafiz Muhammad

Hyderabad Range Promotes 32 Sub-Inspectors to Inspector Rank

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police, Hyderabad Range, Tariq Razaq Dharejo, promoted 32 Sub-Inspectors to the rank of Inspector during a ceremony held at his office, where SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio was also present. The promotions include officers from various districts: 7 from Hyderabad, 2 from Tando Allahyar, 1 from Tando Muhammad Khan, 2 from Matiari, 4 from Dadu, 5 from Jamshoro, 2 from Thatta, 2 from Badin, 3 from the Hyderabad Range Office, and 4 from the Training Center Shaheed Abdul Aziz Baloch. Speaking at the event, DIGP Dharejo congratulated



the newly promoted officers and highlighted that the promotions bring increased responsibilities of community policing. He urged the officers to enhance their performance and serve the public with dedication, stressing the importance of intensified efforts against crime.

District Sports Officer Maryam Keerio Opens Al-Hyderabad Lt. Col. Akram Raja Judo Festival

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: District Sports Officer Madam Maryam Keerio emphasized the abundant talent in the country and the need to provide opportunities during the inauguration of the Al-Hyderabad Lt. Col. Muhammad Akram Raja Sports Festival Open Judo League at Sindh Sports Hospital. Organized by MEMES Sports Foundation, the



event was attended by CEO Mahmood Zai, President Sikandar Nawaz Arain, and other dignitaries. Maryam

Widow's Heart-Wrenching Protest for Recovery of Detained Daughter

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A widowed mother from Daur staged a protest in front of the press forum against the influential police constable son-in-law in Naushehro Feroze. She alleged that constable Muhammad Ali Shah has kept her daughter, Syeda Amina Shah, and her 8-year-old son, Mohsin Ali Shah, missing for two months. Despite extensive searches, no trace has been found. She fears they may have been killed. She demanded the Sindh IG



take action against the powerful police constable and recover her children immediately.

Rickshaw Drivers Block Roads, Demand Arrest of Brutal Attacker

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: Over 30 rickshaw drivers staged a two-hour roadblock protest on Jhol-Sanghar-Hyderabad road near Mir Allah Bakhsh Public Library, demanding the arrest of influential

shopkeeper Razaq Dogar, who allegedly assaulted the rickshaw driver Fahad Rajput and his pregnant sister Miskhan Rajput.

The incident occurred after a dispute when the rickshaw was parked near the shop. Despite an FIR filed at Jhol Police Station, the accused has not been arrested. Protest leaders warned to continue the agitation until justice is opened the road.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



KP Information Advisor, Afghan Envoy in High-Stakes Talks on Regional Peace

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information, met with Sacting Ahmad Shakeeb, the Acting Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, in Islamabad.

The meeting focused on strengthening Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, with particular emphasis on enhancing people-to-people ties, boosting bilateral trade, and exploring opportunities for collaboration to address shared security and economic challenges.

Both sides exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including the security situation in Pakistan and



Afghanistan, with a detailed discussion on the recent incidents of unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Barrister Saif stressed that peace in Pakistan and Afghanistan is inter-linked, and highlighted the need to further strengthen bilateral relations through continuous engagement and dialogue. Ambassador Shakeeb assured that the Afghan government is ready to cooperate fully with Pakistan in efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region.—RT/Agency

Raging Floods Rip Away Another Stretch of M5 Motorway

JALALPUR PIRWALA: Another portion of the Multan-Sukkur M-5 motorway has been swept away by the rushing water of the riverine flood in the region, officials said on Saturday.

CTO Multan has said that a breach has developed in the eastern patch of the M-5 sweeping a portion of the motorway.

Earlier, the western portion of the motorway was also carried away by the strong currents of the floodwater.

"Motorway Police and the National Highway Authority's (NHA) staff has been present on the spot with machinery".

The Sutlej River

water's strong currents rushing to Chenab. "Stones are being pitched in the breach to bring down the water flow," motorway officials said. "The M-5 motorway has been closed for traffic from Multan to Jhangra," road officials added.

M5 Motorway The NHA on previous Sunday said that the M5 Motorway has been closed for all types of traffic at Jalalpur Pirwala.

PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia also confirmed that the M5 Motorway has been closed for all types of traffic at Jalalpur Pirwala.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Punjab Police Ramp Up Aggressive Anti-Drug Crackdown Across Province

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Under the "Drug Free Punjab" campaign, Punjab Police, led by Inspector General Dr Usman Anwar has conducted 73,850 raids across the province, including Gujranwala, targeting drug dealers' hideouts. So far, 45,298 suspects involved in drug trafficking have been arrested, and cases registered. Authorities seized massive quantities of narcotics, including 25,633 kg of hashish, 2,381 kg of heroin,



1,453 kg of opium, 2,500 kg of opium, and over 612,000 liters of alcohol. In Lahore alone, 9,107 drug dealers were apprehended with substantial drug recoveries. IG Punjab has ordered an acceleration of special operations, emphasizing strict action against traffickers, especially near educational institutions and hostels, to ensure severe punishment for offenders and complete eradication of drug supply chains.

Narowal Convenes High-Level Meeting on Flood Rehabilitation, Canola Initiative

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: A meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary was held to discuss rehabilitation programs for farmers affected by recent floods. The Minister highlighted the devastation of standing crops in Narowal and assured government support for cultivating high-yield varieties. Dr. Javed Qureshi, Chairman of Four Brothers Pvt. Ltd., announced free canola seeds for 500 acres to aid flood-affected farmers. The Agriculture



Extension Department Secretary Chaudhry was directed to form village-level committees to promote canola cultivation, which can restore livelihoods and boost edible oil production. The meeting included Federal Parliamentary

Gojra Traders' Association Meets Executive Council Chairman on Key Issues

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A delegation of the Gojra Traders' Association, led by founding president Rana Muhammad Saeed Rashid Manji, visited Executive Council Chairman Haji Mian Naveed Zahir's residence to discuss organizational matters and challenges facing traders. The leaders praised the Pakistan-Saudi defense agreement, calling it a source of pride and highlighting the sacri-



on governments to provide basic facilities and rehabilitation. The delegation included key office bearers and was honored with a grand dinner hosted by Haji Mian Naveed Zahir.

Police Nab Infamous Drug Kingpin, Seize 10kg Hashish in Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Acting on the directions of City Police Officer Mohammad Ayaz Saleem and SP Sadar Mirza Bilal Hassan, a major crackdown was carried out by DSP Wazirabad Abdul Hameed Virk and SHO Sohda Sub Inspector Mukhtar Ahmad Bajwa. During patrolling, police arrested a notorious former drug dealer, Qasim Nasir,

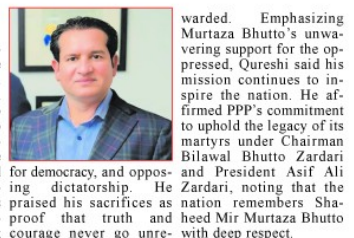


and recovered 10 kilograms of hashish from his possession. The accused confessed to transporting drugs from other districts to Gujranwala. A case has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing. Local residents and political organizations have lauded the police action. CPO Ayaz Saleem emphasized the need to eliminate drug networks to protect the future of the youth.

