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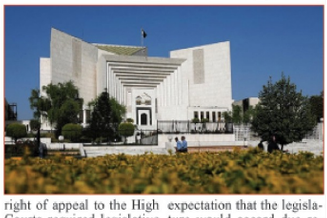
Supreme Court Demands Lawmakers Fix Army Act To Protect Civilians' Appeal Rights



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that while the Army Act provides formal due process protections, it remains constitutionally incomplete in its application to civilians due to the absence of an independent right of appeal in civilian courts.

In May 2025, the SC's constitutional bench gave its go-ahead for civilians to be tried in military courts. The apex court, in its short order, had delivered the verdict with a 5-2 majority. Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Naeem Akhtar Afghan dissented.

The case pertains to the military trials and the subsequent sentencing of civilians for their role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's arrest on May 9, 2023.

In its detailed order issued on Monday, the apex court noted that the provisions of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, were "not inherently unconstitutional," but underscored that the lack of a statutory right of appeal to the High Courts required legislative intervention.

The court referred the matter to parliament, directing the government and lawmakers to enact suitable amendments in the Army Act and allied rules within 45 days.

It stressed that the amendments must establish an independent appellate forum for civilians convicted by Court Martial or Military Courts under offences specified in Section 2(1)(d)(i) and (ii), read with Section 59(4) of the Act.

The bench further observed that such institutional deference to parliament was necessary and expressed the expectation that the legislature would accord due respect to its directions while safeguarding civilian rights in the military justice framework.

Citing international law, including Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the court held that military tribunals are not inherently unconstitutional, provided they afford minimum guarantees of fairness, particularly an independent appellate process.The court rejected the argument that military courts violate Article 175(3) of the Constitution, which deals with separation of judiciary from executive.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Jets From London To New York For High-Stakes 80th UNGA Session

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday departed for New York from London to participate in the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Premier Shehbaz — accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, as well as other ministers and senior government officials — will lead Pakistan's delegation to the high-level segment of the UNGA, scheduled for today.

During his visit, the prime minister is scheduled to address the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the prime minister is also expected to hold meetings with several world leaders.

In a statement issued earlier, the Foreign Office had mentioned that PM Shehbaz will participate in a meeting of "select" Muslim leaders with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UNGA session.

"The prime minister will also participate in a meeting of select Islamic leaders with US President Trump to exchange views on issues pertaining to regional and international peace and security," the FO said.

At UNGA, PM Shehbaz will urge the international community to resolve the situations of prolonged occupation and denial of the right to self-determination from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

"He will draw the attention of the international community towards the grave crisis in Gaza, and call for decisive action to end the suffering of the Palestinians," the FO statement read.

The statement said that PM would also highlight Pakistan's perspective on the regional security situation, as well as other issues of international concern, including climate change, terrorism, Islamophobia, and sustainable development.

The premier will further attend several high-level events on the sidelines of the UNGA session, including important meetings of the UN Security Council, a high-level meeting of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and a Special High-Level Event on Climate Action, among others, it added.

During the visit, the prime minister will have bilateral meetings on the sidelines with several world leaders and senior UN officials for an exchange of views on issues of mutual interest.

"He will also underline Pakistan's resolve to work with all UN member states to uphold the UN charter, prevent conflict, foster peace and promote global prosperity in Pakistan's current role as a member of the Security Council.

"The prime minister's participation in this biggest annual gathering of global leaders will showcase Pakistan's strong commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations and to highlight Pakistan's long-standing contribution towards the shared objectives of peace and development," it was further added.—RT/Agency

Trump Declares Kirk A 'Martyr For Freedom' As Erika Forgives Husband's Killer

US: President Donald Trump hailed slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk as a "martyr for American freedom" on Sunday and vowed at his memorial service to carry on his work, while again accusing what he called the "radical left" for Kirk's murder.

"The violence comes largely from the left," Trump said without citing any evidence, in remarks that downplayed political violence from the right and often turned starkly partisan in contrast to the more solemn tone that most other speakers adopted.

Trump has been blaming the left for the deadly shooting before a suspect was even detained. His messaging reflected the dual nature of Kirk's memorial, which had the feel of a religious revival mixed with a "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) rally.

The memorial, organized by Kirk's conservative youth advocacy organization Turning Point USA, drew tens of thousands of mourners dressed in red, white and blue who filled State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Kirk's wife, Erika, who has taken the helm of Turning Point, delivered an emotional tribute to her late husband, looking up at the heavens and mouthing, "I love you," before speaking about his devotion to Christianity, his family and his activism. The Kirks have two young children.

"I want all of you to know, while Charlie died far too early, he was also ready to die," she said. "He left this world without regrets. He did 100 percent of what he could every day."

She also offered forgiveness to the 22-year-old man who has been charged with Kirk's murder, citing the Bible's account that Jesus Christ urged his followers to forgive his tormentors while on the cross."My husband Charlie wanted to save young men, just like the one who took his life," she said, before adding tearfully, as the crowd applauded solemnly.—RT/Agency

Lebanon Says 5 Killed In Deadly Israeli Strike On South

Beirut: At least five people were killed by an Israeli drone strike on southern Lebanon on Sunday, including three children, the Lebanese health ministry said, with the president denouncing it as a "massacre".

The state-run National News Agency reported that the strike, near Bint Jbeil, had targeted a motorcycle.

The Israeli military later said it had "struck and eliminated a Hezbollah terrorist in the Bint Jbeil area of southern Lebanon.

Israel launches frequent strikes inside Lebanon, saying it is targeting Hezbollah, despite a November ceasefire meant to end more than a year of hostilities between them.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the strike as a "massacre" and called on the international community to press Israel to respect the ceasefire.

"As we are in New York to discuss matters of peace and human rights, Israel continues its ongoing violations of international resolutions," Aoun said, according to a presidency statement on X.

He accused Israel of "committing a new massacre in Bint Jbeil, which claimed the lives of five martyrs, including three children".

The president was in New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

"We call on the international community, whose leaders are present in the halls of the United Nations, to exert every effort to stop violations of international resolutions," he added.

He further called on countries "to pressure Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory and abide by" the ceasefire agreement.—RT/Agency

KP Govt Slams Tirah Civilian Deaths—Rs10m Compensation Announced For Families

KP: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday condemned the deaths of civilians during "operations against terrorists" in the province's Tirah area.

Earlier, a senior police officer in the area told AFP on condition of anonymity that "jets targeted four houses, which were completely destroyed". He, however, did not say who carried out the attack. The incident generated criticism from multiple quarters.

A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat said CM Ali Amin Gandapur met a delegation from the district following the incident with PTI MNA Iqbal Afridi, the KP chief secretary, additional chief secretary (home), Peshawar commissioner and other officials also present in the meeting that reviewed the law and order situation in the "context of the unfortunate incident" that occurred in Tirah.

"Martyrdom of civilians in the incident is regrettable and condemnable. Martyrdom of civilians as a result of operations against terrorists is unacceptable," the statement quoted CM Gandapur as saying.

It added that regret was expressed over the unfortunate incident in the meeting, and prayers were offered for the deceased as well.

The statement said the chief minister announced compensation of Rs10 million each for the families of the victims. The session also held a detailed consideration of an action plan to prevent such incidents in the future.

"In this regard, it was decided to hold a meeting of the jirga consisting of elected public representatives of the area, leaders of all political parties, and local elders with top military officials.

"The future course of action for peace and order in the area will be decided in the meeting of the jirga with military officials," the statement said, adding that an agreement was reached to adopt a strategy in Tirah to establish peace and order on the model of Bajaur.

During the meeting, special emphasis was laid on the need to gain the trust of locals and residents for peace in the area, the statement said.

Earlier in the day, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said it was "deeply shocked" to hear about reports of the killing of several civilians caused by alleged "aerial bombing" in Tirah, and demanded a probe into the matter.

It demanded that "the authorities carry out an immediate and impartial inquiry into the incident and hold to account those responsible".

"The state is constitutionally bound to protect all civilians' right to life, which it has repeatedly failed to secure," the HRCP statement read.—RT/Agency

Fitch Applauds Pakistan's Green Finance Framework—Globally Aligned!

Islamabad: Global credit rating agency Fitch has lauded Pakistan's Sustainable Financing Framework, calling it well-structured and in full alignment with international green and social financing principles. The development is being seen as a significant step forward in Pakistan's efforts to tackle climate change and promote inclusive development.

According to a statement issued by Fitch, the framework ensures that both environmental and social benefits are achieved under government-led initiatives. It will be utilized for issuing green and social bonds to support a wide range of sustainable development projects across the country.

Fitch highlighted that Pakistan's framework meets global benchmarks, making it eligible for attracting international climate financing and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investments. The green projects under the framework include renewable energy, energy efficiency, and eco-friendly transportation systems. On the social side, projects will target affordable housing and essential infrastructure for underserved communities.

The agency further emphasized that climate change poses a major threat to Pakistan, underlining the urgency of action. Projects for the protection and restoration of the Indus Basin are also expected to be rolled out under this framework, aiming to preserve one of the country's most critical natural resources.

Moreover, the sustainable projects are expected to help Pakistan meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. These include a target to cut 15% of carbon emissions by 2023 unconditionally, with an additional 35% reduction subject to international financial support.

The recognition by Fitch is a boost to Pakistan's credibility in the global financial markets and could open doors to green and social investments from multilateral institutions and private investors alike.

Analysts suggest this may also enhance Pakistan's ability to secure concessional financing at a time when fiscal space remains constrained.

As Pakistan continues to face the dual challenges of economic recovery and climate resilience, the positive endorsement by Fitch marks a step in the right direction.—RT/Agency

Ex-MNA Jamshed Dasti Jailed 7 Years In Explosive Fake Degree Scandal

MUZAFFARGARH: Former Member of the National Assembly Jamshed Dasti has been sentenced to seven years in prison in a fake degree case.A district and sessions judge in Multan announced the verdict in the BA fake degree case.Dasti — who is also the chairman of Awami Raj Party — was handed a seven-year prison term under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.In addition, he was convicted under Sections 420 (cheating) and 471 (using forged documents), among other offences, bringing his total sentence to 17 years. Out of this, 10 years are bailable.

The development comes two months after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified Dasti over fake academic credentials.In its verdict, the ECP's three-member bench declared the seat vacant following the lawmaker's disqualification."Dasti has made false statements and incorrect declaration, therefore he has also committed offence of corrupt practices defined under Section 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, punishable under Section 174 of the Election Act, 2017.—RT/Agency

Aleema Drops Bombshell: Imran Khan's Release Expected This Week

Lahore: Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has claimed that Imran Khan is expected to be released from jail this week. Her statement has reignited political discussions across the country amid growing anticipation over potential developments in high-profile legal cases.

Speaking to the media outside the Lahore High Court, Aleema Khan expressed optimism regarding the legal proceedings involving her brother. She said, "Insha'Allah, Imran Khan will be released this week. We have full faith in the justice system, and we are hopeful that the truth will prevail."

Imran Khan has been behind bars since 2023, facing multiple legal challenges, including convictions in the Toshakhana and Cipher cases. His legal team has filed several appeals, some of which are currently under review in the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court. Reports suggest that recent developments in these cases could potentially lead to relief for the PTI founder.

Aleema Khan also criticized the current government, alleging that political victimization was used to suppress PTI leadership and its supporters. She praised PTI workers for their resilience and urged the judiciary to ensure justice is served without political interference.

Political analysts believe that if Imran Khan is released, it could significantly impact Pakistan's political landscape, especially amid growing dissatisfaction with the current coalition government. PTI leaders have already hinted at mass mobilization plans once Khan is free, including nationwide rallies and legal campaigns for fresh elections.

Meanwhile, government officials have refrained from commenting on Aleema Khan's statement, saying that judicial matters are under the purview of the courts. However, security agencies are reportedly preparing for any large-scale public reaction in case of Imran Khan's release.

