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KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 251 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Wednesday, September 24, 2025, Rabi-Ul-Awal 30, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

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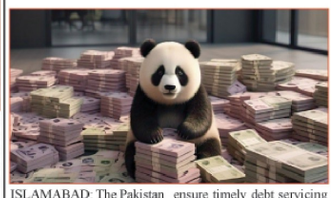

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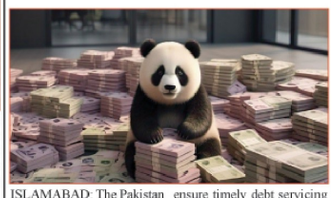

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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

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By Imtiaz Ali Laskani

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MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq consoles local leaders During Sita Road visit

By Zain-ul-Abideen Samo

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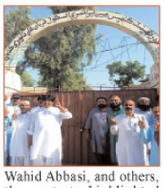
Anger boils in Kandiaro as Sindh Employees Alliance protests ignored demands

By Osama Ayaz Abbasi



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Couple married by choice takes to streets over deadly threats from ex-husband

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Hyderabad workers exploited despite Rs 40,000 minimum wage law

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Hope arrives in Kohistan as students in remote village receive notebooks

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PPP Jacobabad president feted at tea party hosted by Taj Welfare Association

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Ahmedpur council seat by-election preparations finalized by administration

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Urs of Sufi saint Syed Jamal Shah Rizvi celebrated with devotion in Kot Ghulam Muhammad

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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

MNA Shazia Atta Marri doubles down on PPP's pledge to Sindh and democracy

By Imtiaz Ali Laskani

NAUABAD: PPP Central Information Secretary and MNA Shazia Atta Marri addressed a large public gathering during a tea party in Village Bakhshan Khan Kalloi, organized by party leader Raees Gulzar Kaloi. She stated that PPP continues to serve the people under the ideology of Shaheed Bhutto and urged opponents in Sanghar district to wait for the next elections. Emphasizing PPP's dedication to democracy, she vowed to oppose any dam construction on the Indus River and assured that PPP's popular leader, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, would be made the next Prime Minister. Hundreds of Kaloi community members warmly welcomed her with slogans and flowers. Several local PPP leaders joined the event, celebrating Sindh's culture and unity.

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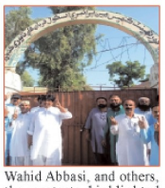

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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Khairpur Children's Academy honors Milad-un-Nabi with celebrations

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Khairpur Children's Academy held a grand Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebration at Bismillah Marriage Hall, attended by prominent personalities, including educationists, journalists, and community leaders. The event featured soulful Nats and Darood recitations by students in multiple languages, honoring the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy to humanity who brought justice and peace. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of awards and ensured smooth proceedings through strict security arrangements.

Qubo Saeed Khan Chairman spearheads cervical cancer vaccination drive in Shikarpur

SHAHDADKOT: Chairman of Town Committee Qubo Saeed Khan has been praised by public circles for playing a role model role in the ongoing cervical cancer vaccination campaign. Accompanied by vaccination teams, he has been visiting villages to ensure children receive protective vaccines against cancer. Alongside addressing urban issues and cleanliness, Qubo Saeed Khan remains actively engaged in social welfare. Residents and social activists appreciate his dedication. Speaking to the media, Town Committee Chairman Mir Imtiaz Brohi emphasized the importance of vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and shared that he has already vaccinated his daughter, encouraging others to participate in this timely campaign.

Thana Bula Khan employees stage protest over unheeded demands

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: Following a call by the Sindh Employees Alliance, staff from various departments including government schools, the Tehsil Hospital, and Town Committee staged a shutdown protest. Led by PTA Jamshoro President Muhammad Bachal Khaskheli and Abdul Rehman Gabol, employees wore black armbands and locked offices to demand recognition of their legitimate rights. Protest leaders urged the government to address their concerns promptly or face continued protests.

Hyderabad police unveil sweeping security plan for upcoming by-elections

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: In preparation for the upcoming by-elections, Hyderabad police have rolled out a detailed security plan on the instructions of SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio. Elections will be held for 6 seats across 5 Union Councils (UCs 39, 50, 94, 106, and 112), with 18 polling stations set up in areas including Hoshri, Hali Road, A Section, Pinyari, and Sakhi Pir. Over 450 police personnel will be deployed, including 220 at polling stations, 84 on mobile patrol, and 100 from the Quick Response Force (QRF). Authorities have assured voters of maintaining strict law and order throughout the process.