PPP USA VP Salutes Legacy of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) USA Vice President and Federal Focal Person Sadaf Humayun Qureshi paid tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto on his 29th martyrdom anniversary, calling him a true champion of democracy and people's rights. Qureshi highlighted Murtaza Bhutto's lifelong dedication to protecting public rights, fighting



warded. Emphasizing Murtaza Bhutto's unwavering support for the oppressed, Qureshi said his mission continues to inspire the nation. He affirmed PPP's commitment to uphold the legacy of its martyrs under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari, noting that the nation remembers Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto with deep respect.

Toba Tek Singh Drives Sports Push Under Khelta Punjab Campaign

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBATEK SINGH: Following Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of "Khelta Punjab," the district administration is actively promoting sports activities. A key meeting was held at the Assistant Commissioner's Office in Gojra, chaired by Assistant Commissioner Sadaf Akbar, to address issues faced by Gojra



Hockey Stadium. Attendance promised immediately to upgrade the stadium and support hockey clubs, aiming to provide young athletes with improved facilities to nurture their talent.

Massive Data Breach: 300,000 Hajj Applicants' Details Sold on Dark Web, Says PTA

Islamabad: Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General (R) Hafeez-ur-Rehman, has revealed that the personal data of nearly 300,000 individuals who applied for Hajj has surfaced on the dark web.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on IT, chaired by Senator Palwasha Khan, the PTA chief disclosed that the breach was first reported in 2022. He

added that SIM data remains with telecom companies, and investigations into the matter were initiated at that time. "Even my own SIM data has been available on the dark web since 2022," he admitted.

During the meeting, government Senator Anwarul Khan raised concerns over external pressure, claiming that Pakistan is being discour-

aged from enacting comprehensive legislation to ensure data protection and security.

The disclosure has sparked alarm over the safety of citizens' personal information, particularly for sensitive categories such as Hajj applicants, highlighting the urgent need for robust data protection laws in the country.—RT/Agency

Murder Charges Filed in Chilling Case of Influencer Sana Yusuf

Islamabad: A district and sessions court in Islamabad formally indicted Umar Hayat, the prime suspect in the murder case of social media influencer Sana Yusuf.

During the hearing presided over by Judge Afzal Majoka, the court asked the accused whether

he had killed Sana Yusuf. Hayat denied the charges, stating, "I have committed no such crime; all allegations against me are false."

The judge further inquired about the accusation that he had also snatched the victim's mobile phone. The accused again rejected the claims, asserting that

all allegations were baseless.

After framing the charges, the court adjourned the hearing until September 25.

It is noteworthy that a murder case against Umar Hayat had earlier been registered at Sumbal Police Station.—RT/Agency

KP Wildlife Department Slaps Ban on Duck and Waterfowl Hunting

Peshawar: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Wildlife Department has imposed a ban on hunting ducks and other waterfowl across 57 designated sites for the 2025-26 waterfowl hunting season. The restriction will remain in effect until December 31, 2025.

According to officials, hunting has been prohibi-

ted at key sites including Bashkar Lake, River Swat, and several other water bodies. The department stated that the ban aims to protect biodiversity and conserve waterfowl populations.

Strict action will be taken against those involved in illegal hunting, while licensed hunters will be permitted to hunt under

controlled limits. As per the department's rules, license holders are allowed to hunt no more than five ducks or other waterfowl per day.

The Wildlife Department staff will closely monitor bird populations during the season to ensure compliance with the new regulations and safeguard the province's ecological balance.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

Man Lives Eight Years With Broken Knife Lodged in Chest

TANZANIA: A man noticed pus oozing from his chest, and it ended up revealing a knife blade in his thoracic cavity.

The patient: A 44-year-old man in Tanzania. The symptoms: For 10 days, pus oozed from an opening in the man's chest below his right nipple, prompting him to visit the emergency room. He told doctors he had no pain or difficulty breathing. He did not have a fever, and his vital signs were normal.

What happened next: When the doctors examined the man, they found that his rib cage on the right side of his chest was flattened at the front and that his chest did



not fully expand on that side when he inhaled. They confirmed that "foul-smelling" pus was leaking from a cavity under the nipple, they wrote in a report of the case.

During the examination, the man reported that eight years earlier he had been stabbed repeatedly in the chest, back, abdomen and face during a "violent alterca-

tion." No imaging tests were performed at that time, and he received only superficial first-aid treatment for the multiple knife wounds. For eight years, he had no health issues resulting from those injuries, he said.

The diagnosis: An X-ray revealed a large metallic knife blade lodged inside the man's thoracic cavity. Also known as the chest cavity, this hollow chamber is located above the abdomen and contains the heart and lungs. The blade, which extended from the rear of the rib cage to the front, had entered the man's back near his right scapula, or shoulder blade.—RT/Agency

North Carolina Man Strikes \$130,000 Lottery Win on 40th Birthday

CAROLINA: A North Carolina man scored a \$130,000 jackpot from a Cash 5 lottery drawing just days before his 40th birthday.

Clinton resident Corey Hamilton told North Carolina Education Lottery officials he stopped at the Han-Dee Hugo's on Southeast Boule-



vard in Clinton and bought a Quick Pick ticket for the Tuesday night drawing. Hamilton said he checked the drawing results in the early morning hours.

"I woke up at 3:30 and I was like, 'Wait a second that can't be right,'" Hamilton said. Hamilton scored a \$130,000 jackpot.—Agency

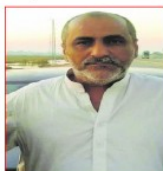
BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Balochistan's Call for Justice and Equal Rights Echoes in Plea for Peace, Says Khosa

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: Provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League Functional (Balochistan), Mir Musharraf Ali Khan Khosa, emphasized that sustainable peace and prosperity in Pakistan depend on addressing the long-standing issues of Balochistan.

He said the province continues to suffer from unemployment, injustice, and a lack of basic facilities due to the negligence of both past and present governments. Despite having the smallest population, Balochistan faces the most challenges. Khosa added that elections in Balochistan have been symbolic,



and true democracy remains absent. He urged the government to provide more than just the province's due share in resources and services. He highlighted that the people of Balochistan are loyal to Pakistan and deserve justice, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Prisoner's Fatal Heart Attack Rocks Gujranwala Central Jail

Gujranwala: An inmate at Gujranwala Central Jail died of a heart attack on Friday, jail authorities confirmed.

The deceased, identified as Qasim Khokhar, had been serving a sentence in connection with the May 9 riots case. According to officials, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) had awarded him a five-year prison term. Prison authorities stated

that Khokhar suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while in custody. Despite immediate efforts to provide medical assistance, he could not survive.

His death has raised concerns among rights groups over prison healthcare facilities, with calls for improved medical support for inmates serving long-term sentences.—RT/Agency

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 current unity would strengthen the region politically.

PPP Unveils Fresh Cultural Wing Leadership in Matiari



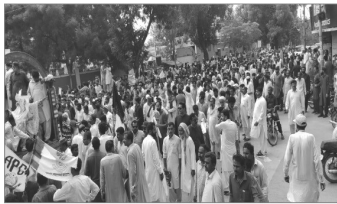
By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

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

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

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, 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 Rajpar 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, stressed that farmer leaders from Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, and Karachi, 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.



shawls and Ajrak for their service. The event highlighted the commitment to public health within the 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



Controversial Referee Pycroft Set to Officiate Explosive Pakistan-India Clash



The "controversial" match referee, Andy Pycroft will officiate the forthcoming match between Pakistan and India in the Super 4s of the Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday (September 21).