As legal proceedings continue, all eyes remain on Pakistan's courts this week. The nation waits to see whether Imran Khan's long-awaited release will finally materialize and what implications it may have on the already tense political environment.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Talhar Police Smash Crime Plot, Nab Four Armed Criminals

TALHAR: In a successful operation, Talhar police thwarted a crime attempt and arrested a four-member criminal gang along with illegal weapons. SHO Sub-Inspector Alauddin Khaskheli, recently posted at Talhar police station, was patrolling late at night on Rup Sharif Link Road with his team when they stopped a suspicious Alto car near Morjhar. Upon search, an illegal shotgun and ammunition were recovered from the suspects. The arrested include Subhan Junejo, Imtiaz Ali Junejo (residents of Khalifa Qasim, Taluka Nando Bago), Ghulam Ali Mallah (resident of Golarchi), and Sajjad Ali Gopang (resident of Sirani). Two of the arrested, Subhan and Imtiaz Junejo, are brothers with prior involvement in several serious crimes and multiple cases against them. This arrest highlights the timely strategy and strong commitment of Talhar police towards maintaining peace and combating crime in the area.—RT

Larkana's Bright Model School Hosts Soulful Naat Gathering for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A Naat gathering was organized by Bright Model School in Ghalib Nagar, Larkana, to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi ?. A large number of students, teachers, and staff participated in the event. Young students including Saira Laghari, Noor Saba, Kamran, Khadija Abbasi, and Masoom Kumbhar recited Naats and spoke about the life of Prophet Muhammad ?. Speaking to the media, school owner Ali Gohar Sangi said that Rabi-ul-Awwal is a month of ? blessings and joy for Muslims, marking the birth of the Prophet ?, who came as a mercy for all creation. He emphasized following the teachings of the Prophet ? to achieve success in this world and the hereafter. The event concluded with the distribution of Milad langar and special prayers for the peace, prosperity, and progress of the country.

Shaheed Benazirabad Open Katchery Confronts Alarming School System Issues

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: Following directives from the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, Regional Director Ombudsman Shaheed Benazirabad Khan Muhammad Zardari organized an open katchahry at the District Education Office to address problems faced by government educational institutions and raise awareness about the Ombudsman's role. Khan Muhammad Zardari highlighted the lack of basic facilities such as drinking water, washrooms, and furniture in many schools and urged the Education Department to take immediate action. He directed district education officers to ensure these facilities and enforce mandatory Sindhi language teaching. School headmasters raised concerns, while district education officers assured efforts to resolve issues. The event was attended by education officers and school headmasters from across the district.

Municipal Staff Erupt in Protest Over Salary Cuts and Unpaid Benefits in Naushehro Feroze

By Hasnain Shahid Channa

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: Municipal employees of Naushehro Feroze held a protest rally from the Municipal Office to the Press Club, demanding the reversal of salary deductions, payment of pending pensions, and additional wages. The protest was led by the Labor Union's President Kashan Raja and General Secretary Imran Ali Rajpar. The employees raised concerns over the ongoing "visa system," issuance of show-cause notices to on-duty staff, and lack of proper cleaning supplies. Despite previous assurances from Municipal Committee Chairman Kashif Mustafa Memon and Municipal Officer to address these issues, no improvements have been made. The union warned that if their demands remain unmet, a strike will be called. They urged higher authorities, including the Minister and Secretary of Municipal Affairs, to intervene promptly.

750 Patients Receive Treatment at Massive Free Medical Camp in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A free medical camp was organized in the village of Hasanabad near Thul, witnessing a large turnout of patients as usual. The camp started at 9 AM and continued until the afternoon. Doctors reported a high number of cases related to malaria, typhoid, eczema, diarrhea, and skin infections, especially among children. Around 750 patients were examined by Dr. Rochal Das, Dr. Inayatullah Kalhoro, and Dr. Raheem Bux Buriro, who also provided free medicines. Others who rendered their services at the camp included Dr. Gurmukh Das, teacher Arbab Ali Golo, Anmol Shahid Buriro, Shah Muhammad Bhatti, Khair Muhammad Golo, JSQM leader Waseem Qureshi, Liaquat Sarki, Abdul Wahid Sarki, Abdul Rasheed Bhatti, Khalid Hussain Daudpoto, and many others.

MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Hails Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Birthday Celebration

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah extended heartfelt birthday wishes to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on his 37th birthday. In her message, she praised his dynamic leadership, dedication to democratic values, and unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan, expressing confidence in his vision for a progressive and united nation.

SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio Leads Powerful Anti-Drug Drive at SZABIST

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio attended an awareness seminar on "Drug Use Awareness and Prevention" organized by ACAN and SZABIST University Hyderabad. Speaking as chief guest, he reaffirmed the police's commitment to combating drug abuse. Experts from ANF and psychology highlighted the social and health impacts of drugs, while students engaged actively in a Q&A session. The event concluded with pledges to work towards a drug-free Pakistan.

Tube Wells Crisis Deepens in Naushehro Feroze as Officials Scramble for Fix

By Hasnain Shahid Channa

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: Representatives of the SCARP Irrigation Employees Tube Well Division in Naushehro Feroze highlighted the poor condition of many district tube wells during a recent press conference. They called for increased cooperation among engineers, staff, and contractors to restore these essential irrigation resources. A peaceful march is planned for September 26 to respectfully urge authorities to address the ongoing maintenance issues and improve water supply services.

Jacobabad Police Capture Injured Suspect After Fierce Encounter

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Jacobabad police claimed to have arrested an injured suspect named Allah Dino Anar following an encounter near Bhitai Town. During the clash between police and criminals, three accomplices managed to escape. Police also recovered an unlicensed pistol from the suspect's possession. A search operation and roadblocks have been set up to apprehend the fleeing suspects.

Criminal Case Launched Against Hyderabad Mayor, Town and UC Chairmen

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Renowned MQM lawyer and district member Sabir Hussain Advocate has issued legal notices to the Mayor of Hyderabad, Town Chairmen, and UC Chairmen. The notices demand accountability for public funds, with assurances that justice will be served and those involved in corruption will face consequences. Citizens affected by misappropriation of funds—from illegal contractors, wrongful termination of daily wage workers, recruitment of fake employees, to fatalities caused by unsafe manholes and waterlogging leading to malaria and dengue deaths are speaking out. The legal move vows to reclaim every citizen's rightful dues.

Tragic End as Body of Missing Mentally Ill Man Found Near Digri

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: The body of 55-year-old Yar Muhammad, a mentally ill and epileptic resident of Tharo Khan Nohani village near Digri, was recovered from Jamrao Canal near Budho Qambrani Road three days after he went missing. Locals spotted the floating body and informed the family, who confirmed the identity and notified the police. Authorities conducted necessary procedures before handing the body over to the relatives. The family stated that the deceased had epilepsy and mental health issues and expressed no suspicion regarding his death. After funeral prayers, Yar Muhammad was laid to rest. The family has decided not to pursue any

Sindh Govt Unveils Model Human Rights Resource Centre in Hyderabad

By Muqeem Keerio

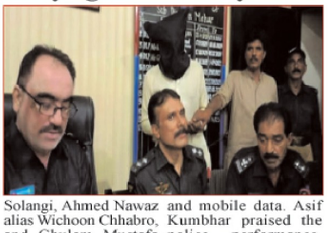
HYDERABAD: The Sindh Government has established a Model Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) at the Divisional Headquarters in Hyderabad on the directives of the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Human Rights. This landmark initiative aims to strengthen coordination between the government and civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights. The HRRC will serve as a hub for NGO registration, coordination, awareness campaigns, and human rights defender programs. Jointly managed by government and civil society representatives, the centre ensures transparency and collaborative engagement. Director Human Rights Agha Fakhur Hussain stated that this model will soon be replicated in other divisions across Sindh.

PPP Leaders in Shahdadkot Celebrate Bilawal Bhutto's Birthday With Glowing Tributes

SHAHDADKOT: On the occasion of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday, local party leaders including Taluka General Secretary Raees Wajid Khan Chandio, UC Chakyani Chairman Rais Abdul Khaliq Khan Chandio, PPP leader Mir Darya Khan Mastoi, and City General Secretary Sirai Qurban Ali Soomro extended warm congratulations and paid rich tribute to him. Speaking to journalists, the leaders said Bilawal Bhutto is a symbol of national unity, development, and prosperity. They expressed confidence that he will tirelessly work for the country's progress as Prime Minister. They also praised his performance as Foreign Minister, highlighting his efforts in strengthening Pakistan's global image and diplomatic relations.—RT

Mehar Police Recover Loot, Arrest Prime Suspect in Brazen Daylight Robbery

By Murtaza Panhwar



MEHAR: In a successful operation, Mehar police arrested key facilitator Muhammad Nawaz Solangi involved in a daylight robbery on Baito Road ten days ago, where citizens Asif Kumbhar and Naeem Kumbhar were looted. During a press conference, DSP Mashooq Kirio revealed that police recovered three stolen mobile phones and Rs. 35,000 in cash. Main suspects Sajjan Solangi, Anwar Solangi, Ahmed Nawaz alias Wichoon Chhabro, and Ghulam Mustafa alias Gullu Gaincho are still at large. Their identities were confirmed through CCTV footage and mobile data. Asif Kumbhar praised the police performance, while officials assured that further operations against criminals would continue.

Kot Ghulam Muhammad Hosts Grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi Gathering

By Maqbool Dal

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi ? gathering was held in Haji Ahmed Khan Bhurgri village, organized by Dada Raees Muhammad Yousuf Khan Bhurgari and Raees Arif Khan Bhurgari. Renowned naat reciter Afzal Bhanbhro paid tribute to the Holy Prophet ?, while scholars including Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Soho, a guest from Oman, and others from Punjab delivered inspiring speeches in Arabic and Saraiki. Thousands of devotees attended, including PPP leaders Nawabzada Mir Anwar Ali Khan Talpur, MPA Raiees Noor Ahmed Bhurgari, and other notable figures. The event concluded with a special prayer and free meal (langar) for all attendees.

UBL Veteran Salman Khan Qaimkhani Honored After 35 Years of Service

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Hundreds of citizens from various cities gathered at Qaimkhani Community Hall to honor Salman Khan Qaimkhani, Regional Manager of UBL Bank, on completing 35 years of dedicated service. The event, organized by Sardar Ashraf Waheed Qaimkhani, was attended by prominent political, social, and religious leaders including former Chairman Aslam Qaimkhani, Shakil Yaseen, Dr. Hashim Khan, DSP Khuda Bakhsh Thebo, SHO Farhan Memon, and many others. Speakers praised Salman Khan's contributions, highlighting his role in providing employment to unemployed youth, relief to consumers, and strengthening public outreach. Salman Khan thanked everyone and emphasized honesty and dedication as keys to success.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Maryam Flags Off Electric Bus Revolution in Sahiwal

SAHIWAL: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the electric bus service in Sahiwal on Monday.

Following the inauguration, Maryam Nawaz also boarded one of the electric buses and took a tour of the city.

Last week, Maryam Nawaz launched eco-friendly electric buses.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, she said 60 electric buses would be operational within Sargodha city and 105 in Sargodha division.

A charging station has been established in Sargodha for these buses.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz further announced that owners of livestock lost in the floods will also be compensated with Rs200,000 to Rs500,000, and the distribution of cheques will begin within five days.

Highlighting the scale of devastation, she said the floods affected 27 cities and more than 5,000 villages. She asserted that had the Punjab government not acted promptly, the loss of life could have been far greater.

Relief efforts enabled the safe evacuation of 2.5 million people to secure locations, along with the provision of food and other necessities.—RT/Agency

Political Party Boom! Election Commission Count Soars to 170

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has officially registered two new political parties — the Azad Awam Pakistan Party and the Tajdeed Nizam Party. According to a notification issued on Monday, Muhammad Ali has been named as the head of the Azad Awam Pakistan Party, while Khalid Zaman will serve as the chairman of the Tajdeed Nizam Party.

The ECP also confirmed that it has accepted the intra-party elections of both political entities, fulfilling the legal requirements for their registration. With this development, the total number of registered political parties in the country has now reached 170.