Dadu police crack down hard on criminals in Mehar operation

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: In Mehar, a police encounter with criminals led to the injury and arrest of one criminal. During a patrol led by SHO Mehar Abdul Waheed Panhwar on Gaji Khawer Road, firing broke out between the police party and armed criminals. The injured criminal, identified as the notorious Ghulum Hussain Solangi from Khanjo village, was arrested along with a pistol and taken to the hospital for treatment, while his accomplices fled the scene. Police have launched a cordon and search operation to apprehend the fugitives.

Fateha Held in Nagarparkar for Brother of Prominent Journalist Manzar Naqvi

THARPARKAR : A solemn Fateha Khwani was held at the central Imambargah in Nagarparkar for the late brother of Syed Manzar Naqvi, Secretary General of the Karachi Editors Club. Organized by caretaker Mujahid Ali Khokhar Dudani, the gathering featured Qur'an recitation and prayers for the deceased's forgiveness. Community members, friends, and well-wishers expressed deep condolences and solidarity with Naqvi's family, honoring their legacy of service. Prayers were offered for eternal peace for the departed and strength for the bereaved family.—RT

UC Ahmed Raju employees and pensioners rise in protest over unpaid salaries and pensions

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Employees and pensioners of Union Council Ahmed Raju protested in front of Badin Press Club over non-payment of salaries and pensions for the past three months. Retired Naib Qasid Allah Bachayo Mallah highlighted severe difficulties faced by employees and pensioners. He also raised concerns over administrative delays, mentioning that newly appointed secretary Muhammad Ramzan Dilwani has not been given charge by the council chairman, causing financial and administrative work to halt. Protesters demanded immediate intervention from authorities, warning of intensified protests if issues remain unresolved.

Jati services collapse as All-Sindh employees paralyze government functions

By AS Thahim

JATI: Following a call by the All Sindh Employees Alliance, government employees in Jati closed offices, schools, and hospitals in protest, severely affecting education, health, and administrative services. Leaders raised their voices against the government's injustice and warned that the protest would continue and intensify until their demands are met. Public urged the government to promptly address employees' legitimate demands to restore normalcy.

METRO KARACHI

Sharjeel Unveils Pink Scooter Scheme for Women – Free Rides, Big Change!

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced the launch of the Pink Scooters Program, under which free electric scooters will be distributed to women and female students this week. Aimed at empowering women, the initiative promises safe, affordable, and dignified transport. The scooters will be allotted based on merit and need through a transparent process. The scheme, led by the Sindh Mass Transit Authority, is a major step toward easing women's mobility for education, work, and daily life.—RT

Karachi's Toughest Crackdown: CM Murad Ali Shah Targets Crime & Water Mafia

By Majeed Abbasi

KARACHI: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah has launched a zero-tolerance policy against criminals and illegal hydrants in Karachi, vowing to protect water as a fundamental right. At a high-level meeting, Shah reviewed security operations in Kachi areas, where 159 criminals have been killed and 823 arrested since January 2024. Authorities also demolished 243 illegal hydrants, arresting 103 suspects. A new QR code system for tanker registration has generated an extra 6 crore rupees for Karachi's Water Board. Exploitation will not be tolerated, said CM Shah.

Karachi University Admissions 2026 Begin Sept 28 – Entry Tests, Online Forms, Key Dates Revealed!

KARACHI – The University of Karachi will begin its 2026 admissions from September 28, with online forms available at www.uokadmission.edu.pk. Entry tests for BS, BBA, Pharm-D, DPT, and Visual Studies programs start October 18, while open merit and evening programs follow in November. Admission lists will be announced from November 5 to December 10.—RT

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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Khairpur Children's Academy honors Milad-un-Nabi with celebrations

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Khairpur Children's Academy held a grand Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebration at Bismillah Marriage Hall, attended by prominent personalities, including educationists, journalists, and community leaders. The event featured soulful Nats and Darood recitations by students in multiple languages, honoring the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy to humanity who brought justice and peace. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of awards and ensured smooth proceedings through strict security arrangements.