According to details, ICC's controversial match referee Andy Pycroft has apologised to the manager and captain of the Pakistan cricket team.

During the India-Pakistan match of the Group B on Sunday (September 14), Pycroft had prevented both team captains from shaking hands.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reacted strongly to Pycroft's action. Pycroft termed the September 14 incident as a result of miscommunication and offered an apology.

The ICC has agreed to hold an inquiry into the code of conduct violation that occurred during the 14 September match.

Both Pycroft and the Indian captain violated MCC regulations. Pakistan adopted a principled stance, demanding Pycroft's removal from the Asia Cup and penalising the Indian captain, Suryakumar Yadav, for his political remarks.—Agency

Red Sox Outslug Rays as Crochet Seals 17th Season Win

Jarren Duran laced a go-ahead two-run homer, Garrett Crochet won his third straight start, and the Boston Red Sox continued their mastery of Tampa Bay with their seventh consecutive win over the Rays, 11-7, on Friday night.

Duran went 2-for-6 and scored twice as the Red Sox (84-70) moved to 9-2 against Tampa Bay (75-79) with the series-opening victory.

Ceddanne Rafaela was 4-for-5 with a double, two runs and an RBI. Alex Bregman had a solo homer and walked twice. Nate Eaton was 2-for-4 with two runs, an RBI and a stolen base.

Over six innings, Crochet (17-5) allowed three runs on four hits with nine strikeouts and three walks. The left-hander improved to 13-1 in his past 19 starts. He is one win behind Major League leader Max Fried, who picked up his 18th win on Thursday.

For Tampa Bay (75-79), Everson Pereira hit a grand slam, and Yandy Diaz was 3-for-4 with a homer, double, two runs, an RBI and a walk. Carson Williams hit a solo homer for the second straight game.—Agency

Pakistan Brings in Psychologist Ahead of High-Pressure India Showdown



With the much-anticipated Pakistan-India clash in the Asia Cup Super Four tomorrow (Sunday), the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has brought in a sports psychologist and motivational speaker to support the team.

The move aims to help players manage the immense pressure and expectations that come with one of cricket's most high-voltage encounters.

According to team sources, Dr. Raheel has been tasked with guiding players on how to relieve mental stress and maintain composure during the match.

According to team sources, Pakistan's batters accepted responsibility for their failure in the earlier match. They acknowledged the need to rotate the strike more effectively and avoid building pressure in tough conditions.—Agency

Batters admit mistakes in previous game

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Bangladesh Stuns Sri Lanka: Hasan & Hridoy Shine with Fifties!



Bangladesh chased down a 169-run target as half-centuries from Towhid Hridoy and Saif Hassan guided their side to victory over Sri Lanka in the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 Super Four clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Bangladesh eventually knocked the winning runs for the loss of six wickets and one ball to spare.

Leading the way for the Tigers was opening batter Saif Hassan, who top-scored with an anchoring 61 off 45 deliveries, laced with four sixes and two sixes, while middle-order batter

Towhid Hridoy smashed four fours and two sixes on his way to a 37-ball 58. The duo also shared an important 54-run partnership for the third wicket. Besides them, skipper Litton Das and Shamim Hossain made notable contributions, with 23 and 14 not out, respectively.

Thushara made one scalp apiece. Put into bat first, the defending champions accumulated 168/7 in their allotted 20 overs. Sri Lanka got off to a blazing start to their innings as their opening pair of Pathum Nissanka and in-form Kusal Mendis put together 44 runs inside five overs. Taskin Ahmed broke the opening partnership on the final delivery of the fifth over by getting Nissanka caught at deep mid-wicket by Saif Hassan. The opening batter scored 22 off 15 deliveries with the help of three fours and a six.—Agency

South Africa Crush Pakistan to Seal Unassailable Series Lead



South Africa Women defeated Pakistan Women by 25 runs on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Friday night in the second game to take an unassailable lead in the three-match ODI series.

Tazmin Brits' unbeaten 171 and Laura Wolvaardt's 129-ball 100 propelled South Africa to 292-3 in 46 overs, which was later revised to a 313-run target. Pakistan were bowled out for 287 in 44.4 overs despite

Sidra Amin's record century and her 146-run stand with Natalia Parvaiz.

In pursuit of the target, Pakistan were dealt an early setback when opening batter Muneeba Ali (1) was trapped leg-be-

fore wicket in the third over, leaving the scoreboard at 5-1.

Omaima Sohail, returning to the team, played a spirited knock, scoring 43 off 38 balls, including seven boundaries as she put on 57 for the second wicket with Sidra Amin. However, her promising innings was cut short when she fell to Masabata Klaas, leaving Pakistan at 62-2 after 11 overs.

Aliya Riaz played a 23-ball 18 before she was dismissed in the 20th over as the scoreboard read 101.

Sidra and Natalia Parvaiz then formed a strong partnership, adding 50 runs off 49 balls. By the 28th over, Pakistan crossed the 150-run mark, and by the 33.3 over mark, they crossed 200 runs. The duo brought up their 100-run partnership off 86 balls.

Sidra, settling into her rhythm, accelerated and brought up her second consecutive century and

Natalia was joined at the crease by skipper Fatima Sana as the home side required 66 in the last eight overs. Fatima's (5) stay was short-lived as she departed in the 42nd over with the scoreboard reading 269-5.

Natalia, who scored a quick-fire 73 off 60 balls comprising seven fours, was dismissed in the very next over, followed by the dismissal of Diana Baig on the very next ball.—Agency

Trevor Rogers' Pitching Mastery Carries Orioles Past Yankees



Trevor Rogers took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and the Baltimore Orioles held on to defeat the visiting New York Yankees 4-2 on Friday night.

Ryan Mountcastle homered and drove in another run for the Orioles (73-81), who won for the fourth time in the last five starts. The only hit he allowed came from Austin Wells to lead off the game.

Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s home run wasn't enough for New York (86-68), which lost for the third time in its last nine games.

Rogers (9-2) worked six shutout innings while walking two and striking out seven, winning for the first time in three September starts. The four-game allowed came from Austin Wells to lead off the sixth.—Agency

Zidane's Son Luca Ditches France, Chooses to Play for Algeria

Luca Zidane, the 27-year-old goalkeeper and son of French football great Zinedine Zidane, has switched his sporting nationality from France to Algeria, the Algerian Football Federation said on Friday.

"FIFA officially granted... goalkeeper Luca Zidane Zidane authorisation to represent the Algerian national team," FAF said in a statement.

FIFA's "change of association platform" showed the decision was dated on Friday.

Luca Zidane represented France at youth Cup.—Agency

Asia Cup Shock: Pakistan Concedes Batting Collapse Before India Clash



Ahead of the high-voltage Pakistan-India Super Four clash in the Asia Cup on Sunday, the national cricket team had an important meeting where players openly admitted their shortcomings from the previous match.

The session was marked by candid discussions, with both batters and bowlers sharing their perspectives.