Political observers note that the inclusion of new parties reflects ongoing interest among citizens and groups to enter the political mainstream. The Election Commission reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and ensuring that all registered parties operate in accordance with electoral laws and democratic principles.—RT/Agency

Pakistan's Biggest Tech Push: PM Launches SkillTech to Train 2.1 Million Youth

Islamabad, 22-Sep-2025 (PPI): The Ministry of IT & Telecom and the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) today unveiled the "Prime Minister's SkillTech Pakistan" program at the "Building Tomorrow" function in Karachi.

This ambitious initiative seeks to train over 2.1 million Pakistanis in cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and blockchain within the next three years. Federal IT & Telecom Minister, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, announced the program, emphasizing its role in equipping Pakistani youth with internationally recognized skills. The project aims to bolster tech corporations, ensuring international compliance and reinforcing industry partnerships. Khawaja stated the platform showcases the government"s dedication to cultivating a workforce prepared for the future, establishing Pakistan as a leading global technology center.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Assembly PAC Slams Local Councils, Demands Strict Monthly OZT Fund Reports

KARACHI: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly has expressed no confidence in the performance of all local councils across Sindh, including Union Councils (UCs), Town and Municipal Committees, and Municipal Corporations. The committee has demanded monthly utilization reports of the OZT (Own Source Tax) funds from all local councils. PAC has also ordered submission of detailed accounts regarding the annual Rs. 168 billion OZT funds allocated by the Sindh government to local councils. Chairman Nisar Khoro criticized that despite the hefty allocation, there is no clarity on how these funds are being spent, with local councils failing to utilize even 30% of the development budget.

The committee directed the Finance and Local Government departments to withhold OZT fund releases from councils that do not submit monthly utilization reports. PAC also ordered inspections of local councils by regional directors of the Local Government Department and mandated computerization and biometric registration of local council employees. Additionally, PAC suspended the Chief Municipal Officer of Gambat Municipal Committee for failing to deposit Rs. 7 million in sales tax to the government treasury. —RT/Agency

BHC Grants Bail to Tribal Leader Satakzai in Shocking Degari Honour Killing Case

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court on Monday approved the bail plea of tribal leader Sardar Sherbaz Satakzai, who was arrested in the Degari honour killing case in which a couple was shot dead in the name of 'honour'.

Justice Iqbal Kasi of the BHC approved the bail plea and directed the accused to submit surety bonds of Rs500,000.

Satakza had approached the high court following the rejection of his bail from the lower court.

The incident came to light after a video circulating on social media showed more than a dozen men gathered in a remote, mountainous desert area, with SUVs and pickup trucks parked nearby.

The woman was ordered to stand facing away from the group before a man pulled out a gun and shot her in the back. He then turned the weapon on a man and shot him dead.

The woman was shot seven times and the man nine times, according to police surgeon Dr Ayesha.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Kartarpur Sahib Hosts Grand Three-Day Tribute to Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: The three-day commemorations of the death anniversary of the great spiritual leader of the Sikh community, Baba Guru Nanak Devji, concluded with devotion and reverence at Kartarpur Sahib. More than three thousand pilgrims from across Pakistan and abroad paid homage at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, performed religious rituals, and visited sacred sites associated with Baba Guru Nanak Ji.

On the second day of the commemorations, pilgrims held a Nagar Kirtan procession with a flower-decorated central float that drew special attention. On the final day, the yatrees participated in collective prayers, kirtan, and concluding rituals before returning to their respective destinations.

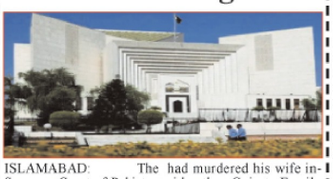
During the closing ceremony, Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC), Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, joined the Sikh community in a plantation drive and planted a sapling as a symbol of life and peace. Addressing the gathering, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said that the land of Pakistan embodies the message of peace and teachings of Baba Guru Nanak Ji. Kartarpur Sahib is a spiritual center for Sikhs across the globe, where devotees come with open hearts to offer their prayers. Baba Ji's timeless message of humanity, peace, brotherhood, and respect for all continues to guide us even today. The Government of Pakistan remains fully committed to ensuring religious freedom for all minorities. He further added that Darbar Sahib Kartarpur stands as a symbol of peace and harmony, where pilgrims from around the world not only experience religious freedom but also witness a true reflection of interfaith harmony. members of PSGPC, Head Granthi and large numbers of Sikh community were also present on the occasion.

Karachi Celebrates Shehroz Khan After Historic Mr. Universe Triumph

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Young bodybuilder Shehroz Khan from Malir, Karachi, who won the prestigious Mr. Universe title in an international competition in Thailand defeating 125 competitors from 25 countries, was warmly honored at a reception and dinner hosted by Tariq Mahmood of Tariq Enterprises Saudabad. The event was attended by notable figures including MPA Syed Sharq Jamal, social leader Zahid Rahim, and sports personality Ghulfaraz Ahmed Khan. Shehroz received shields from Tariq Enterprises and Khidmat-e-Aam Welfare Organization, along with gift hampers and cash prizes from various sponsors. Speakers praised Shehroz's dedication and called for official recognition and support from government authorities. A reception at the hockey stadium is also planned in his honor.

No Escape! Supreme Court Denies Relief to Wife-Killer During Proceedings



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed the appeal of death row convict Maaf Ali, upholding his double death sentence under terrorism charges,

During the hearing, defense counsel Salman Safdar argued that applying terrorism provisions to a case of spousal murder was unjustified.

"How can terrorism clauses be invoked in a case where a man killed his wife?" he contended.

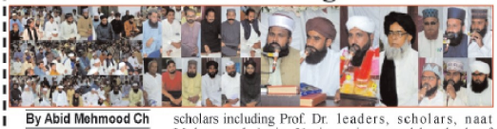
However, Punjab Prosecutor Mirza Abid Majeed maintained that the convict had murdered his wife inside the Gujrat Family Court. This act alone was performed to spread fear and panic in a packed courtroom.

"There are multiple Supreme Court of Pakistan precedents on the application of terrorism charges," he said.

Justice Athar Minallah, heading the three-member bench, observed that a woman seeking justice was killed inside the court itself.

"Murdering a woman who came to court for justice constitutes terrorism.—RT/Agency

Massive Turnout at 21st Annual Khatm-e-Nubuwwat Conference in Toba Tek Singh



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The 21st Annual Tajdar Khatm-e-Nubuwwat Conference was held at Markaz Ahl-e-Sunnat, Jamia Masjid Bilal, Mohalla Bakhshi Park, under the chairmanship of Pir Muhammad Shams-uz-Zaman Qadri. Renowned scholars including Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amin Nasir Sialvi, Mufti Sajjad Faizi, and Mufti Muhammad Saeed Rizvi delivered speeches on the importance of the belief in the Finality of Prophethood and the guidance of the Holy Qur'an. The conference was attended by religious leaders, scholars, naat reciters, and hundreds of attendees from across the region. A special prayer was held for national peace and prosperity. The event concluded with a strong reaffirmation of the core belief that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the final Messenger of Allah.

Pakistan-Saudi Pact Ignites New Era of Trade and Defense Unity

KARACHI: Zubair Tufail, President of United Business Group, hailed PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia as a game-changer, following the signing of a landmark mutual defense agreement. Tufail said this pact strengthens brotherly ties and boosts investor confidence. With $4.5B in imports and $710M in exports, he urged single-country trade exhibitions to elevate bilateral trade. Declaring, "An attack on Saudi Arabia is an attack on Pakistan," Tufail reaffirmed business leaders' commitment to regional stability and economic collaboration.—RT

Smart Pakistan Drive! GEPCO Rolls Out Digital Survey & Smart Metering Plan

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: In line with government directives, GEPCO has initiated a comprehensive digital survey across the region to modernize operations and lay the groundwork for a future smart metering system. During the survey, GEPCO representatives will collect essential consumer details such as CNIC number, mobile number, and information on property ownership or tenancy. This data will help ensure accurate billing, streamline meter readings, enable timely bill delivery and online payments, and improve service quality. The digital records will also assist in legal connection verification, preventing electricity theft, and enhancing transparency in the system. GEPCO has urged the public to cooperate fully with survey teams, emphasizing that accurate consumer information is key to receiving improved and reliable services.

Power Shock: 10-Hour Outage to Hit Karachi on Sept 23!

KARACHI: K-Electric has announced a scheduled power shutdown on September 23, 2025, affecting 39 of its 2,129 feeders across Karachi. The outage, due to maintenance work on transformers, will last between 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM in selected areas. Residents could face power cuts lasting between 8 to 10 hours, potentially disrupting daily routines citywide. This temporary load shedding aims to upgrade the system but will bring a day of inconvenience for many.—RT

Furniture Expo Sparks Global Frenzy: Pakistani Brands Take Center Stage!

KARACHI: Pakistan's largest Furniture Living Expo wrapped up at Karachi Expo Centre, drawing huge crowds and impressive sales. Over 50 top furniture companies showcased quality products at discounted rates, earning public praise. Chief Guest FPCCI VP Aman Paracha highlighted the expo's role in promoting Pakistan's image internationally. Organizer Dr. Nazish Faisal credited citizens' support for the event's success and vowed future editions. The event concluded with certificate distributions and a commemorative shield presented to Paracha for his support.—RT

Health Chief Storms Kamalia Hospital—Inspects Services, Orders Top Care

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Dr. Kashif Nadeem, CEO Health Toba Tek Singh, visited Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamalia to review medical facilities and patient care. During the visit, patients praised free medicines and staff professionalism. Dr. Nadeem commended the hospital team and urged continued efforts to improve healthcare services, aligning with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of accessible, quality healthcare for all citizens.

Journalists Denounce Attack on Anchor Imtiaz Mir, Demand Swift Justice

By Fida Husaain Panhwar

KARACHI: The Karachi Union of Journalists and Workers has strongly condemned the brutal attack on senior anchorperson Imtiaz Mir, who was shot in the chest and face near Malir Kala Board. Terming it an assault on press freedom, President Fawad Mahmood and other union leaders demanded the immediate arrest and strict punishment of the perpetrators. The union expressed solidarity with Mir and urged law enforcement to ensure the safety of journalists across the city.

Victory Is Certain! – Iftikhar Sheikh's Full Panel Gears Up for Customs Agents Elections

KARACHI: Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Patron of the Businessmen Panel, declared they are contesting all 30 seats in the Karachi Customs Agents Association elections to deliver real change. Urging members to vote for the full panel, he vowed to restore agents' dignity and eliminate personal agendas. "We won't withdraw—victory is certain," he said. Criticizing the current body's self-interest, Sheikh emphasized unity, professionalism, and independence from any chamber or federation, asserting their mission is solely to defend members' rights.—RT

DPO Ibadat Nisar Takes Governance to the Streets—Holds Open Katcheries in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a move to improve public service and foster direct engagement, District Police Officer (DPO) Ibadat Nisar conducted a series of open courts across Toba Tek Singh, including Union Councils 316 GB, 383 JB Chhota Allahar, Rajana, and the District Council Hall in Toba City. Acting on the directives of Punjab IGP Dr. Usman Anwar and RPO Faisalabad Zeeshan Asghar, these sessions allowed citizens to voice their concerns directly to the DPO, who issued prompt orders for redressal. Emphasizing community-police collaboration, DPO Nisar stated that such initiatives strengthen public trust and ensure justice at the people's doorstep. He pledged to continue and expand this mission of public service in the future.

Nasir Shah Roars Back: Vows Justice After Brutal Attack on Journalist Imtiaz Mir

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah strongly condemned the assassination attempt on senior journalist Imtiaz Mir, calling it an attack on journalism and humanity. He termed such violence a sinister attempt to silence truth and vowed that the culprits would be brought to justice. Emphasizing the Sindh government's commitment to journalist safety, Shah assured strict legal action against those responsible. He also offered prayers for Mir's swift recovery.—RT

The REGIONAL TIMES
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EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Supreme Court's Landmark Verdict: Respect It, Implement It, Own It

The Supreme Court's latest ruling on military trial convicts' right to appeal is nothing short of historic—a moment of clarity in a fog of constitutional uncertainty. By directing the government to legislate within 45 days, the apex court has drawn a clear red line: no justice system is complete without an independent and credible avenue of appeal.