Qubo Saeed Khan Chairman spearheads cervical cancer vaccination drive in Shikarpur

SHAHDADKOT: Chairman of Town Committee Qubo Saeed Khan has been praised by public circles for playing a role model role in the ongoing cervical cancer vaccination campaign. Accompanied by vaccination teams, he has been visiting villages to ensure children receive protective vaccines against cancer. Alongside addressing urban issues and cleanliness, Qubo Saeed Khan remains actively engaged in social welfare. Residents and social activists appreciate his dedication. Speaking to the media, Town Committee Chairman Mir Imtiaz Brohi emphasized the importance of vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and shared that he has already vaccinated his daughter, encouraging others to participate in this timely campaign.

Thana Bula Khan employees stage protest over unheeded demands

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: Following a call by the Sindh Employees Alliance, staff from various departments including government schools, the Tehsil Hospital, and Town Committee staged a shutdown protest. Led by PTA Jamshoro President Muhammad Bachal Khaskheli and Abdul Rehman Gabol, employees wore black armbands and locked offices to demand recognition of their legitimate rights. Protest leaders urged the government to address their concerns promptly or face continued protests.

Hyderabad police unveil sweeping security plan for upcoming by-elections

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: In preparation for the upcoming by-elections, Hyderabad police have rolled out a detailed security plan on the instructions of SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio. Elections will be held for 6 seats across 5 Union Councils (UCs 39, 50, 94, 106, and 112), with 18 polling stations set up in areas including Hoshri, Hali Road, A Section, Pinyari, and Sakhi Pir. Over 450 police personnel will be deployed, including 220 at polling stations, 84 on mobile patrol, and 100 from the Quick Response Force (QRF). Authorities have assured voters of maintaining strict law and order throughout the process.

Dadu police crack down hard on criminals in Mehar operation

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: In Mehar, a police encounter with criminals led to the injury and arrest of one criminal. During a patrol led by SHO Mehar Abdul Waheed Panhwar on Gaji Khawer Road, firing broke out between the police party and armed criminals. The injured criminal, identified as the notorious Ghulum Hussain Solangi from Khanjo village, was arrested along with a pistol and taken to the hospital for treatment, while his accomplices fled the scene. Police have launched a cordon and search operation to apprehend the fugitives.

Fateha Held in Nagarparkar for Brother of Prominent Journalist Manzar Naqvi

THARPARKAR : A solemn Fateha Khwani was held at the central Imambargah in Nagarparkar for the late brother of Syed Manzar Naqvi, Secretary General of the Karachi Editors Club. Organized by caretaker Mujahid Ali Khokhar Dudani, the gathering featured Qur'an recitation and prayers for the deceased's forgiveness. Community members, friends, and well-wishers expressed deep condolences and solidarity with Naqvi's family, honoring their legacy of service. Prayers were offered for eternal peace for the departed and strength for the bereaved family.—RT

UC Ahmed Raju employees and pensioners rise in protest over unpaid salaries and pensions

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Employees and pensioners of Union Council Ahmed Raju protested in front of Badin Press Club over non-payment of salaries and pensions for the past three months. Retired Naib Qasid Allah Bachayo Mallah highlighted severe difficulties faced by employees and pensioners. He also raised concerns over administrative delays, mentioning that newly appointed secretary Muhammad Ramzan Dilwani has not been given charge by the council chairman, causing financial and administrative work to halt. Protesters demanded immediate intervention from authorities, warning of intensified protests if issues remain unresolved.

Jati services collapse as All-Sindh employees paralyze government functions

By AS Thahim

JATI: Following a call by the All Sindh Employees Alliance, government employees in Jati closed offices, schools, and hospitals in protest, severely affecting education, health, and administrative services. Leaders raised their voices against the government's injustice and warned that the protest would continue and intensify until their demands are met. Public urged the government to promptly address employees' legitimate demands to restore normalcy.

METRO KARACHI

Sharjeel Unveils Pink Scooter Scheme for Women – Free Rides, Big Change!