According to team sources, Pakistan's batters accepted responsibility for their failure in the earlier match. They acknowledged the need to rotate the strike more effectively and avoid building pressure in tough conditions. Each player was given the chance to express his views during the meeting, with making the session a platform for honest self-assessment.—Agency

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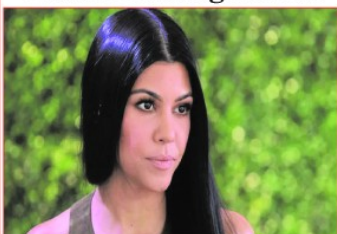
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REGIONAL TIMES

ENTERTAINMENT



Kourtney Kardashian Snips Her Own Bangs While Battling Illness



Kourtney Kardashian is entering fall with a bold new hairstyle.

On Friday, the reality star and entrepreneur, 46, debuted her freshly cut bangs in a sultry mirror selfie posted to Instagram.

"Witchy season," she captioned the snap taken in a T-shirt and no visible makeup.

Taking to Instagram Stories, the Poosh and Lemme founder admitted she took the scissors into her own hands while battling COVID-19.

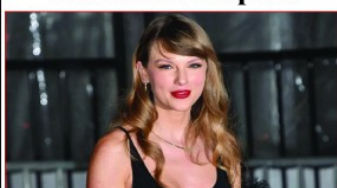
Sharing a photo of the hair dropped on the floor, she wrote, "I always get the urge to cut my hair when I have COVID."

This isn't Kardashian's first experience with fringes. She's shared childhood throwbacks showing her and sister Kim with '90s-style bangs, and over the years, she's occasionally revisited shorter styles.

Her latest look follows a streak of edgy fashion choices. Just last month, she shared a daring Instagram post featuring a sheer lace babydoll top and a chain-linked accessory.

The style update also comes amid ongoing speculation about her family plans with husband Travis Barker—rumours she recently denied.

Taylor Swift's New Album to Launch With Secret Theatrical Surprise



Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions in 2020, as per People.

She also collaborated with filmmaker Sam Wrench for 2023's Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour concert film, which went on to break records worldwide.

That release became the highest-grossing concert film opening in history, earning more than \$200 million globally within three weeks. It also shattered streaming records when it debuted on Disney+, quickly becoming the platform's most-watched music film of all time.

Swift announced The Life of a Showgirl in August, revealing the album's track list shortly after its announcement.

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's Lavish Mansion Back on Market With Fresh Price Tag



Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are once again trying to offload their Beverly Hills estate—this time for \$52 million.

Two months after quietly pulling the 38,000-square-foot mansion from public listings, the former couple has put it back on the market at a reduced price, TMZ reported.

Lopez, 56, and Affleck, 53, originally bought the property as their marital mansion in May 2023 for \$60.85 million.

The home features plenty of A-list amenities, including a sports lounge, full gym, boxing ring, basketball and pickleball courts, a 12-car garage, a 5,000-square-foot guest penthouse, a caretaker's house, and a two-bedroom major loss.

They lived there together for roughly a year before Affleck moved his belongings out of the mansion in June while Lopez vacationed in Europe. She filed for divorce in August 2024.

The new asking price marks a sharp drop from the \$59.95 million they were seeking in July—already a cut from their initial \$68 million listing in July 2024.

The exes initially tried to sell the property off-market for privacy, but when interest remained low, they briefly removed it from listings. At the time, a source told People Magazine that the decision to hold off was "a business decision they made together" to avoid a major loss.

Face of the Day



Name: Hamza

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



Camel Brutally Mutilated in Sukkur's Saleh Pat, Rushed to Karachi for Emergency Treatment

SUKKUR: A camel subjected to severe torture by an influential landlord in Saleh Pat, Sukkur, has been shifted to Karachi for complete medical treatment after receiving initial aid.

According to District Council Chairman Kamal Shah, the incident occurred

in the desert area of Kandhara, where three suspects allegedly assaulted the camel, accusing it of damaging their crops. The attackers reportedly used axes, breaking the animal's leg in the brutal assault.

Police have registered a case on the complaint of the

camel's owner. One suspect has been arrested, while raids are underway to apprehend the remaining two accused.

The incident has sparked outrage in the local community, with calls for strict action against the perpetrators of animal cruelty.

Solar Power Plant Lights Up Madina Colony Mosque

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A solar system plant was inaugurated at Masjid-e-Rasool Allah, located in Madina Colony, Union Committee 2, by Shahrukh Anwar Syial, Chairman of Darri Town and brother of former Sindh Provincial Home Minister MPA Sohail Anwar Syial. Speaking to the media, Shahrukh Anwar Syial said that under the public vision of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Co-Chairman and former President Asif Ali Zardari, Adi Faryal Talpur, and MPA Sohail Anwar Syial, efforts to serve the citizens continue. The newly in-



stalled solar system will provide convenience to worshippers and children receiving religious education at the mosque.

PPP leaders Ghulam Rasool Laghari, Ali Raza Soomro, Muhammad Yousuf Detho, and others were also present at the event.

Hyderabad Police Launch Crime Sweep, Arrest Three in Coordinated Raids

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police have successfully arrested three suspects in separate targeted operations, recovering stolen property and large quantities of illicit substances. Market police apprehended Muhammad Babar Qureshi, a major drug and liquor supplier, seizing 26 bottles of illegal liquor, while Hussari police arrested Qurban Jatt in connection with a robbery and recovered a stolen motorcycle. Meanwhile, Hali Road police nabbed Faisal Nawaz, alias 'Ganji Pathan,' with 500 packets of banned Mainpuri, further intensifying efforts against the illegal drug trade in the city. Alongside these arrests, the Hyderabad Police, under the guidance of SSP Aadel Hussain Chandio and senior leadership, launched a comprehensive inspection



and maintenance campaign of official weapons and vehicles. The initiative, supervised by DSP Headquarters and other officers, aims to ensure police equipment is clean, fully operational,

and ready for deployment. SSP Chandio emphasized that these ongoing efforts will strengthen the efficiency and transparency of law enforcement in the district, enhancing public safety and security.

Kitchen Gardening Initiative Empowers Women Farmers in Taluka Mehar

By Javed Laghari

DADU: As part of the "Pro-Poor Social Protection and Economic Sustainability Initiatives," the Community Development Initiatives (CDI) Dadu team, in collaboration with the Government's On-Farm Water Management (OPWM) program, distributed drip irrigation kits and seasonal vegetable seeds to female farmers in Taluka Mehar. Before the distribution, the CDI team held an awareness session emphasizing the benefits of kitchen gardening, which not only enhances household nutrition and food security but also strengthens women's liveli-



hoods and economic resilience. This project aims to support sustainable agricul-

ture and empower women through practical, community-driven solutions.

Shocking Family Feud: Son Thrashes Elderly Parents, Throws Them Out Over Property

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In a heart-breaking incident in Shaheed Allah Bux Soomro Colony, an elderly couple was allegedly beaten and thrown out of their home by their own son over a property dispute.

The victims, Mirza Burro and his wife Gulzadi, approached the A-Section Police Station in tears, seeking justice against their son, Muhammad Shaban Burro.

According to the elderly couple, Shaban, with the support of his wife, subjected them to physical violence and forcefully evicted them from their house to seize their property. They alleged that despite Shaban being separated from them, he was attempting to illegally claim ownership of their property.