For decades, the debate on military trials has divided Pakistan, raising questions about fairness, transparency, and due process. This landmark verdict does not abolish military courts, but it strengthens the constitutional principle enshrined in Article 10-A—the right to a fair trial. By ensuring appeals can now be heard in civilian high courts, the judiciary has balanced national security with fundamental rights. This balance is the cornerstone of any democratic order.

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The government, parliament, military establishment, and legal fraternity must now act with responsibility and urgency. Delaying legislation or playing politics with this decision will only deepen public mistrust. Citizens must see that their highest court's word carries weight, not lip service. Equally, the armed forces must recognize that judicial clarity benefits everyone, including them, by protecting the credibility of their actions from allegations of secrecy or arbitrariness.

This ruling is not about weakening institutions; it is about strengthening Pakistan. By respecting the Supreme Court's directives, stakeholders can move the country toward long-overdue closure on a matter that has festered for years. What is at stake is not only the fate of those tried under military law but also the integrity of the justice system itself.

It is time to put the culture of defiance aside. The verdict must be respected, the legislation enacted, and justice made visibly accessible. Pakistan has waited too long—judicial closure is now the need of the hour.

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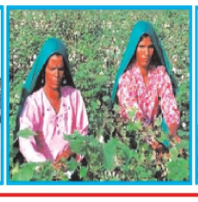
THE HEARTLAND



Sindhi Adabi Sangat Maqsoodo Rind Convenes Business Committee Meeting

By Ayaz Latif Rind

MAQSOODO RIND: The Business Committee of Sindhi Adabi Sangat Maqsoodo Rind held a meeting under the chairmanship of member Abdul Hakim Panjaro. The meeting was attended by Secretary Shaukeen Ali Rind, Joint Secretary Raza Hussain Raza, Auditor Shafi Muhammad Dahri, Treasurer Rashid Ali Rind, and members Bahadur Rind, Mashooq Dahri, Qazi Alhadto Rind, Raza Muhammad Brohi, Zakir Hussain Rind, Mir Rind, and Koro Khan. Joint Secretary Raza Hussain Raza and Mashooq Dahri presented written reports on the constitutional meetings and activities of the Business Committee, which will be forwarded to the district secretary Abdullah Chandio of Sindhi Adabi Sangat Sanghar. The committee decided to honor notable personalities serving in various fields within the area with awards and formed a six-member subcommittee for this purpose. The meeting appreciated the ongoing constitutional meeting process and decided to organize a condolence gathering in November to pay tribute to the late senior member Ehsan Rind.

Sindh Govt Employees Call Province-Wide Lockdown Protest from Sept 23–27

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Workers Federation and APCA leader Muhammad Malook Ujjan has announced a province-wide protest and office lockdown from September 23 to 27, in support of the Sindh Employees Alliance's call for action. In solidarity, the Sindh Agriculture Research Non-Gazetted Employees Association Sarangia, led by Malook Aijon, Ghulam Haider Laghari, and Abdul Farooq Mahar, declared that hundreds of employees from the Sindh Horticulture Research Center, Mirpurkhas, will stage a sit-in at the office gate during these days. Speaking to media, Malook Ujjan accused the Sindh government of unfair treatment of employees, stating that while lawmakers' salaries have seen large increases, public servants have been deprived of fair wages and pensions. He vowed that the protest would continue until demands are met.

HESCO Strikes Hard on Power Theft, Recovers Over PKR 586 Million

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has intensified its crackdown on electricity theft and non-payment, recovering over PKR 586 million since January 2025. Under CEO Faizullah Dahri's directives, HESCO disconnected 24,367 illegal connections, made 661 arrests, and seized large amounts of illegal wiring across multiple subdivisions. Recent operations recovered more than PKR 4.73 million and removed 30 meters. HESCO urges consumers to pay bills timely to avoid disconnection and legal action.

Brother Arrested for Brutal Axe Murder of Younger Sibling

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: The Thatta Police have successfully arrested the prime suspect involved in the brutal axe murder of his younger brother in Gharo town. The arrest was made along with the recovery of the murder weapon. According to details, on the night of September 17, 2025, a violent dispute broke out between two brothers at Niazi Colony, Gharo. The elder brother, Abdul Malik Korai, allegedly attacked his younger brother, Anas Korai, with an axe after a quarrel over mobile phone expenses. The injured victim was rushed to Rural Health Center Gharo under police supervision and later referred to Jinnah Hospital Karachi, where he succumbed to his injuries en route. The body was then sent for post-mortem at RHC Gharo. An FIR (No. 202/2025) under Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered on behalf of their elder brother Mohammad Ibrahim Korai at Gharo Police Station. Taking immediate notice, SSP Thatta Farooq Ahmed Bijarani*l formed a special investigation team headed by SDPO Gharo and including SHO Gharo Inspector Muhammad Ali Damrah along with other senior officers.Following a tip-off, the team conducted a successful raid near New Café Imran and apprehended the suspect Abdul Malik Korai. During initial interrogation, the suspect confessed to the crime.

MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan Extends Condolences in Jam Nawaz Ali

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI:Pakistan Peoples Party MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan visited various communities in his constituency, including Jam Nawaz Ali, Berani Nauabad, and Rukan Barara, to offer condolences on recent bereavements. He prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and for their place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. On this occasion, Sikandar Ali Katohar and Riaz Ali Wassan were also present.

MNA Shazia Atta Marri Visits Naukot, Showcases Development Works

By Imtiaz Laskani

NAUABAD: PPP MNA and former federal minister Shazia Atta Marri visited Arain House on the invitation of social leader Haji Riaz Hussain Arain, where she was warmly welcomed with flower petals and traditional Sindhi gifts. Speaking to journalists in nearby Haji Muhammad Musa Arain village, she said she is committed to fulfilling her election promises in Sanghar district. She highlighted ongoing road development, NICVD hospital work, and a trauma center in Berani. She praised Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's timely efforts during recent floods, including electricity bill waivers for affected farmers. Senior PPP leaders and local workers were also present on the occasion.

DG Health Inspects Civil Hospital Hyderabad's Facilities

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Director General Health Dr. Waqar Memon, along with Medical Superintendent Dr. Ali Akbar Dahri, conducted a detailed inspection of Civil Hospital Hyderabad. Dr. Memon personally met patients and evaluated the hospital's administrative performance and medical services. He expressed satisfaction but urged the administration to enhance patient care, cleanliness, and modern medical facilities. Dr. Dahri briefed on ongoing efforts to provide quality treatment and maintain coordination with the Health Department for further improvements.

Matiari Administration Meets Over CNIC Blockage Crisis

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Following directives from Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousif Sheikh, a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Matiari, Iqra Jannat, to discuss the restoration of blocked national identity cards. Iqra Jannat acknowledged that blocked CNICs have caused significant public distress and assured that the district administration, in coordination with NADRA, is committed to resolving the issue promptly. Assistant Director NADRA, Faisal Chandio, briefed attendees on the measures already taken, assuring that complaints will be addressed very soon.

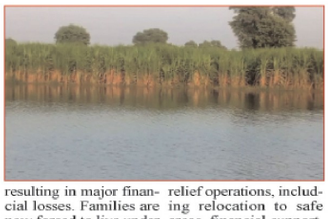
Badin Police Launch Sweeping Search Operation, Dozens of Suspects Held

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the instructions of SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani, a large-scale search and combing operation along with a general hold-up was conducted across the district. All SDPOs, SHOs, lady police officers, and "Talaash App" device operators participated in the operation. Police carried out thorough searches in hotels, passenger inns, bus terminals, and at all entry and exit points of the city. Numerous vehicles and individuals were checked, and several suspicious persons were taken to police stations for further verification. The operation aimed to ensure public safety and maintain law and order. Patrolling and questioning of suspicious individuals is ongoing, with legal action being taken against criminal elements.

Floodwaters Swallow Villages Near Daulatpur, Residents Plead for Urgent Relief

By Aijaz Jokhio



DAULATPUR Several villages including Sardar Raza Muhammad Dahri, Ghulam Muhammad Umrani, Safan, and Shah Hussain have been completely submerged in floodwater, causing severe distress to local residents. Villagers Bashir Ahmed Umrani, Muhammad Azeem Dahri, Bago Solangi, and Sajan Mallah told journalists that water has entered their homes and destroyed standing crops, resulting in major financial losses. Families are now forced to live under the open sky. The affected communities have appealed to the authorities for urgent rescue and relief operations, including relocation to safe areas, financial support, and provision of essential supplies such as food and clean drinking water.

Ali Hassan Zardari Congratulates Bilawal Bhutto on 37th Birthday

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Sindh Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari extended warm wishes to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on his 37th birthday, praising his dynamic leadership and commitment to democracy. He called Bilawal the true heir to Bhutto's legacy and a beacon of hope for Pakistan's youth. Zardari prayed for his long life and expressed confidence in his ability to lead Pakistan toward progress, justice, and prosperity.

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SPORTS

Suryakumar Yadav Declares India-Pak Clash No Longer a Rivalry After Seventh Straight Victory

DUBAI: India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has played down the notion of an ongoing rivalry between India and Pakistan, insisting that the results no longer justify such a tag.

Speaking after India's comprehensive victory over Pakistan in the Super Four clash of the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025, Suryakumar was asked whether Pakistan had raised their standards compared to their earlier defeat.

"I would like to say one thing on this question. I feel you should stop asking about rivalry," he responded, before clarifying his stance. "Standards and rivalry are the same. According to me, if two teams play 15-20 matches and it's 7-7 or 8-7, then that is called a rivalry. But 13-0, 10-1…I don't know the stats. But this is not a rivalry anymore. I feel we just played better cricket than them."

India's latest win extended their streak over Pakistan to seven consecutive matches in men's internationals since their last defeat at the 2022 Asia Cup in Dubai.—Agency

Ferran Torres Fires Brace as Barcelona Crush Getafe

BARCELONA: Ferran Torres scored a double as Barcelona dominated Getafe 3-0 here at Estadi Johan Cruyff in La Liga.

Dani Olmo also shone with an assist and a goal in another impressive performance by Hansi Flick's side at their makeshift home venue.

Following the win, unbeaten Catalans remained in the second place on the table with 13 points behind leaders Real Madrid, which have won all five matches.

Torres, who replaced Robert Lewandowski in Flick's rotation policy, put Barcelona ahead in the 15th minute after he was set up by Olmo.

The Spanish forward scored his second to put Barcelona 2-0 ahead in the 34th minute, capitalising on an assist by Raphinha.

Torres missed his hat-trick by the tiniest of margins when he hit the crossbar just before half-time.

The 25-year-old has now scored four goals in five games this season, clinching the second position in the La Liga scoring charts, just one goal short of Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe.

Torres said he can be a starter for Barca, and he is confident that his goals will increase.—Agency

India Narrowly Defeat Pakistan in SAFF U17 Championship Thriller

COLOMBO: Pakistan suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat at the hands of arch-rivals India in their final group-stage match of the SAFF U17 Championship 2025 here at the Racecourse Ground on Monday.

The blockbuster clash got off to a briefly silent start as both teams failed to open the scoring until the 31st minute, when Dallalmuon Gangte gave the Blue Colts their first success.

Pakistan, however, responded 10 minutes later as Muhammad Abdullah successfully converted the penalty, lifting his side tied at 1-1 with India heading into the break.

India pulled ahead in the 64th minute through Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam, only for Pakistan to equalise seven minutes later, thanks to Hamza Yasir.

Pakistan and India then made several attempts to score the tie-breaker and it was eventually scored by the Blue Colts in the 74th minute as substitute Rahan Ahmed continued his goal-scoring touch, which ultimately proved to be the winner.

The victory helped India to finish at the top of Group B with nine points, followed by arch-rivals Pakistan with six. Both teams have already qualified for the semi-finals.

Notably, the defeat marked Pakistan's first in the SAFF U17 Championship 2025 as the Green Shirts beat Bhutan and Maldives in their first two matches.