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced the launch of the Pink Scooters Program, under which free electric scooters will be distributed to women and female students this week. Aimed at empowering women, the initiative promises safe, affordable, and dignified transport. The scooters will be allotted based on merit and need through a transparent process. The scheme, led by the Sindh Mass Transit Authority, is a major step toward easing women's mobility for education, work, and daily life.—RT

Karachi's Toughest Crackdown: CM Murad Ali Shah Targets Crime & Water Mafia

By Majeed Abbasi

KARACHI: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah has launched a zero-tolerance policy against criminals and illegal hydrants in Karachi, vowing to protect water as a fundamental right. At a high-level meeting, Shah reviewed security operations in Kachi areas, where 159 criminals have been killed and 823 arrested since January 2024. Authorities also demolished 243 illegal hydrants, arresting 103 suspects. A new QR code system for tanker registration has generated an extra 6 crore rupees for Karachi's Water Board. Exploitation will not be tolerated, said CM Shah.

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This exposes the cruel duality of Pakistan's economy: a glittering stock exchange for the privileged few, and a collapsing household economy for the masses. How can the government trumpet "success" when the common man cannot afford food, rent, or basic necessities? Gold prices have skyrocketed to Rs400,000 per tola, electricity shortages persist with power plants shutting down, and inflation is devouring incomes. For millions, survival—not prosperity—defines daily existence.

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The World Bank report is a reminder that decades of poverty reduction gains have been reversed. Between 2001 and 2015, Pakistan steadily lifted millions out of poverty. Today, those hard-earned achievements lie in ruins as inequality widens and informal, low-paying jobs dominate the labor force. Yet instead of confronting structural weaknesses, the government continues to peddle glossy illusions of stability, hoping foreign investors and international lenders will buy into the narrative.

But facts don't lie. Poverty is rising, inequality is deepening, and ordinary Pakistanis are drowning while policymakers gloat about artificial benchmarks. This government cannot hide behind UNGA photo-ops or tall claims of investor confidence. The World Bank has held up a mirror—and the reflection is ugly. If leadership continues to prioritize optics over people, Pakistan's economic future will remain a cruel mirage, leaving millions trapped in hopeless poverty.

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THE HEARTLAND

Healthcare workers pour into Kadhan streets against government policies

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: On the call of the Grand Employees Alliance, healthcare workers at the Health Center in Kadhan staged a protest by boycotting OPD services. The protest was led by Dr. Naseema Lashari, Dr. Azhar Memon, Dr. Rao Mal, Abdul Ghaffoor Chandio, Noor Hassan Anar, Muhammad Rafiq Lohar, Ghulam Hussain Khaskheli, Muhammad Ibrahim Chandio, and Sajjad Memon. Addressing the protest, the speakers said that they have served in government institutions from their youth until the age of 60, dedicating their lives to public service during floods, earthquakes, natural disasters, and routine duties, often at the cost of leaving behind their families. Despite their lifelong dedication, the current government is not providing facilities but instead snatching existing ones and acting with hostility towards employees. They condemned the government's policies as both anti-public and anti-employee, declaring that the health department workers, like those from other departments, reject such decisions. They affirmed their full support for the Grand Employees Alliance and vowed to participate in every future protest.

LUMHS marks anti-drug day with awareness walk and seminar

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro, in collaboration with the People's School of Nursing, held an awareness walk and seminar to observe the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The event, organized by the Directorate of Students Affairs and involving College of Pharmacy students, aimed to raise awareness on drug addiction and mental health. Dr. Jameel Junejo, psychiatry chairman, highlighted addiction challenges, mental health awareness, stress management, early detection of anxiety and depression, and rehabilitation.

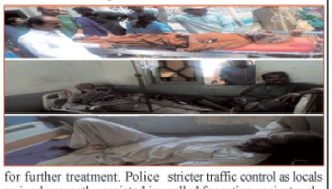
From cleanliness to culture: Badin Gymkhana hosts WaterAid-backed program

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A program titled "From Cleanliness to Culture" was organized at Gymkhana Badin with the cooperation of WaterAid, focusing on health, hygiene, and sanitation in 410 open defecation-free villages. The event featured a traditional Sindhi embroidery (Bhart) competition. Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti, the chief guest, emphasized that cleanliness is not just a personal habit but a social responsibility. He highlighted the dangers of open defecation, which contaminates water and spreads diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid, mainly affecting children. He praised WaterAid for eliminating open defecation in 410 villages and urged collective efforts to raise awareness about using toilets. He also distributed prizes to women participating in the embroidery competition. Officials from social welfare, health, and local organizations attended the event.