The father, Mirza Burro, also accused his son of being involved in gambling and

said their younger children now survive by collecting and selling plastic scraps. Despite lodging a complaint at the police station, no arrest has been made so far. Police confirmed the incident stemmed from a property dispute and stated that further investigation is underway. The elderly couple has appealed to the public and authorities for justice and assistance in their time of distress.

Talhar Mourns as Influential Leader Mazhar Hussain Khawaja Dies at 50

TALHAR: Mazhar Hussain Khawaja, uncle of PPP Talhar leader Amir Haider Khawaja and younger brother of political figure Comrade Azhar Hussain Khawaja, passed away at the age of 50. The late Mazhar Hussain Khawaja was laid to rest at his ancestral cemetery in Syed Gul Shah. His funeral prayer was held at the central Imam Bargah, attended by a large number of locals, community members, and relatives who traveled from other cities to pay their respects. The passing of Mazhar Hussain Khawaja has deeply saddened the political and social circles of Talhar.-RT

Mallah Community of Tando Bago Protests Abduction of Young Girl



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Residents of the Mallah community in Ward-I held a protest demanding the safe recovery of 22-year-old girl Parveen, daughter of Muhammad Hanif Mallah, who was abducted from Tando Bago city 13 days ago. The demonstration took place in front of the Tando Bago Press Club, led by the girl's parents Muhammad Hanif Mallah, Maryam

Mallah Rizwan, and Panhoon Mallah. They accused Mehran Memon, Aurangzeb Memon, and Altaf Khasakhail of abducting their daughter. Although an FIR has been lodged at the Tando Bago police station, the police have yet to recover her. The protesters appealed to the IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and SSP Badin to intervene and ensure justice by safely returning their daughter.

Two Arrested in Brutal Murder of Young Ali Nawaz Mallah



By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: A few days ago, the one-day-old body of Ali Nawaz Mallah was found near Qureshi Farm. The Sakro police have made significant progress in the case and arrested two suspects. During a press conference, DSP Sakro Qadir Baksh Khaskheli and SHO Sakro Murad Bakhrani stated that the arrested suspects, Saleem Mallah and Ghulam Mustafa Mallah, have confessed to the crime. Following a complaint by the victim's father, Ibrahim Mallah, six people were arrested, out of which two have admitted to the murder. The suspects revealed that Ali Nawaz Mallah was killed over an honor-related issue. The police investigation is ongoing.

Thatta Workshop Demands Tougher Measures Against Gender Violence and Child Marriages



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Intellectuals, advocates, journalists, and social activists have urged immediate enforcement of laws to combat gender-based violence, workplace harassment, domestic abuse, and child marriages. This demand was made at the conclusion of a two-day workshop, "Awareness Against Gender-Based Violence," held at Thatta Press Club, organized by Jagata Organization with CPDI and TAF. Participants, including District Bar Association

leaders, social activists, and senior journalists, highlighted the rising violence against women, especially in Sindh, and criticized weak law implementation. They condemned child marriages and the patriarchal culture that denies women education, inheritance, and property rights. The workshop ended with a call to strengthen institutions, enforce laws strictly, and raise social awareness to protect women and children from violence and exploitation.

Hyderabad Mayor Unveils Aggressive Anti-Dengue Drive After PMD Warning

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro has launched a city-wide anti-dengue campaign in response to a Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) alert that identifies Hyderabad as a high-risk area for dengue from September 20 to December 5 due to post-monsoon conditions and stagnant floodwaters.



The mayor has directed all municipal bodies to implement a widely publicized fumigation schedule, ensure immediate removal of stagnant water, and coordinate efforts among Health, Sanitation, and Solid Waste departments. Strict accountability

measures have been introduced, requiring daily progress reports with photographic evidence, while officials have been warned of strict action for non-compliance. This proactive campaign aims to prevent a dengue outbreak and protect public health by promoting a clean, mosquito-free environment across the city.

Tragedy on Road: Fatal Collision Near Digri Claims Four Lives, Injures Three

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Near Digri, a high-speed head-on collision between a dumper and a loader rickshaw at village Chaudhry Deh, 164A stop on Tando Ghulam Ali road resulted in four deaths and three serious injuries. The

deceased included Vikram Kolhi, Ratni Kolhi, and Shoni Kolhi, while injured victims, including Hamero Kolhi, who later died at Hyderabad hospital, were rushed for medical treatment. The injured Vanish Kolhi, Rajesh Kolhi, and Gini Kolhi remain in critical condition. The incident caused deep mourning among relatives at Taluka Hospital Digri. Police have taken the dumper into custody, and investigations continue into the accident which occurred as the victims were traveling toward Digri city.

PPP Sanghar Remembers Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto on Death Anniversary

By Khadim Hussain Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The killing of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto was part of a continuing series of events that began with the sacrifices of his father, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and thousands of other political workers. Mir Murtaza Bhutto was openly assassinated, sending a clear

message from Zia's remnants to the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto: either submit to the oppressors and secure your life, or follow the path of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto. The great sacrifice of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto remains a lesson for PPP workers and will always be remembered by the party's youth. These views were expressed by PPP

Sanghar district leaders including District President and MPA Ali Hassan Hingoro, General Secretary Jahangir Junejo, Information Secretary Imran Dhamrah, Deputy Information Secretary Murtaza Dahri, Cultural Wing President Abdul Sattar Ali Bhutto, and SPAP District President Khadim Khaskheli in a joint statement.

Sindh Government-NHA Clash Over M-9 Superhighway Land Intensifies as Court Intervenes

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: A prolonged dispute between the Sindh government and the National Highway Authority (NHA) over land payment for the M-9 Super Highway upgrade has escalated to the Sindh High Court. The Sindh government allotted land for the six-lane motorway project in

2012 on the condition that NHA pays for it, but the NHA has refused, citing funding shortages. The court has formed a high-level committee led by the Chief Secretary to resolve the matter within 30 days. The committee recommended that NHA pay the agreed price, prompting the NHA Chairman to initiate formal steps for land transfer. This resolution is critical to avoid delays in the final phase of the highway expansion, which is key to improving connectivity between Karachi and Hyderabad. However, concerns remain as the NHA continues to face financial and administrative challenges that could impact project progress.

Two Mastermind Fraudsters Busted for Looting Millions with Fake Prize Bonds

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Talhar Police have arrested two key members of a criminal gang involved in defrauding people of millions of rupees through fake prize bond schemes. The operation was led by SHO Talhar, Sub-Inspector Muhammad

Yaqoob Jakhro, along with his team. The arrested suspects have been identified as Mir Muhammad alias Mooro Abro, a resident of Haji Jamoon Abro village, Tehsil Badin, and Wali Muhammad Khoso, a resident of Jagan Khoso village, Tehsil Tando Bago. The suspects have been transferred to jail.

Lanjar Must Resign Before Contesting Bar Elections: Jaffar Ali Shah

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Supreme Court lawyer and Sindh Bar Council candidate Advocate Syed Jaffar Ali Shah has demanded that Sindh Law Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar resign from his provincial ministry before contesting the upcoming Sindh Bar elections.



While campaigning in Gotki for the Sindh seat in the Supreme Court Bar and the Khairpur seat in the Sindh Bar Council, Shah was warmly received by the local legal community. The event

took a protest-like turn, with lawyers chanting slogans of "Go Lanjar Go." Addressing the gathering, Shah and his supporters argued that contesting bar elections while holding a government position undermines democratic norms. "We have no objection if Lanjar contests after resignation, but doing so from within office is an attack on democracy," Shah stated.