Pakistan began their campaign with a commanding 4-0 victory over Bhutan, courtesy of Muhammad Abdullah's hat-trick.—Agency

Pakistan's Agha Kaleem Stuns Azerbaijani Opponent in Baku Showdown

BAKU: Pakistan's renowned kickboxer Agha Kaleem registered his fourth professional victory by beating Azerbaijani opponent Abdul Rahman Rauf here.

Competing in the 58kg category, Kaleem displayed sensational striking to round up a thumping victory over Rauf in the international event, featuring around 50 fighters from several countries, including Pakistan, Turkiye, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

"It is a matter of pride to achieve success for Pakistan. This victory will inspire the youth of Pakistan," Kaleem said after the victory.

"This victory is the result of hard work and prayers of the nation," he added.

Earlier this year, Kaleem registered a resounding victory in the World Professional Kickboxing Championship by knocking out Azerbaijan's Revan Musayev.

Kaleem showcased utmost dominance against Musayev, knocking him down in just 15 seconds, the fastest Technical Knockout (TKO) of the event, which spanned two days.

The victory was of significant importance for Kaleem, who bagged the silver medal in the 51-kilogram category at the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) World Muaythai Championships in March.

Agha Kaleem, who stormed into the final of the 51-kilogram category on the back of dominant performances, squared off against a Croatian opponent in the summit clash but ended up on the losing side.

The 24-year-old alleged the referee of favouring his opponent in the final but expressed gratitude for winning the laurel for his country.

"I did not lose. They made me lose. The referee showed partiality in the final," claimed Kaleem.

"Thanks to Almighty Allah, I won a silver medal for my country," he added.

Kaleem, originally from Quetta and currently residing in Baldia Town, Karachi, works as a tea vendor. Despite his spectacular achievements and numerous medals at national and international levels, Kaleem was forced to sell parathas (fried bread) at a local stall in Karachi.—Agency

Quinton de Kock U-Turns on Retirement, Joins South Africa Squad for Pakistan ODIs

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Monday announced their squads for the all-format tour of Pakistan, featuring wicketkeeper batter Quinton de Kock, who came out of his ODI retirement.

De Kock, who called time on his ODI career after the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India, is set to feature in both white-ball series against Pakistan, scheduled to run from October 28 to November 8."Quinton's return to the white-ball space is a major boost for us," said Conrad. "When we spoke last month about his future, it was clear that he still has a strong ambition to represent his country.

"Everyone knows the quality he brings to the side, and having him back can only benefit the team."

Test captain Temba Bavuma, who led South Africa to lift the World Test Championship, has been ruled out of the tour due to calf strain. In Bavuma's absence, Aiden Markram will lead the side in the Test series set to begin from October 12.

Matthew Breetzke and David Miller have been named as captains for ODIs and T20Is, respectively.

"Naturally, we are disappointed not to have Temba available," South Africa coach Shukri Conrad said. "He has been such an important leader and batter for us in the Test side, and his presence on and off the field will be missed."

The tourists will take four spinners on tour, though Keshav Maharaj will only be available for the second test as he recovers from a groin problem. Simon Harmer has earned a recall, with Senuran Muthusamy and Prenelan Subrayan the others.

South Africa will co-host the 2027 Cricket World Cup with Zimbabwe and Namibia, hoping to end their hunt for the elusive trophy.

South Africa will be touring Pakistan in October and November as both teams will feature in all formats of the game. The tour is set to commence with a two-match series, which will kick off Pakistan's new cycle of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27.

The first Test match will be played at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium from October 12 to 16. The second Test will take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from October 20 to 24.

Following the red-ball matches, both teams will compete in three T20Is, scheduled from October 28 to November 1.

The first T20I will be held in Rawalpindi, while the second and third matches will be played at Gaddafi Stadium.

The tour will conclude with a three-match ODI series from November 4 to 8, all to be hosted at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad.—Agency

Sandhu's Six-Wicket Haul Wrecks South Africa as Pakistan Seize Control in Third ODI

LAHORE: Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu registered career-best bowling figures of 6/26 to help Pakistan bowl out South Africa for a modest total in the third ODI of the three-match series here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Monday.

South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt's decision to bat first backfired as her team's batting unit could yield 115 before getting bowled out in 25.5 overs.

The Proteas were comfortably placed at 59/2 in nine overs before Omaima Sohail triggered a massive collapse by dismissing opening batter Karabo Meso, who scored 12 off 10 deliveries.

Sandhu then dismantled their middle order, while Syeda Aroob Shah swept off the tail as South Africa lost their remaining seven wickets for just 46 runs in 100 deliveries.

Skipper Wolvaardt remained the top-scorer with a brisk 28 up the order, while Masabata Klaas and Nadine de Klerk, 13 each, were the next-best run-getters as five South African batters failed to amass double figures against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack.

Sandhu was the pick of the bowlers for the home side, taking six wickets for just 26 runs in her nine overs, followed by Aroob with two, while Omaima and Diana Baig chipped in with one apiece.

It is pertinent to mention that South Africa have already won the three-match series, winning the first two ODIs comprehensively.

In the series opener on Tuesday, centuries from Marizanne Kapp and Tazmin Brits eclipsed Sidra Amin's unbeaten 121 and helped South Africa chase down the 256-run target for the loss of just two wickets and 10 balls to spare.

Meanwhile, in the second ODI, Brits's second consecutive hundred and skipper Wolvaardt's 100, followed by a collective bowling effort, led South Africa to a 25-run victory in the rain-hit fixture.—Agency

Asia Cup 2025 Storm: Pakistan File Strong Protest Over Fakhar Zaman's Controversial Dismissal

KARACHI: Pakistan men's cricket team's management has filed a formal complaint to the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the controversial dismissal of their top-order batter Fakhar Zaman during the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 match against India.

According to the sources, Pakistan team manager Naveed Akram Cheema approached match referee Andy Pycroft to protest over the decision, but when informed that the matter was beyond a referee's authority, he escalated the plea to the umpires' manager.

The incident occurred on the third delivery of the third over of Pakistan's innings when Fakhar nicked an off-cutter by Hardik Pandya, but the low pace forced wicket-keeper Sanju Samson to lean forward to collect the ball.

As the ball was close to the ground while approaching Samson, the on-field umpire referred the decision to the third umpire, while Fakhar stood confidently.

However, after analysing from different angles, third umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge deemed Fakhar out, who stood around briefly, visibly confused, before starting to make his way back.

Upon reaching the Pakistan team's dressing room, Fakhar was also seen talking to head coach Mike Hesson, presumably expressing astonishment at the decision.

The decision did not sit well with fans and former Pakistan cricketers, including Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Amir and Fawad Alam, who slammed the umpiring standards in the blockbuster contest.

"Seems like we are playing against 14, not 11. Fakhar was clearly not out!" Alam wrote on X, formerly Twitter—Agency.

Martinelli's Late Strike Rescues Arsenal Against Manchester City

LONDON: Gabriel Martinelli struck in the 93rd minute to cancel out Erling Haaland's early opener as Arsenal snatched a 1-1 draw with Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium.

The late goal spared the Gunners from a damaging defeat and denied City a chance to make a statement in the Premier League.

City looked set to leave north London with all three points after Haaland combined with Tijjani Reijnders to score in the ninth minute.

Pep Guardiola's side controlled the first half, limiting Arsenal to a single shot on target.

Mikel Arteta's team improved after the break, with substitutes Bukayo Saka, Eberechi Eze, and Martinelli injecting urgency.

Their impact eventually told when Martinelli raced onto Eze's long pass and lifted the ball over Gianluigi Donnarumma deep into stoppage time.

Arteta admitted frustration at falling further behind leaders Liverpool, who maintained their perfect start.

"We cannot control that. They [Liverpool] win every match, It's going to be very difficult but if we play at this level, like we did against Manchester City, we will be fine," Arteta said.

He stressed confidence that Arsenal remain in the title race despite being five points adrift.

Martinelli, who had also scored in midweek against Athletic Club, was delighted with his contribution.—Agency

Kids' Corner

Name: Eshal Naz Abbasi
About Me: I love my parents up to the Moon and back!
Location: Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

ENTERTAINMENT

Emma Watson Shocks Fans—Reveals the 'Soul-Destroying' Side of Acting

Emma Watson recently got candid and confessed she profoundly misses acting except for one aspect of the job.

The 35-year-old English actress gave a rare interview to Hollywood Authentic, which was published on Sunday, September 21.

In the interview, Watson admitted that she finds it blissful to actually work on a set but promoting and selling movies after starring in them has been a negative experience for her.

When the Harry Potter child star asked if she misses acting, she replied, "In some ways I really won the lottery [with acting], and what happened to me is so unusual."

She added, "But a bigger component than the actual job itself is the promotion and selling of that piece of work, this piece of art. The balance of that can get quite thrown off. I think I'll be honest and straightforward, and say: I do not miss selling things. I found that to be quite soul-destroying."

"But I do very much miss using my skill set, and I very much miss the art. I just found I got to do so little of the bit that I actually enjoyed," The Beauty and the Beast star noted.

It is pertinent to mention that Watson's last big-screen project before her 2022 short film that she also directed for Prada was 2019's Little Woman.

Mira Sethi Breaks Silence—Opens Up on Divorce After Two Years

Mira Sethi, actor and writer, has spoken publicly for the first time about her divorce, choosing to share a private chapter of her life that she had previously kept away from public attention.

In a recent conversation on a digital platform, she revealed that their marriage quietly ended in March 2023, more than two years ago.

Speaking on a podcast about that time in her life, Mira described it as emotionally taxing, saying: "A few months after Kuch Ankahi, I got divorced. While shooting the drama, I was going through an incredibly tender and intense period."

"I was grateful to have work that helped ground me. I would get up and head to set. Sajal, Ahmed Saab, and Nadeem Baig were aware and showed me immense kindness and support," she shared.

Mira had tied the knot with Bilal Siddiqui in an intimate wedding ceremony in San Francisco, California, US, back in 2019.

Ariana Grande Teases Wicked: For Good as Deeper, Darker and More Powerful Than Ever

Ariana Grande has promised that Wicked: For Good goes deeper than imaginable.

During a recent interview with Empire magazine, the Hollywood actress candidly discussed what fans can expect from her on-screen character Glinda, the good witch, in the musical fantasy movie.

"We get to see [Glinda] decide, 'I'm going to change the course of Oz. I'm going to become deeply, truly good and make a safe space for people,'" she said.

Showing gratitude for Glinda's new song, Girl In The Bubble, the 32-year-old actress continued, "She earns her title for real, and we get to see that self-discovery. I'm so grateful for that song, because she deserves it as a character."

Referring to the bond between Glinda and Elphaba, played by Cynthia Ervio, she told the outlet, "It's traumatic event after traumatic event after traumatic event."

"They're all shaping and propelling her into her actual goodness, that has quietly been there all along, but she wasn't ready for it yet," the Victorious actress added.

Before concluding, Ariana Grande shared, "Even in the first film you get to see those layers slowly peeling away, but in this film, it's rapid and urgent. It goes even deeper than imaginable."

Wicked: For Good is set to be released on November 21, 2025.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq Holds Charged Public Meetings in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, PPP District President and MPA of Dadu, held meetings with local residents at Pira House, listening to their legitimate issues and ensuring their prompt resolution. Meanwhile, the process of submitting applications for various party positions as part of PPP district organizational restructuring is underway, with a large number of party workers applying for different roles.

PPP Leader Raja Baba Promises Unwavering Support to Samaro Residents

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: PPP leader Sardar Ghulam Murtaza alias Raja Baba Khaskheli, in a press conference at the National Press Club Samaro, pledged full support to the people of Samaro. He declared that his residence is open to all and promised to work for the city's development. Criticizing past neglect, he vowed to bring progress back to Samaro and stand by its people at all costs.

PPP District President Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq Offers Condolences in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) District Dadu and Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), visited Laghari House in Seeta to offer condolences on the passing of the wife of former DG Food Authority, Amjad Hussain Laghari, who is the son of late PPP leader Zafar Khan Laghari. He prayed for the departed soul's forgiveness. On this occasion, Imdad Hussain Dawach, Coordinator to the PPP District President Dadu, was also present with him.