Tragedy near Dolo Pir shrine as high-speed passenger van crash injures seven in Jati

By AS Thahim



JATI: A passenger van overturned near Dolo Pir shrine close to Jati due to high speed, injuring seven people including a pregnant woman. The injured were rushed to Jati hospital, where doctors declared the pregnant woman, Amoon Jat, and two others, Ibrahim and Shafi Muhammad, in critical condition and referred them to Makli Civil Hospital for further treatment. Police arrived promptly, assisted in hospital transfers, and urged stricter traffic control as locals called for action against reckless driving in the area.

Gianchand Israni attends vibrant Jhoolay Lal Mandir horse fair in Nooriabad

By Shams Palari

UMERKOT: Pakistan Peoples Party Hyderabad Division General Secretary and PPP MPA Gianchand Israni attended the Jhoolay Lal Mandir horse fair at Ghorabari and offered his respects at the temple. During the event, temple priests Jackmar Kohistani, Kanaya Lal Samnani, Teerath Mal Mol, Khajo Mal Mol, Dr. Anil Kumar, Ali Rana Wanjharo, Suresh Kumar Tikwani, Roopan Mal Molai Mol, and Kees Longin Arjrkan presented gifts to him. Gianchand Israni congratulated the pilgrims attending the fair. Also present were Cheten Mal Israni, Thal Ram Israni, and Anil Kumar Israni.

Sindh Employees Alliance escalates protest with office lockdown in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Tando Allahyar witnessed a massive protest as Sindh Employees Alliance locked down offices and schools demanding the withdrawal of pension cuts and approval of other allowances. Employees wore black armbands and raised slogans for their rights. Revenue and education department workers also staged separate protests. Leaders warned that if demands are ignored, millions of employees will march to Bilawal House. Government offices across all three Tando Allahyar talukas remained closed in solidarity.

Tando Bago employees rally against government's anti-worker policies

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: On the call of Sindh Employees Alliance, employees of various government departments in Tando Bago held a protest, locking down offices, schools, colleges, hospitals, revenue and engineering offices. Hundreds of employees from organizations including GSTA, PTA, Paramedical, All Pakistan Clerk Association, GRWA, and Revenue Staff Union marched from High School Tando Bago to the Press Club, raising slogans against pension cuts and denial of rightful allowances. Leaders demanded the government accept their legitimate demands or face a large sit-in at Bilawal House on October 6.

Provincial Ombudsman leads awareness drive at Gharo government school

By Daim Shah

THATTA: An awareness seminar on the role and importance of the Provincial Ombudsman was held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Gharo, chaired by Regional Director Ombudsman Thatta, Haroon Ahmed Khan. Speaking to a large gathering of students and teachers, Haroon Ahmed Khan highlighted the Ombudsman office's commitment to addressing public grievances swiftly and fairly, without requiring legal representation. He emphasized that any citizen can file a complaint against a provincial department even on plain paper and assured that immediate action would be taken to resolve genuine issues. Associate Professor Muhammad Haroon Lohar and Principal Gul Hassan Sodho raised institutional concerns during the seminar, to which the Regional Director responded by promising practical support upon written submission.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi marked with fervent celebrations at schools in NWM

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Eid Milad-un-Nabi ? was celebrated with great devotion at various schools near Nawab Wali Muhammad. A large gathering took place at Government Boys High School Bachalpur, where students, teachers, and local dignitaries participated enthusiastically. Students recited heartfelt Naats, honoring the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ?. A similar event was held at Government Boys Primary School Bacho Rahu, beginning with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Muzammil Rahu. Under the supervision of Headmaster Muhammad Urs Kako and teacher Zahid Hussain Rahu, young students including Mahnoor Rahu, Samiran Rahu, Sahana Rahu, Raja Zeeshan Rahu, Afzal Rahu, Shaban Rahu, and Farhan Rahu recited Naats. Teacher Jamshed Ali Rahu and others highlighted the noble character and sacred qualities of the Holy Prophet ? during the event.