METRO KARACHI



CM Murad Rallies Collective Action for a Cleaner Sindh on World Cleanup Day

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his message on World Cleanup Day, emphasized that maintaining a clean environment is a shared responsibility. He said protecting Sindh's coastal belt from pollution is a top government priority, warning that marine pollution poses a serious threat to the planet.

The chief minister noted that cleanliness in Karachi and other coastal cities carries global significance.



He stressed that achieving a pollution-free environment is not possible without active public cooperation, adding that a clean environment is the foundation of a healthy life.

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman Pushes Justice-Based System, Urges Unity for National Strength

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has emphasized that fear of Allah and a fair system are essential for resolving the country's challenges. He said JI advocates for the rights of people across all provinces and does not engage in politics based on language, ethnicity, sect, or tribe.

Speaking on national issues, he highlighted that the party is fully aware of problems in Balochistan, including



water shortages from the Kachhi Canal, as well as electricity and gas crises. He stressed the need to strengthen public engagement and build trust among communities.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Demands Fair Census, Education Reforms, and Karachi's Development

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) on Saturday, stressed the urgent need for a transparent census and fair representation for Karachi, noting that current delimitations and voters' lists fail to reflect the city's true population.

Highlighting delays in the K-IV water project despite federal allocations, Dr. Siddiqui criticized provincial inaction. He also lamented the state of education in Karachi,



pointing out that after Karachi University, no significant new public university had been established. "Not a single child of Karachi is studying in a government school today," he said, adding that 100 informal schools had been activated and appealed to the

business community to adopt them for sustainability.

KCCI President Jawed Bilwani welcomed the Minister and underscored Karachi's role as Pakistan's economic lifeline, criticizing persistent neglect despite the city's major contributions to the national exchequer. He warned that discriminatory treatment, poor infrastructure, and mismanagement of electricity and gas supplies were crippling industry and stalling progress.—RT/Agency

Fatima Bhutto's Stirring Gaza Account Highlights Children Trapped in War

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: The launch ceremony of the book 'Gaza: A Chronicle of Genocide', co-edited by Fatima Bhutto and Sonia Faleiro, was held in collaboration with the Social Development and Policy Programme and Habib University's Academic Centre. Fatima Bhutto emphasized her deep connection with Gaza, pointing out that thousands of Palestinians, including many children, have been killed in Israeli bombings. She described Gaza as the epicenter of the world's highest number of disabled children caused by ongoing violence, highlighting the

unprecedented cruelty inflicted on innocent civilians. Fatima Bhutto warned that Israel's atrocities have altered the very nature of warfare, with systematic targeting of children that can only be described in religious terms. She cautioned that if Israel succeeds in Gaza, no country, including Pakistan, will be safe, referencing attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, and Yemen as evidence. Anthropologist Peter Lagerqvist compared the suffering of Palestinian children to that of Anne Frank during the Holocaust, stressing the importance of hearing their stories. Bhutto also criticized the Western

world's double standards in labeling peaceful activists as terrorists while ignoring Israeli aggression. The event was attended by numerous university faculty, students, and prominent figures including Fatima Bhutto's brother Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Junior, Dr. Asghar Dasti, and Advocate Naveed Abbas Kalhoro. The launch highlighted the urgent need for global awareness and action against genocide, calling on the international community to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and raise their voices against injustice and violence.

Traffic Paralyzed as Protest Erupts Over Closure of Al-Asif Square U-Turn



By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: A protest by the Public Action Committee against the closure of the U-turn at Al-Asif Square in Sohrab Goth caused complete traffic suspension, leaving thousands stranded. Led by local advocates, protesters demanded its immediate

reopening, citing daily commuter hardships and long detours. Police negotiated with demonstrators, who gave authorities a one-week deadline to restore the U-turn. SP Abdul Baqi Rand confirmed ongoing talks with higher officials, hoping to resolve the issue soon and prevent further disruptions.

Murtaza Bhutto Remembered: CM Pays Tribute to a Martyr's Legacy

KARACHI: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah commemorated the 29th death anniversary of Mir Murtaza Bhutto, calling his martyrdom a symbol of the Bhutto family's enduring legacy. He condemned Murtaza's assassination as part of a broader conspiracy to crush democracy in Pakistan, revealing the plot's truth over time. Shah highlighted the Bhutto family's sacrifices for the nation, asserting their constant struggle against authoritarian regimes to uphold the rights of the people.—RT



Governor House Radiates Spiritual Glow in 25th Milad-un-Nabi Mehfil

Karachi: On the directives of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, the 25th consecutive spiritual Mehfil of Eid Milad-un-Nabi was held at the Governor House Karachi. A separate session was also organized for women, which witnessed significant participation.—RT/Agency

Outrage in Sukkur: CM Cracks Down After Camel Mutilation, 2 Nabbed

KARACHI / SUKKUR: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah condemned the horrific camel attack in Rohri, Sukkur, where assailants brutally amputated the animal's leg. He demanded immediate arrests, prompting Sukkur police to apprehend two suspects, Qurban Brohi and Rasool Bux Sheikh, with a third still at large. The injured camel is receiving treatment under the supervision of District Chair-



man Syed Kamil Shah. The CM vowed to ensure justice and punishment for the perpetrators, affirming zero tolerance for animal cruelty.—RT

NICVD Launches Free Heart Health Drive at Karachi Press Club

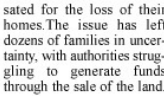
KARACHI: In observance of World Heart Day 2025, the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) held a Free Health Screening Camp and Awareness Session at Karachi Press Club. Over 100 participants received screenings for cholesterol,



blood pressure, blood sugar, and BMI. NICVD experts, including Prof. Tahir Saghir and Prof. Khawar Abbas Kazmi, emphasized heart disease prevention, regular checkups, and healthy lifestyle choices.—RT

No Buyer for Nasla Tower Plot, Compensation Concerns Grow

KARACHI: The disputed Nasla Tower plot remains unsold as no buyer has come forward, raising fresh concerns about how displaced residents will be compensated through the sale of the land.



Residents fear prolonged delays in receiving compensation, despite repeated assurances following the Supreme Court's demolition order.—RT/Agency

NHA's Bulldozers Rip Through Baldia's Green Belt, Residents Cry Foul

By Majeed Abbasi

KARACHI: Outrage erupted in Baldia Town after the National Highway Authority (NHA) razed trees and plants along Hub River Road under the guise of road development. Heavy machin-

ery uprooted neem and other trees that had been nurtured for two years by the TMC Parks Department and local residents. Political and social leaders slammed the move as ecological vandalism, squandering public effort and investment. Locals have

appealed to the Chief Justice, Chief of Army Staff, and Sindh Chief Minister to intervene, demanding accountability and strict guarantees that future development projects protect, rather than destroy, community-driven green initiatives.

Sindh IG Orders Crackdown Inquiry on DSPs Accused of Land Grabbing and Extortion

Karachi: Inspector General of Sindh Police, Ghulam Nabi Memon, has ordered an inquiry against four DSPs on charges ranging from land grabbing and smuggling facilitation to extortion from parking mafias, street vendors, and tea stalls.