Sindh By-Elections Set for September 24 Across 14 Districts

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: By-elections for 28 local government seats across 14 districts of Sindh will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, with all preparations finalized. The seats include 2 District Council members, 6 Chairmen, 7 Vice Chairmen, and 13 General/Ward Members. A total of 243,187 voters are registered, and 1,512 election staff will oversee the process across 167 polling stations. Security arrangements classify 127 stations as highly sensitive. Polling will not take place in nine districts, including Kashmore, Kandhkot, and Tharparkar, where candidates have been elected unopposed.

Mother of NBP Employee Saeed Ali Memon Passes Away

By Waheed Ali Unar

BAKRANI: The mother of National Bank employee Saeed Ali Memon and aunt of Agriculture Officer Muzamil Hussain Memon passed away suddenly due to a heart attack. Her funeral prayer was attended by a large number of political, social figures, citizens, and members of the Memon community. She was laid to rest in her ancestral graveyard. Mourners including officials from NBP, Agriculture Department, journalists, and others visited the family to offer condolences and pray for the departed soul.

Fal Mori Villagers Demand Justice After Armed Assault

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Residents of Fal Mori village in Tando Muhammad Khan, including Mukhtiar Khaskheli and his wife Zebo Khaskheli, have expressed deep concern over an armed attack on them on September 19. They reported that Zebo's brothers assaulted them, injuring several family members. The victims appealed to SSP Tando Muhammad Khan and higher authorities for protection and justice, demanding immediate registration of a case against the accused armed attackers.

Journalists Rise in Protest Against Police Harassment in Bhitshah

By Rana Abdul Sattar

BHITSHAH: Journalists from Matiari and Bhitshah peacefully gathered at Danbora Chowk to express concern over recent police actions at the home of a local journalist's family. The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Workers Matiari organized the protest, highlighting the need for respectful treatment of media professionals and urging authorities to address the situation promptly. Participants called for understanding and cooperation between law enforcement and the press to ensure a positive working environment.

No General Holiday in Ghotki on Sept 24—Only UC Wahi Ghoto to Close

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: According to a notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner Ghotki, there will be no general holiday across the district on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. However, a local holiday has been declared only in Union Council Wahi Ghoto due to the by-election of the UC Chairman, as per the directives of the Sindh Government. All government offices and institutions in the rest of the district will remain open as usual on the specified date.

Honor Killing Horror in Jacobabad: Woman and Young Man Gunned Down

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In the village of Miwa Jakhirani in Nawazo Jagir, Jacobabad, a woman and a young man were shot dead over allegations of honor killing. According to police, suspect Sughat alias Mir Hassan Jakhirani opened fire with a Kalashnikov, killing his wife Shahida and the young man Israr Jakhirani before fleeing the scene. The bodies were transferred to the civil hospital for post-mortem and later handed over to the families. Police are conducting raids to arrest the suspect, but he remains at large.

Citizens Alliance Mehar Threatens Indus Highway Protest Over Soaring Crime

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Protesting against increasing crime, drug abuse, and social evils, the Citizens Alliance Mehar, led by Niaz Ali Buriro, held a rally for the ninth consecutive day and announced a sit-in on the Indus Highway tomorrow. Protesters blamed SSP Dadu for the deteriorating law and order situation and accused local police of supporting criminals. They demanded the return of looted goods, action against drug dealers, and the removal of SSP Dadu, warning that daily protests would continue until their demands are met.

Illegal Constructions Near Jamshoro Phatak Face Harsh Crackdown

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, led a major anti-encroachment operation near Jamshoro Phatak on Sehwan Road, targeting illegal constructions that were obstructing traffic and public movement. During the operation, unauthorized bus stands, roadside kiosks, and sheds were demolished with the support of Assistant Commissioner Kotri Nadeem Qadir Khokhar, Mukhtiarkar Kotri Majid Ali Khashkhili, DIB Incharge Makhdoom Sajid Abbasi, Staff Officer Mazhar Panhwar, Anti-Encroachment Force, Town Committee, police, and revenue officials. DC Qadri stated that these illegal setups were causing severe inconvenience to commuters and warned that no further encroachments would be tolerated on Jamshoro Road. He emphasized that strict legal action will be taken against any future violations.

Cattle Theft Bid Crushed in Keti Bunder, Two Arrested

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: A late-night cattle theft attempt was foiled near Dargah Miran Pir in the Keti Bunder Police Station limits when alert residents of Punjabi Farm caught two suspects red-handed while they were trying to steal a cow. The locals managed to recover the animal and hand over the culprits to the police. Based on a complaint filed by farm worker Owais Punjabi, SHO Sain Dino Burro registered FIR No. 28/2025 at Baghan Police Station against four individuals. Two suspects Qasim, son of Urs Gujrio, and Umed Ali, son of Bacho Gujrio were arrested, while two others remain at large and have been declared wanted. Police confirmed that the cow has been safely recovered and investigations are ongoing to determine if the suspects are linked to a broader criminal network. Raids are currently being carried out to locate and arrest the absconding accomplices.

Grisly Murder: Husband Slays Wife With Axe, Sons Discover Bloody Scene

MORO: In a shocking and brutal act, Ghulam Shabeer Chana allegedly murdered his 45-year-old wife, Ghulam Parveen, with an axe at their home on Gachero Road in Moro city before fleeing the scene. The couple's sons, Amir Chana and Shahzeb, discovered their mother's lifeless body, drenched in blood, and rushed her to Moro Hospital. However, doctors confirmed she had already passed away by the time they arrived.Amir Chana revealed that his mother had divorced their father, Muhammad Usman Chana, seven years ago and remarried Ghulam Shabeer Chana. While they worked as laborers, the brutal crime took place when they were away.

Election Duty Revolt Looms as Govt Employees Threaten Strike at Bilawal House

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Employees under the banner of the Sindh Employees Alliance have issued a stern warning: if the central leadership directs them to boycott duties for the upcoming local government by-elections, they will comply and fully boycott election duties on September 24.

According to Abdul Razzaq Shah, President of the P.T. Alpha Taluqa chapter, and Fareed Laghari, a leader of the Clerks Association, along with representatives of other departments, all government departments across Sindh will participate in the boycott if instructed.

The employees' protest continues over unresolved issues including pension rights, DRA allowance, and other legitimate demands. A province-wide strike has been announced from September 23 to 27, and if their demands remain unmet, a massive sit-in will be held outside Bilawal House on October 6, with participation from hundreds of thousands of government workers from various departments.

The leaders urged the Sindh government to immediately accept their legitimate demands or prepare for an intensified protest movement.

We Passed but Remain Jobless – IBA Candidates Protest in Hingorja

HINGORJA: IBA test pass candidates for the JST and PST (40+ category) staged a protest in front of the Press Club in Hingorja, demanding the issuance of long-delayed job orders. The protest was led by Shehbaz Malik, Gulzar Utho, Azhar Utho, Shakeel Malik, Adnan Mughal, Iqrar Ali, Fida Hussain, and Mehdi Dino.

The demonstrators alleged that despite passing the highly credible IBA-conducted tests, the Sindh government has failed to issue them appointment orders. They claimed that candidates from certain "requested areas" with scores of even 33 marks were given jobs, while those with higher scores are being ignored — calling it a clear case of injustice.

Protesters warned that if appointment orders are not issued soon, they will stage a massive protest outside the CM House in Karachi on September 29, vowing it will be a historic sit-in against unfair recruitment practices in Sindh.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

Mystery in the Alps: Iceman Mummy's 5,300-Year-Old Murder Uncovered!

OTZTAL VALLEY: On Sept. 19, 1991, hikers were crossing a pass over the Otztal valley in the Alps when they stumbled upon a human body that was partly exposed in the ice.

The hikers alerted the authorities, who spent several days extracting the mummified corpse from the melting ice. When archaeologists finally got a look at it, they realized the mummy was not a missing 20th-century hiker but rather millennia-old human remains.

The body of the middle-aged man who died around 3300 B.C. would become known as Ötzi or the Iceman who revealed what everyday life was like during the Copper Age.

At the time, it was thought the body was a soldier from one of the world wars, but it was soon discovered to be that of a much, much older warrior.So old in fact, the discovery would shake the foundations of history. This riveting interview reveals facts about Ötzi the Iceman in a way you will not find anywhere else. Even though Ötzi died 53 centuries ago, we found him to be pleasant, a bit gruff and a character with an Ice Age-size sense of humor.—RT/Agency

Holy Swing! Ohio Nun Smashes 105th Birthday with a Round of Golf

A Catholic nun in Ohio celebrated her 105th birthday by hitting the links for a round of golf with the sisters from her convent.

Sister René Parman and her cohorts from Humility of Mary visited the Knoll Run Golf Course in Lowellville on Friday, two days before her 105th birthday, to engage in one of her favorite activities: golf.

"I think it helps you to know yourself. I do, really, anyway. And competing with yourself, mostly. I think that's a fact. They're very helpful. It's a wonderful place to be -- very meditative. It's a beautiful place -- grass, flowers and it's quiet," Sister Parman told WKBN-TV.

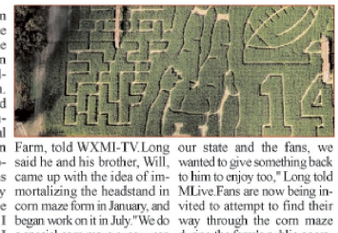
She began working to become a nun at the age of 18, but it wasn't until her 40s that some of her fellow sisters introduced her to golf.

"They said, 'Hit the ball.' That was my only instruction that I ever received," Sister Parman said.

The nun now plays golf every week, and has been instructing her younger colleagues on how to play the game.

"When we rode together, she was educating me on what I should be doing and let me know how to hit the ball," Sister Barbara Noble said. "It was pretty special because she had the experience." —RT/Agency

Field of Fame: Michigan Corn Maze Immortalizes Amon-Ra St. Brown's Viral Headstand



CANADA: A Michigan farm unveiled a 5-acre corn maze depicting Detroit Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown performing his viral headstand touchdown celebration.

Long Family Orchard and Farm in Commerce Township posted a video to social media showing the corn maze, which captures a moment from last year's Lions game against the Green Bay Packers."I was at the game actually in Green Bay, so I got to see that firsthand. I saw the whole thing go viral," Bobby Long, 23, of Long Family Orchard and Farm, told WXMI-TV.Long said he and his brother, Will, came up with the idea of immortalizing the headstand in corn maze form in January, and began work on it in July."We do a special corn maze every year, and with the Lions being so awesome and with everything Amon-Ra has done for the city, our state and the fans, we wanted to give something back to him to enjoy too," Long told MLive.Fans are now being invited to attempt to find their way through the corn maze during the farm's public operation hours, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Turkish Consul General, Sindh CM Explore Major Investment Prospects

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday welcomed the newly appointed Turkish Consul General, Ergul Kadak, during a courtesy call at the CM House. Extending warm greetings on Kadak's arrival in Sindh, the chief minister invited Turkish investors to explore opportunities in the province, highlighting that several mega projects were already underway in energy, water, and road infrastructure.

Shah emphasized that Sindh offers vast potential for foreign investment and assured full cooperation to facilitate Turkish businesses. He noted that the provincial government was keen to strengthen bilateral ties through economic collaboration.

The Turkish Consul General appreciated the hospitality of Karachi and described the city as vibrant, with warm and welcoming people. He confirmed that Turkish investors were eager to engage in Sindh's development projects. Both sides agreed that the head of Sindh's Investment Department would soon hold a follow-up meeting with Kadak to discuss concrete investment proposals.—RT/Agency

Shah Mir Bhutto Ousted as DG SBCA, Muzzammil Halipota Takes Charge

KARACHI: The Sindh government has removed Shah Mir Bhutto from the post of Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and issued a formal notification of his replacement. According to the notification, Muzzammil Halipota has been appointed as the new Director General of SBCA.

This reshuffle comes just weeks after the collapse of a five-storey building in Lyari's Baghdadi area, which raised serious concerns over the performance and oversight of the authority. Following that incident, on July 7, the then DG SBCA, Muhammad Ishaq Khuhro, was suspended, and Grade-20 officer Shah Mir Khan Bhutto was appointed in his place.