Prominent Tando Alam notable Ali Hassan Shah Khatti passes away

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The respected figure of Tando Alam and the Syed Khatti community, Ali Hassan Shah Khatti, passed away after a brief illness. News of his demise cast a mourning shadow over Tando Alam. Hundreds of mourners gathered to pay their last respects as the deceased was laid to rest in the local cemetery with tearful eyes. Among the attendees were MPA Shah Hussain Shah Sheerazi, Syed Naseer Shah Shirazi, Rais Abdullah Khan Laghari, Syed Abdullah Shah Bukhari, Raees Mushtaq Laghari, Malik Javed Laghari, Raees Mohabbat Ali, Raees Sharif, senior journalist Abdughafur Palipoto, Kamran Ali Khatti, along with political, social, religious, and nationalist leaders and thousands of citizens.

Digri rocked by Sindh Employees Alliance protest over pension cuts

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Digri witnessed a complete shutdown of schools and government offices as Sindh Employees Alliance called for a protest and work boycott from September 23 to 27. Leaders demanded the immediate repeal of pension deductions and restoration of allowances like DRA. Protesters warned of further actions, including a sit-in at Bilawal House, to protect government employees' rights and ensure fair treatment by the Sindh government.

Hingorja employees launch five-day protest under Sindh Alliance banner

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Hingorja witnessed a complete lockdown of government schools and offices as Sindh Employees Alliance protested against unfair policies affecting teachers and staff. Leaders warned that if demands aren't met, protests will escalate, culminating in a sit-in at Bilawal House, Karachi. They urged the Sindh government to address employee grievances fairly and called on Sindh police to join the movement for workers' rights.

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Healthcare workers pour into Kadhan streets against government policies

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: On the call of the Grand Employees Alliance, healthcare workers at the Health Center in Kadhan staged a protest by boycotting OPD services. The protest was led by Dr. Naseema Lashari, Dr. Azhar Memon, Dr. Rao Mal, Abdul Ghaffoor Chandio, Noor Hassan Anar, Muhammad Rafiq Lohar, Ghulam Hussain Khaskheli, Muhammad Ibrahim Chandio, and Sajjad Memon. Addressing the protest, the speakers said that they have served in government institutions from their youth until the age of 60, dedicating their lives to public service during floods, earthquakes, natural disasters, and routine duties, often at the cost of leaving behind their families. Despite their lifelong dedication, the current government is not providing facilities but instead snatching existing ones and acting with hostility towards employees. They condemned the government's policies as both anti-public and anti-employee, declaring that the health department workers, like those from other departments, reject such decisions. They affirmed their full support for the Grand Employees Alliance and vowed to participate in every future protest.

LUMHS marks anti-drug day with awareness walk and seminar

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro, in collaboration with the People's School of Nursing, held an awareness walk and seminar to observe the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The event, organized by the Directorate of Students Affairs and involving College of Pharmacy students, aimed to raise awareness on drug addiction and mental health. Dr. Jameel Junejo, psychiatry chairman, highlighted addiction challenges, mental health awareness, stress management, early detection of anxiety and depression, and rehabilitation.

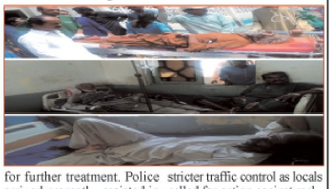
From cleanliness to culture: Badin Gymkhana hosts WaterAid-backed program

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A program titled "From Cleanliness to Culture" was organized at Gymkhana Badin with the cooperation of WaterAid, focusing on health, hygiene, and sanitation in 410 open defecation-free villages. The event featured a traditional Sindhi embroidery (Bhart) competition. Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti, the chief guest, emphasized that cleanliness is not just a personal habit but a social responsibility. He highlighted the dangers of open defecation, which contaminates water and spreads diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid, mainly affecting children. He praised WaterAid for eliminating open defecation in 410 villages and urged collective efforts to raise awareness about using toilets. He also distributed prizes to women participating in the embroidery competition. Officials from social welfare, health, and local organizations attended the event.

Tragedy near Dolo Pir shrine as high-speed passenger van crash injures seven in Jati

By AS Thahim



JATI: A passenger van overturned near Dolo Pir shrine close to Jati due to high speed, injuring seven people including a pregnant woman. The injured were rushed to Jati hospital, where doctors declared the pregnant woman, Amoon Jat, and two others, Ibrahim and Shafi Muhammad, in critical condition and referred them to Makli Civil Hospital for further treatment. Police arrived promptly, assisted in hospital transfers, and urged stricter traffic control as locals called for action against reckless driving in the area.