According to Geo News, DIG Tanveer Alam Odho has been appointed



as the inquiry officer. The Sindh IG has directed him to submit a detailed report by September 26.

The action follows reports of widespread misuse of authority by the accused officers, with allegations of providing cover to illegal activities and collecting extortion money from businesses. The inquiry aims to determine the extent of their involvement and recommend disciplinary measures.—RT/Agency

Health Minister Mustafa Kamal Leads by Example in Cervical Cancer Vaccine Drive with Daughter

Karachi: At a ceremony held in Karachi to mark the launch of the cervical cancer prevention campaign, Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal set a personal example by having his daughter vaccinated and physically marking her finger afterward.



Addressing the gathering, the minister said Pakistan has become the 151st country in the world to introduce a national initiative for cervical cancer prevention. He acknowledged that misleading propaganda had surfaced soon after the campaign was announced, which prompted him to vaccinate his own daughter publicly to build trust among the people.

Kamal emphasized that the initiative is vital for women's health and urged parents to ensure their daughters receive the vaccine to protect future generations from the disease.—RT/Agency

Karachi Court Hands 27-Year Sentence to Ruthless Street Crime Convict

Karachi: An Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) in Karachi has sentenced an accused, Usman, to 27 years in prison along with a fine of Rs 150,000 in a street crime case.

According to the complainant, on April 16, 2025, while traveling from Shahrah-e-Faisal towards the airport, two motorcycle-riding suspects snatched his mobile

phone. Police arrived at the scene, prompting the suspects to open fire. In the exchange, the accused Usman sustained injuries and was arrested, while his accomplice managed to flee.—RT/Agency

University Road Turns Into Lake as Blocked Sewer Line Triggers Flood, Traffic Chaos

Karachi: The Karachi traffic police have announced the closure of a major section of University Road from Al-Mustafa Hospital to Nipa Chowranghi after the main

sewer line became blocked, leaving the road waterlogged.

Officials said the flooded stretch has made the road impassable, forcing authori-

ties to divert traffic through the service lane. Commuters have been advised to exercise caution and expect delays in the area until the issue is resolved.—RT/Agency

Thousands of Missing Pension Records Surface in Sindh Scandal

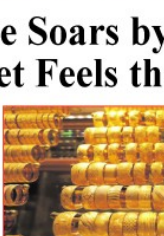
Karachi: A startling missing records revelation has surfaced during a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly, government department chairs by Nisar Ahmad Khuro.—RT/Agency

Game-Changer Alliance: CM Lauds Landmark Pak-Saudi Defence Pact

KARACHI: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah congratulated Pakistan's efforts to unite Muslim nations, dating back to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's era and continuing with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.—RT

Gold Price Soars by Rs 1,700, Market Feels the Heat

Karachi: The price of gold in Pakistan surged by Rs 1,700 per tola on Friday, according to the All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association (APGJA). With this increase, the per tola price of gold has reached Rs 390,300.



Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold rose by Rs 1,458, bringing it to Rs 334,619. In the international market, gold prices also witnessed a sharp rise, climbing by \$17 to settle at \$3,685 per ounce. The consistent upward trend in gold prices has raised concerns among jewelers and buyers, as local rates continue to follow global market fluctuations.—Agency

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

—Albert Einstein

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 2025

India Rattled as Trump's H-1B Visa Fee Hike Threatens Families

NEW DELHI: India said on Saturday that the Trump administration's move to increase US H-1B visa fees to \$100,000 per year was likely to have humanitarian consequences, warning of potential disruptions for families.

India was the largest beneficiary of the US H-1B skilled worker visas last year, accounting for 71% of approved applications. Companies will now have to pay the new \$100,000 per year fee, which is set to take effect from Saturday midnight. (0400 GMT on Sunday).

The move, announced on Friday, could further strain ties between India and the US, which hit their lowest



point in decades after President Donald Trump last month doubled tariffs on imports from India to as much as 50%, partly due to New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

"This measure is likely to have humanitarian conse-

quences by way of the disruption caused for families. Government hopes that these disruptions can be addressed suitably by the US authorities," said Jaiswal.

Jaiswal said the full implications of the fee increase were being studied by "all concerned". He said both

United States and India benefited from skilled worker mobility and their contribution to innovation, wealth creation and economic growth.

"Policy makers will therefore assess recent steps taking into account mutual benefits, which include strong people-to-people ties between the two countries," he said.

The significant hike in visa application fee could dislodge the global operations of Indian technology services companies that deploy skilled professionals to the United States, India's IT industry body Nasscom said earlier in the day. —RT/Agency

Five IHC Judges Take CJ Dogar to Supreme Court in Historic Pushback

ISLAMABAD: Five judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) have approached the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan against an order, restraining Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri from performing judicial work.

The five judges of the IHC included Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Saman Rifaat and Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan, The News reported.

They arrived at the Supreme Court together through the main gate, usually used by ordinary citizens, and each of them completed biometric verification before submitting separate petitions.

Talking to reporters outside the court, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani said that rules prevented the judges from filing a joint petition.

Meanwhile, Justice Mohsin Akhtar filed the peti-



tion under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, making the IHC, through its registrar and its chief justice, as well as the Federation of Pakistan, through the secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice, as respondents.

Justice Kiyani questioned whether the passing of an interim order against one of the petitioner judges, restraining him from performing the functions of a judge, is squarely violative of the Supreme Court judgements in Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftekhar Muhammad

Chaudhry vs. President of Pakistan (PLD 2010 SC 61) and in Malik Asad Ali and others vs. Federation of Pakistan.

Justice Kiyani prayed the apex court to declare that: i. the administrative powers cannot be employed to undermine or trump the judicial powers of the judges of the high court;

ii. the chief justice of a high court is not authorised to constitute benches or transfer cases once a bench of the high court is seized of the matter. —RT/Agency

Pentagon imposes new restrictions on media

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon has unveiled new restrictions on media covering the US military, requiring them to pledge not to disclose anything not formally authorised for publication and limiting their movements within the Department of War.

The new guidelines, laid out in a lengthy memo distributed, require them to sign an affidavit promising to comply — or risk losing their media credentials.

The move is the latest by the administration of President Donald Trump to control media coverage of his policies, and after he suggested that negative stories could be "illegal".

The Pentagon "remains committed to transparency to promote accountability and public trust," the memo says. But it adds: "Information must be approved for public release by an appropriate author[s]ing official before it is released, even if it is unclassified" — effectively barring material sourced to unnamed officials.

This new restriction would apply to both classi-



fied and "controlled unclassified information."

The memo also details sweeping new restrictions on where Pentagon reporters can actually go without official escorts within the military's vast headquarters just outside Washington.

"The press does not run the Pentagon - the people do," Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth wrote on X.