However, within a short span, the Sindh government has once again changed the top leadership of the building authority, reflecting ongoing concerns about administrative efficiency and accountability within the SBCA. Authorities hope the new appointment will bring stricter monitoring and prevent further tragedies.—RT

Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput Sounds Alarm on Corruption Plaguing Health Sector

KARACHI: Acting Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput, has cautioned that Pakistan's health sector must not fall prey to commercialization and corruption, warning that years of malpractice in medicine have become alarming. Addressing the 5th Health Care Summit 2025 and Awards Ceremony organized by the Consumers Association of Pakistan (CAP), he said the government must focus on justice, health, and education rather than only political demands.

Justice Rajput highlighted unethical practices in the pharmaceutical industry, including incentives offered to doctors for prescribing certain drugs, which he termed "bribery that must stop." He also stressed the need to regulate medicine registrations, noting that Pakistan has far more registered medicines than the WHO list.

CAP Chairman Kaukab Iqbal, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Khalid Tawab, Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, and other dignitaries also addressed the event, calling for action against quackery, exploitative hospitals, and rising drug prices.—RT

PIA in Turmoil as 13 Flights Axed, Dozens More Face Long Delays

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has cancelled at least 13 flights due to operational and administrative problems, media reports said on Monday. Six flights from Karachi were cancelled after one aircraft developed technical faults, while two Karachi–Dubai flights were also scrapped. In addition, flights from Lahore to Dubai and Islamabad to Abu Dhabi were cancelled.

According to the flight schedule, three flights from Peshawar to Dubai and Abu Dhabi were also called off. Meanwhile, several flights experienced significant delays: four flights from Karachi and 16 from Islamabad were delayed between one and 12 hours, while the Islamabad–Kuala Lumpur service was delayed by nearly 12 hours.—RT/Agency

Music Teachers' Protest Shakes Karachi, Police Seal Off Red Zone

KARACHI: Members of the All Sindh Test Pass Music Teachers Action Committee staged a protest demonstration near the Karachi Press Club on Monday, demanding the acceptance of their pending demands. The protest, held on September 22, saw dozens of teachers raising slogans for job regularization, timely promotions, and the release of long-delayed salaries.

As the demonstrators attempted to march toward the city's red zone, police intervened and set up barricades to prevent them from moving further. Law enforcement officials urged the protesters to remain peaceful and avoid creating disruptions in high-security areas.

Leaders of the Action Committee said that despite clearing recruitment tests, many qualified music teachers have not been appointed or confirmed, leaving them in a state of professional and financial uncertainty. —RT/Agency

Karachi Glitters Green for Saudi Arabia's 95th National Day, Governor Hails Ties

KARACHI: On the directives of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Karachi was decorated to mark the 95th National Day of Saudi Arabia. Major city roads sparkled with lights, while banners and posters were displayed at key locations.

Governor Tessori said Pakistan takes pride in its fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia, describing them as rooted in "love, trust, and mutual respect." He expressed solidarity with the Kingdom and its people on their national occasion.

Governor Tessori Extends Felicitations on China's 76th National Day—RT/Agency

Karachi Braces for Humid, Cloudy Day Ahead

KARACHI: The city is likely to experience humid and partly cloudy weather today, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). The current temperature has been recorded at 28°C, with humidity levels reaching 77 percent. Winds are blowing from the west at a speed of 7 kilometers per hour.

The PMD forecast suggests that the maximum temperature in Karachi may rise between 31°C and 33°C during the day. —RT/Agency

Mayor Karachi Defends Development Funds, Slams Political Rivals

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has said that a total of Rs27 billion has already been disbursed to the city's towns, rejecting allegations of unequal distribution. Speaking to the media, he claimed that certain social media pages were spreading propaganda to mislead citizens regarding municipal funds and development works.

Wahab further remarked that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman appeared upset with nine towns under his party's influence. "Perhaps that is why he has now shifted to Lahore," the mayor said, taking a political jibe at the opposition leader.—RT

Federal Govt's Debt to K-Electric Skyrockets to Rs203 Billion by July 2025

KARACHI: The federal government's outstanding dues to K-Electric surged to Rs203 billion by July 2025, according to official documents cited by Geo News. This marks an increase of Rs5.5 billion compared to July 2024. However, the data also shows a decline of Rs15 billion in comparison with June 2025.

The documents reveal that while the overall payables decreased in terms of principal amount, the interest component remained unchanged at Rs187 billion, the same level as in June. The Rs15 billion reduction was recorded specifically in the principal dues, reflecting partial adjustments or payments made during the period.

Industry analysts note that the persistent build-up of receivables continues to strain the financial position of K-Electric, the sole power utility for Karachi. The company has frequently highlighted the burden of circular debt, urging the federal government to expedite payments to ensure smooth power supply and operational stability.—RT/Agency

Karachi Dumper Torched, Police Hunt Unidentified Arsonists

KARACHI: A case has been registered at Aziz Bhatti police station, Karachi, over the incident of setting a dumper on fire at NIPA flyover.

According to police officials, the case has been lodged against 20 to 25 unidentified individuals.

The FIR includes sections pertaining to property damage, rioting, and arson.

The contents of the FIR state that the incident occurred after a motorcyclist woman was injured when hit by the dumper. Following the accident, enraged individuals set the dumper ablaze, causing further chaos.

Police confirmed that investigations are underway to identify and apprehend those involved in the incident.—RT/Agency

Crime Wave Horror: 65 Karachiites Slain in Robberies Amid 50,000 Crimes, PTI Reveals

KARACHI: Karachi's law and order situation has deteriorated significantly this year, with over 65 fatalities during robberies and a staggering 50,000 reported street crimes, according a report by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Malir district general secretary and lawyer Advocate Khalid Mahmood.

The recent killing of three transgender individuals highlights the escalating security concerns. Advocate Mahmood expressed profound worry over the rising insecurity, asserting that Karachi is becoming increasingly perilous for its inhabitants.

The 50,000+ street offenses registered this year raise serious doubts about law enforcement effectiveness. —RT/Agency

Journalist Gunned Down in Karachi, Rushed to Hospital With Injuries

KARACHI: A journalist is in critical condition after unidentified assailants opened fire on his vehicle on Sunday night in Karachi.

The incident occurred near the Kala Board area in Malir. Police identified the injured man as Imtiaz Mir, a journalist working for a private TV channel in Karachi. He was driving his car when the attack took place.

According to preliminary investigations, a man and a woman riding a motorcycle fired at Imtiaz Mir's car. He sustained gunshot wounds to his chest and face. The assailants managed to flee the scene after the attack. Rescue teams arrived promptly and transported the injured journalist to the hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

Police and Crime Scene Unit teams are present at the scene, and two bullet casings have been recovered from the vehicle. CCTV footage from the surrounding area is being collected for further investigation.

Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah strongly condemned the assassination attempt on Imtiaz Mir. He stated that the Sindh government is committed to ensuring the protection and safety of journalists. In a statement, Shah stated that the attack on Imtiaz Mir is in fact an attack on journalism and humanity as a whole.—RT/Agency

Sharjeel Cautions Power Players Against Arrogance of Authority

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has cautioned political leaders against adopting an attitude of superiority, stressing that those in positions of power should not assume they know everything. Speaking to the media on Monday, Memon underlined the importance of collective wisdom, consultation, and democratic values in addressing the challenges faced by the country.

He said that governance requires humility and inclusiveness, warning that a one-sided approach weakens public trust in democratic institutions. "No single individual can claim to have all the solutions," he remarked, urging policymakers to engage with experts, stakeholders, and citizens before making major decisions.

The minister also reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to transparency and people-centric policies, emphasizing that constructive criticism must be welcomed in a democratic setup. Memon said true leadership lies in listening to diverse voices and translating that input into policies that serve the broader public interest.—RT

MQM-P Files Petition in Sindh High Court Over Nepra's Power Theft Charges

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has filed a petition in the Sindh High Court challenging the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority's (Nepra) decision to recover power theft costs from Karachi consumers. The petition was submitted by MQM-P Sindh Assembly Member Muhammad Aamir Siddiqui.

According to the petition, Nepra's decision would unfairly burden loyal and bill-paying consumers with expenses of line losses and illegal connections. It argued that the regulatory authority has shifted the consequences of K-Electric's failures and inefficiency onto honest citizens.

The petition further stated that Karachi's residential, commercial, and industrial consumers would face severe repercussions, warning that the city's economy could come to a halt and businesses may face additional pressure. MQM-P maintained that Nepra has acted beyond its mandate, undermining public trust and damaging the confidence of citizens who regularly pay their bills.—RT/Agency

Sharjeel Unveils Sindh's Bold Electric Bus Manufacturing Plan

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that the provincial government is set to launch an electric bus manufacturing initiative to strengthen public transport infrastructure and reduce environmental pollution. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he said the move will mark a significant step toward sustainable and eco-friendly urban mobility in the province.

Memon highlighted that Sindh has already introduced electric buses in Karachi's intra-city routes, which have received positive feedback from commuters. "The next phase is to establish local manufacturing so that we not only meet the province's transportation needs but also create job opportunities and boost the local economy," he added.

Karachi Family Arrested in Saudi Arabia Over Shocking Umrah Drug Smuggling Case

KARACHI: A family from Karachi's Surjani Town has reportedly been arrested in Saudi Arabia after narcotics were allegedly recovered from their luggage during an Umrah trip. According to relatives, four members of the same family — Zakir (28), Zaida (23), Jamil (26), and Anwari (45) — traveled for Umrah on September 8 but remained unreachable for 10 days. On September 19, the family received a call from an unknown international number, informing them that the Saudi authorities had detained their loved ones after drugs and prohibited items were found in their bags.

The family alleged that a travel agent, identified as Ali, who had arranged their Umrah essentials including Ihram, was responsible for framing them. —RT/Agency

Saddar Town Opens New Public Facilities at Civil Hospital Karachi

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Saddar Town Chairman Mansoor Ahmed Sheikh and Municipal Commissioner Noor Hassan Jokhio inaugurated a cold water cooler, comfortable benches, and a shade structure at Civil Hospital Karachi to provide relief to patients and their attendants. The initiative, completed under the spirit of public service, aims to ease the discomfort faced by thousands of daily visitors, especially during extreme weather. Speaking at the event, Chairman Sheikh emphasized the importance of providing basic facilities at the city's largest government hospital, while Commissioner Jokhio reiterated the town's commitment to continue delivering citizen-friendly projects despite limited resources. Officials including UC-6 Vice Chairman Waseem Ahmed Shirazi, Director Parks Asim Ali Khan, Deputy Director Parks Farhan Ali, and Superintendent Engineer Mumtaz Ali Zardari were also present at the ceremony.

Bloody Robbery in Gulshan-e-Falaknaz Claims One Life, Eight Suspects Wanted

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A tragic robbery incident occurred at House No. B-58 in Gulshan-e-Falaknaz, within the jurisdiction of Bin Qasim Police Station, where the head of the household was brutally killed by robbers during resistance.

According to police, more than eight armed suspects entered the house late at night, held the family hostage for over three hours, and looted gold jewelry, cash, mobile phones, and other valuables. During the ordeal, Rao Javed Ali Khan, a former Deputy Manager at Pakistan Steel Mills, lost his life due to severe torture inflicted by the assailants. Upon receiving the report, police, Rangers, and other law enforcement agencies reached the scene, including SSP Malir Dr. Abdul Khaliq Pirzada and SSP Investigation Malir, who reviewed the situation. SSP Malir stated that four security guards have been detained for questioning based on suspicion, and CCTV DVR footage has been taken into custody. The investigation is underway from all angles, and authorities have assured that the culprits will be apprehended soon. The body of the deceased was shifted to Jinnah Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Life is a long lesson in humility.

—Unknown

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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2025

PM Shehbaz Orders Bold Roadmap To Supercharge Trade & Investment

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed authorities to develop a comprehensive roadmap and a reform agenda with practical projects to promote investment and trade in all key sectors.