Gianchand Israni attends vibrant Jhoolay Lal Mandir horse fair in Nooriabad

By Shams Palari

UMERKOT: Pakistan Peoples Party Hyderabad Division General Secretary and PPP MPA Gianchand Israni attended the Jhoolay Lal Mandir horse fair at Ghorabari and offered his respects at the temple. During the event, temple priests Jackmar Kohistani, Kanaya Lal Samnani, Teerath Mal Mol, Khajo Mal Mol, Dr. Anil Kumar, Ali Rana Wanjharo, Suresh Kumar Tikwani, Roopan Mal Molai Mol, and Kees Longin Arjrkan presented gifts to him. Gianchand Israni congratulated the pilgrims attending the fair. Also present were Cheten Mal Israni, Thal Ram Israni, and Anil Kumar Israni.

Sindh Employees Alliance escalates protest with office lockdown in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Tando Allahyar witnessed a massive protest as Sindh Employees Alliance locked down offices and schools demanding the withdrawal of pension cuts and approval of other allowances. Employees wore black armbands and raised slogans for their rights. Revenue and education department workers also staged separate protests. Leaders warned that if demands are ignored, millions of employees will march to Bilawal House. Government offices across all three Tando Allahyar talukas remained closed in solidarity.

Tando Bago employees rally against government's anti-worker policies

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: On the call of Sindh Employees Alliance, employees of various government departments in Tando Bago held a protest, locking down offices, schools, colleges, hospitals, revenue and engineering offices. Hundreds of employees from organizations including GSTA, PTA, Paramedical, All Pakistan Clerk Association, GRWA, and Revenue Staff Union marched from High School Tando Bago to the Press Club, raising slogans against pension cuts and denial of rightful allowances. Leaders demanded the government accept their legitimate demands or face a large sit-in at Bilawal House on October 6.

Provincial Ombudsman leads awareness drive at Gharo government school

By Daim Shah

THATTA: An awareness seminar on the role and importance of the Provincial Ombudsman was held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Gharo, chaired by Regional Director Ombudsman Thatta, Haroon Ahmed Khan. Speaking to a large gathering of students and teachers, Haroon Ahmed Khan highlighted the Ombudsman office's commitment to addressing public grievances swiftly and fairly, without requiring legal representation. He emphasized that any citizen can file a complaint against a provincial department even on plain paper and assured that immediate action would be taken to resolve genuine issues. Associate Professor Muhammad Haroon Lohar and Principal Gul Hassan Sodho raised institutional concerns during the seminar, to which the Regional Director responded by promising practical support upon written submission.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi marked with fervent celebrations at schools in NWM

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Eid Milad-un-Nabi ? was celebrated with great devotion at various schools near Nawab Wali Muhammad. A large gathering took place at Government Boys High School Bachalpur, where students, teachers, and local dignitaries participated enthusiastically. Students recited heartfelt Naats, honoring the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ?. A similar event was held at Government Boys Primary School Bacho Rahu, beginning with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Muzammil Rahu. Under the supervision of Headmaster Muhammad Urs Kako and teacher Zahid Hussain Rahu, young students including Mahnoor Rahu, Samiran Rahu, Sahana Rahu, Raja Zeeshan Rahu, Afzal Rahu, Shaban Rahu, and Farhan Rahu recited Naats. Teacher Jamshed Ali Rahu and others highlighted the noble character and sacred qualities of the Holy Prophet ? during the event.

Prominent Tando Alam notable Ali Hassan Shah Khatti passes away

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The respected figure of Tando Alam and the Syed Khatti community, Ali Hassan Shah Khatti, passed away after a brief illness. News of his demise cast a mourning shadow over Tando Alam. Hundreds of mourners gathered to pay their last respects as the deceased was laid to rest in the local cemetery with tearful eyes. Among the attendees were MPA Shah Hussain Shah Sheerazi, Syed Naseer Shah Shirazi, Rais Abdullah Khan Laghari, Syed Abdullah Shah Bukhari, Raees Mushtaq Laghari, Malik Javed Laghari, Raees Mohabbat Ali, Raees Sharif, senior journalist Abdughafur Palipoto, Kamran Ali Khatti, along with political, social, religious, and nationalist leaders and thousands of citizens.