"The press is no longer allowed to roam the halls of a secure facility. Wear a badge and follow the rules — or go home." The new rules come months after Hegseth faced stark criticism for revealing timings of US air strikes on Yemen's Houthis in a Signal group chat that inadvertently included a reporter Hegseth —

Pakistan Mourns the Loss of Esteemed Economist Dr. Waqar Masood Khan

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, former Federal Secretary for Finance, passed away on Saturday, leaving a legacy of dedication and excellence. Renowned for his vast expertise in both public and private sectors, Dr. Waqar was a regular contributor to Business Recorder. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep condolences, recognizing his unmatched contributions to Pakistan's governance. Dr. Waqar held key roles, including Secretary Finance, Economic Affairs, and Petroleum Divisions, and authored books on eliminating



Riba from Pakistan's economy. He also served on numerous banking boards, including the State Bank of Pakistan and National Bank, and represented Pakistan at the IMF, World Bank, and ADB. His remarkable career will always be remembered. —RT

PBC Chief Orders Iron-Clad Enforcement of Code as Polls Near

LAHORE: Punjab Bar Council Chairman and Advocate General Punjab, Amjad Parvez, has issued strict orders for the full implementation of the code of conduct after the schedule for Punjab Bar Council elections was announced.

A complete ban has been imposed on providing food to voters and supporters during the election campaign.

Candidates have also been prohibited from hanging banners and advertisement boards.

Talking Amjad Parvez, who is also serving as the re-



turning officer for the elections, stated that strict adherence to the code of conduct will be ensured to maintain a clean and transparent electoral process.

The Punjab Bar Council elections are scheduled for November 1, with the nomination papers of candidates currently being accepted. —RT/Agency

Pope Leo Raises Alarm Over Troubling US Developments

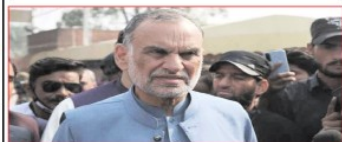


US: Vatican City: Catholic spiritual leader Pope Leo has expressed concern over certain developments taking place in the United States.

According to international media reports, the Pope clarified in a statement that he will not become part of partisan politics in the U.S. He emphasized that priests residing in

America are free to decide for themselves how they wish to engage with the Trump administration. The remarks highlight the Vatican's cautious approach toward U.S. political affairs, with the Pope underscoring neutrality while leaving space for local clergy to determine their stance. —RT/Agency

Azam Swati Tweet Case: Court Reserves Explosive Verdict



ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in federal capital Islamabad has reserved its verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati's acquittal plea in the controversial tweet case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka conducted hearing on the petitions.

The court is expected to announce its decision on September 27.

Senator Azam Swati, a senior member of PTI, is facing two cases under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), related to controversial tweets he allegedly posted on social media. —RT/Agency

Russia Pounds Ukraine with Drone & Missile Blitz, 3 Dead in Kyiv

RUSSIA: Russia launched a major drone and missile attack on Ukraine overnight, killing three people and injuring dozens, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday.

In a statement on the Telegram app, Zelenskyy said Russia launched around 580 drones and 40 missiles targeting Ukraine's infrastructure, civilian manufacturing companies, and residential areas in different regions across the country.

"All night, Ukraine was under a massive attack by Russia," Zelenskyy said. "Every such strike is not a military necessity but a deliberate strategy by Russia to terrorise civilians and destroy our infrastructure."

In the central city of Dnipro, a missile with cluster munition hit a residential apartment building, Zelenskyy said.

One person was killed, and at least 26 people were injured in Dnipro, regional



officials said.

They shared pictures on the Telegram app showing a damaged apartment building with a destroyed roof and smashed windows, people getting medical help, and rescuers working on the site.

Two people were killed in the Chernihiv region in the north and the Khmelnytskyi region in the west of the country, regional officials said.

Russia appears to have changed its tactics in its air attacks on Ukraine and now launches swarms of hundreds of drones in one

strike, compared with dozens early in the war. With air alerts lasting about 11 hours in some regions during the night, the Russian attacks were carried out in two waves, the military analysts said. Ukrainian air defence shot down 552 drones and 31 missiles, the air force said.

Polish and allied aircraft were deployed to ensure the safety of Polish airspace as Russia's attack also targeted the west of Ukraine near the border with Poland, the Polish military command said. —RT/Agency

Trump Says TikTok Talks Making Headway, Plans China Visit

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump hailed on Friday a call with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, claiming a deal to sell blockbuster app TikTok could be a "formality" and saying he would visit China, which gave a more cautious assessment of their talks.

The leaders of the world's two largest economies spoke by telephone for the second time since the return to the White House of Trump, who has tried to keep a lid on tensions despite his once virulent criticism of China.

The United States has forcefully sought to take TikTok, the social media platform hugely popular with young Americans that Trump has also used to garner support, out of Chinese hands.

Trump said that Xi "approved" the deal during the phone call, but later said:



"We have to get it signed... I guess it could be a formality." China did not confirm any agreement.

"We're going to have a very, very tight control," Trump said. "There's tremendous value with Xi, and I'm a little prejudiced because I frankly did so well on it."

He also said that Xi promised to work with the United States on ending the war in Ukraine, where China is accused by Western nations of indirectly supporting Russia's invasion, even though Beijing says it

is a neutral party.

Trump said earlier in a post on Truth Social that he and Xi "made progress on many very important issues" including TikTok.

He said he would meet Xi on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting at the end of next month and that he would travel to China next year. Trump said Xi would also visit the United States at an unspecified time and that the two leaders would speak again by telephone. —RT/Agency

US army says 4 special ops troops presumed dead in Washington State helicopter crash

US: Four US Army special operations soldiers were presumed killed when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed this week during a routine training exercise in a remote area of Washington state near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the Army.



The Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk went down at about 9pm PDT on Wednesday in rugged terrain near the base, located about 15 miles southeast of Tacoma, Washington, according to Jacqui Hill, spokesperson for the US Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

No survivors were found among the four personnel who were aboard the aircraft, all

members of the elite 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, 4th Battalion, assigned to Lewis-McChord, she said.

Dubbed "Night Stalkers," this airborne unit is known for its expertise in conducting operations under the cover of darkness and for pioneering the Army's nighttime flying tactics.

"They were elite warriors who embodied our

highest values of the Army and the Army Special Operations, and their sacrifice will never be forgotten," Lieutenant General Jonathan Braga said of the four fallen soldiers in a statement. Hill said efforts to reach the accident site were complicated by the remote location, fire from the crash and thick vegetation, and that recovery operations were continuing. —RT/Agency

Russian Warplanes Violate Estonian Skies, NATO Put on Edge

RUSSIA: Three Russian military jets violated NATO member Estonia's airspace for 12 minutes in an "unprecedentedly brazen" incursion, its government said, the latest in a series of recent military actions by Russia that have rattled the alliance.

Russia's Defence Ministry denied its jets violated Estonian airspace, saying they flew over neutral waters.

With tensions already high because of the war in Ukraine, the incursion came just over a week after more

than 20 Russian drones entered Polish airspace on the night of September 9-10. That prompted NATO jets to down some of them and Western officials to say Russia was testing the alliance's readiness and resolve.

It also occurred three days after Russia and Belarus ended their "Zapad-2025" joint military exercises, which included the rehearsal of the launch of Russian nuclear weapons.

Tallinn said the three MiG-31 fighter jets entered Estonian airspace without

permission and stayed for a total of 12 minutes before they were forced to withdraw, during which time the high-speed aircraft could have traversed broad swaths of the country.

"Russia has violated Estonian airspace four times already this year, which is unacceptable in itself, but today's violation, during which three fighter jets entered our airspace, is unprecedentedly brazen," Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna said. —RT/Agency