Chairing a high-level meeting on enhancing investment volume, economic and trade activities in Pakistan, the premier emphasised that agriculture, IT, minerals, tourism, and renewable energy were important sectors that could attract foreign investment.

Along with investment, he said, promoting trade was also part of the government's policy to significantly increase exports of the country.

PM Shehbaz said that targets had been given to the ministries to utilise all available resources to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

He also instructed all ministers to identify feasible projects and take immediate steps to put them into practice.

For this purpose, he said a roadmap and a reform agenda should be devised with the future in mind, so that progress toward our goals can be made in an organised manner.

The prime minister emphasised that the private sector will play a pivotal role in the economic roadmap and its participation will be ensured.

"Our ongoing economic and financial reform policies have given a new direction to the economy, and due to the innovation and transparency, the country is now on the path of development," he added.

The meeting, held via Zoom from London, was attended by Federal Minister for Environment Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik, Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Jehanzeb, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar, and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.

The premier's remarks come as he reached the UK after signing a historic mutual defence pact with Saudi Arabia.

The PM is now set to lead Pakistan's delegation at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, set to commence on Monday (today).

During his time in the US, the PM, as per the Foreign Office, will participate in a meeting of select Islamic leaders with US President Trump to exchange views on issues pertaining to regional and international peace and security.

Meanwhile, at the UNGA, the premier will urge the international community to resolve the situations of prolonged occupation and denial of the right to self-determination to the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

Apart from holding bilateral meetings on the UNGA sidelines with several world leaders, he will also attend multiple high-level events, including important meetings of the UN Security Council, a high-level meeting of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and a Special High-Level Event on Climate Action, among others.—RT/Agency

At UN, Pakistan Demands Urgent Action To Free Women & Girls From Poverty

NEW YORK: Pakistan has urged the international community to take urgent steps to ensure that women and girls everywhere live free from poverty and violence, with equal opportunities to contribute to inclusive development.

Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York on the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Monday that the commemoration was a call to renew the historic pledges made in Beijing three decades ago with bold and measurable action.

Dar highlighted Pakistan's progress on gender equality, pointing out that women hold senior roles in politics, the judiciary, civil service, law enforcement, and the armed forces.

He noted Pakistan's record of electing the first female prime minister in the Muslim world and the recent election of the first woman chief minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz.

He further cited measures such as gender-based violence courts, women's police stations, commissions on the status of women, and progressive laws against violence and discrimination.

Social programmes, including the Benazir Income Support Programme and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, were credited with enabling women to access finance, escape poverty, and build entrepreneurial ventures.

While acknowledging advances, the deputy prime minister stressed that progress across the world remained uneven.

He called for scaled-up financing through national budgets, international cooperation, and innovative partnerships to translate commitments into meaningful change.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to women's rights, Dar described the Beijing Declaration as the boldest global compact for gender equality.

He urged the international community to act with urgency and solidarity to secure a future where every woman and girl lives with dignity and equal opportunity.—RT/Agency

Global Momentum Builds: World Summit To Push Two-State Solution For Palestine

France and Saudi Arabia will convene dozens of world leaders on Monday to rally support for a two-state solution, with several of them expected to formally recognise a Palestinian state - a move that could draw harsh Israeli and U.S. responses.

Israel and the United States will boycott the summit, said Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon, describing the event as a "circus." "We don't think it's helpful. We think it's actually rewarding terrorism," he told reporters on Thursday.

Israel is considering annexing part of the occupied West Bank as a possible response as well as specific bilateral measures against Paris, Israeli officials have said.

The U.S. administration has also warned of possible consequences for those who take measures against Israel, including against France, whose president, Emmanuel Macron, is hosting the New York summit.

The summit, ahead of this week's United Nations General Assembly, follows Israel's launch of a long-threatened ground assault on Gaza City and amid few prospects for a ceasefire two years after Palestinian Islamist militants Hamas attacked Israel, triggering the war in the Palestinian enclave.

Amid Israel's intensified Gaza offensive and escalating violence by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, there is a growing sense of urgency to act now before the idea of a two-state solution vanishes forever.

The General Assembly endorsed a seven-page declaration, opens new tab this month outlining "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" towards a two-state solution, while also condemning Hamas and calling it to surrender and disarm.Those efforts drew immediate rebukes from Israel and the United States, calling them harmful and a publicity stunt.—RT/Agency

US Dismisses Allies' Recognition Of Palestine As 'Performative' Gesture

US: The US has described the recognition of a Palestinian state by several key allies, including Britain, Australia, and Canada, as "performative".

"Our focus remains on serious diplomacy, not performative gestures. Our priorities are clear: the release of the hostages, the security of Israel, and peace and prosperity for the entire region," a US State Department spokesperson said on Sunday on condition of anonymity, placing blame on Hamas.

The move followed a historic shift earlier in the day, when the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Portugal formally recognised Palestine.

"In the face of the growing horror in the Middle East, we are acting to keep alive the possibility of peace and the two-state solution," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney proposed a partnership to create "a promise of a peaceful future for both the State of Palestine and the State of Israel".

More countries are expected to recognise Palestine at this year's UNGA, including France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Andorra, and San Marino, isolating Israel and, by extension, the United States.

Israel's fury

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Israel's response will be announced when he returns from the United States, where he is scheduled to meet President Donald Trump.—RT/Agency

PTI Stands Firm: 'We Follow Our Founder, Not Social Media,' Says Barrister Gohar

Rawalpindi: Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, stated on Sunday that the party operates strictly under the guidance of its founder, not under the influence of social media narratives. Speaking to media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Gohar expressed concern over being denied permission to meet the PTI founder, emphasizing that such restrictions only widen the gap between leadership and its key members.

"Today, I was not allowed to meet the PTI founder, but I hope the meeting will take place tomorrow," Gohar said, adding that the meeting is not just essential but also supported by court orders. He stressed that dialogue with the PTI founder is crucial for improving the current political climate and ensuring smooth decision-making within the party.

Barrister Gohar reiterated that PTI does not have any anti-state agenda and remains a legitimate political party committed to democratic principles and the supremacy of the Constitution. "We are talking about democracy, constitutional rule, and civilian supremacy," he said.

He further quoted the PTI founder, stating, "The country is ours, and the army is ours too," underlining that the party seeks harmony, not confrontation. Gohar clarified that the party respects national institutions, including the judiciary and the military, and aims to contribute positively to Pakistan's democratic process.

The PTI chairman's comments come amid ongoing political tensions and challenges faced by the party, especially concerning limited access to its imprisoned founder. PTI has consistently demanded fair political participation, level playing fields in upcoming elections, and the implementation of rule of law.—RT/Agency

Toshakhana-II Drama: Imran & Bushra Bibi Brought To Court

RAWALPINDI: The Toshakhana-II case against former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi has entered its final stages, as the prosecution closed its arguments after recording statements from its last two witnesses.

The witnesses included NAB's Investigating Officer Mohsin Haroon and FIA's Investigating Officer Shahid Pervaiz, who will be cross-examined by the defense on September 24.

In total, statements of 20 witnesses have been recorded, with cross-examination completed for 18 of them.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were presented in court during the proceedings. The PTI founder's three sisters and Bushra Bibi's sister-in-law, Mehrunissa, were also in attendance.

Defense lawyers Arshad Tabraiz, Zaheer Abbas, and Barrister Ali Zafar appeared on behalf of Imran Khan, while Federal Prosecutor Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi and Barrister Umair Majeed represented the prosecution.

The hearing was conducted inside Adiala Jail by Special Central Judge Shahrukh Arjumand. The case was adjourned until September 24.Earlier, incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, had submitted applications to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking an early hearing of their acquittal petitions in the Toshakhana 2 case.—RT/Agency

Crackdown Escalates—Non-Bailable Warrants Issued For Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Advocate Iman Mazari and Advocate Abdul Hadi Ali Chattha in the controversial tweet case involving state and national security institutions.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majuka heard the case. During the hearing, the court directed that both accused be arrested and produced before it on September 24.

Lawyers representing Mazari and Chatha filed petitions seeking cancellation of the arrest warrants. However, the judge immediately rejected the pleas, maintaining the earlier orders.

Previous summons

The court had previously issued summons notices to both individuals in connection with the case. Following their non-compliance, the court proceeded with non-bailable arrest warrants.—RT/Agency

Kim Opens Door—North Korea Will Talk If US Drops Denuclearisation Demand

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said there is no reason to avoid dialogue with the US if Washington stops insisting his country give up nuclear weapons but he will never trade away the nuclear arsenal to be free of sanctions, state media reported on Monday.

In a speech at the Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday, Kim said: "Personally, I still have fond memories of US President Trump," KCNA reported. The two leaders met three times during Trump's first presidency.

The comments come at a time when the new liberal government in Seoul is urging Trump to take the lead in reopening dialogue with Kim, six years after all peace talks with Pyongyang collapsed over a clash on sanctions and nuclear dismantlement.

"If the United States drops the absurd obsession with denuclearising us and accepts reality, and wants genuine peaceful coexistence, there is no reason for us not to sit down with the United States," Kim was quoted as saying.

It was a matter of survival for the country to build nuclear weapons to safeguard its security against grave threats from the United States and South Korea, Kim said, listing a series of regular military drills by the allies that he said have evolved into exercises for a nuclear war.

Recent overtures from Washington and Seoul for dialogue are disingenuous because their fundamental intent to weaken the North and destroy his regime remains unchanged, Kim said, adding a phased proposal by the South on ending the North's nuclear programmes was proof of that.—RT/Agency

Philippines Boils Over—Arrests Soar After Anti-Corruption Protests Turn Violent

MANILA: Police in the Philippine capital arrested more than 200 people during clashes with masked protesters that erupted on a day of largely peaceful anti-corruption demonstrations, a spokeswoman said Monday.

At least 88 minors were among the initial count of 216 taken into custody Sunday as police deployed water cannons and deafening sirens against crowds of mostly young, rock-throwing protesters.

Manila City Mayor Isko Morena said a 12-year-old boy was the youngest detained.Thousands of Filipinos rallied in Manila on Sunday to vent their anger over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.The scandal has seen numerous lawmakers implicated and the leaders of both houses of Congress step down from their positions during an investigation.But Sunday's street battles, which saw multiple police vehicles set ablaze and the windows of a precinct headquarters shattered, threatened to overshadow demonstrations that had been filled with families, activists, clergy and politicians."So far, none of them are saying the reasons behind their actions or if somebody paid them to do it," regional police spokesperson Major Hazel Asilo told AFP.—RT/Agency

Hamas Sets Condition: Trump Must Guarantee Ceasefire

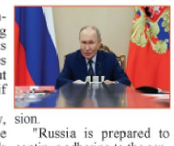
WASHINGTON: According to US media reports, Hamas has sent a letter to US President Donald Trump, requesting a formal guarantee of a ceasefire in exchange for the release of hostages.

The letter reportedly outlines a proposal for a 60-day ceasefire during which Hamas would release half of the hostages, contingent on Trump providing a credible guarantee that the truce would be upheld.

Sources indicate that Hamas emphasized the need for a "reliable and lasting peace" rather than a temporary pause in hostilities.

The group stressed that any ceasefire must be assured on humanitarian grounds.—RT/Agency

Russia Offers Extension Of Nuclear Arms Limits With US



MOSCOW: Russia on Monday offered to keep abiding by nuclear warhead limits agreed with the United States once a key treaty expires, but only for one year and if Washington did the same.

The New START treaty, signed in 2010, limits the number of nuclear warheads each side can deploy and is the last major arms proliferation agreement between the two nuclear powers.

It is set to expire on February 5, 2026, and neither side has agreed to an extension.

"Russia is prepared to continue adhering to the central quantitative limitations of the New START Treaty for one year after February 5, 2026," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised meeting.

He said the measure was needed to prevent "a strategic arms race" with Washington.

"We believe that this measure will only be viable if the United States acts in a similar manner and does not take steps that undermine or disrupt the existing balance of deterrence potentials," Putin added.

Russia froze its participation in New START in 2023 but has continued to voluntarily follow the numerical limits in the treaty.—RT/Agency

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