Digri rocked by Sindh Employees Alliance protest over pension cuts

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: Digri witnessed a complete shutdown of schools and government offices as Sindh Employees Alliance called for a protest and work boycott from September 23 to 27. Leaders demanded the immediate repeal of pension deductions and restoration of allowances like DRA. Protesters warned of further actions, including a sit-in at Bilawal House, to protect government employees' rights and ensure fair treatment by the Sindh government.

Hingorja employees launch five-day protest under Sindh Alliance banner

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Hingorja witnessed a complete lockdown of government schools and offices as Sindh Employees Alliance protested against unfair policies affecting teachers and staff. Leaders warned that if demands aren't met, protests will escalate, culminating in a sit-in at Bilawal House, Karachi. They urged the Sindh government to address employee grievances fairly and called on Sindh police to join the movement for workers' rights.

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SPORTS

Barcelona's Gavi faces another surgery blow

The 21-year-old Spain international, Gavi, will undergo knee surgery to resolve a lingering meniscus injury, Barcelona confirmed in a statement.

Barca's midfielder tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in November 2023 and has also not appeared for the Catalan club due to a knee issue in August 2025 after playing in Barca's opening two matches of the season.

The team has not announced any date for his recovery, but according to Spanish media, he would be sidelined for five to six weeks.

Barcelona mentioned in a statement that the midfielder underwent intense sporting stress tests, but the doctors concluded that, for the best possible recovery, he will undergo arthroscopic examination.

"Gavi underwent intense sporting stress tests after finishing his conservation course of treatment for the radial injury to the internal meniscus in his right knee," Barca said in a statement.

"The conclusion is that in order to guarantee the best possible recovery and return to competitive action this Tuesday Gavi will undergo an arthroscopic examination."

The Catalan club has lost another key midfielder, Fermin Lopez, due to a leg muscle injury in their 3-0 win over Getafe on Sunday.

Several players from Barcelona are facing injuries, including left-back Lamine Yamal, full-back Alejandro Balde, and goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Barca, who are two points behind LaLiga leaders Real Madrid, next travel to Real Oviedo in the league on Thursday.—Agency

De Zerbi calls PSG triumph one of his greatest Marseille moments

MARSEILLE: Olympique de Marseille manager Roberto De Zerbi described his side's 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain in Ligue 1 as one of the best days since his arrival at the club, following a historic win at the Stade Vélodrome.

Marseille defeated their fiercest rivals at home for the first time since 2011, with Nayef Aguerd's early header proving decisive.

Last season, PSG clinched their fourth consecutive league title, while Marseille finished as runners-up.

De Zerbi expressed his delight after the game, calling it a defining moment for both himself and the team, but also urged his players to stay focused ahead of Friday's clash against Strasbourg.

"It's one of the best days since I arrived. I came here for the Velodrome and to beat PSG, the team that represents power, that has been winning without rival for years, which I don't accept in my philosophy," De Zerbi said.

"But we haven't done anything yet: the most important thing is Friday in Strasbourg, to take another step towards the goal of building a great team."

The win carried more weight than just three points, lifting Marseille to sixth place in the table with nine points, three behind PSG, who sit behind leaders Monaco only on goal difference.

Marseille will now look to build momentum from this landmark triumph when they face Strasbourg next weekend. PSG, meanwhile, suffered their first defeat of the season and will aim to bounce back when they host Auxerre.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Ahmed Khan
About Me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!
Location: Karachi

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

Ravichandran Ashwin eyes historic BBL run as four franchises battle for him

MELBOURNE: Veteran Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is poised to make history as the first capped Indian male cricketer to feature in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL), with four franchises competing to secure his services for the latter stages of the upcoming season.

According to reports, Sydney Thunder, Hobart Hurricanes, Sydney Sixers and Adelaide Strikers are in the race to sign the India great. Thunder and Hurricanes are believed to be leading the chase, with a final decision expected later this week.

No internationally capped Indian male player has previously participated in the BBL. However, Ashwin's retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL) earlier this year has opened the door for him to feature in overseas franchise leagues for the first time.

Under the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regulations, only retired Indian cricketers are permitted to play in foreign T20 competitions. In recent years, several former India stars have taken that route:

Dinesh Karthik turned out for Paarl Royals in SA20, Ambati Rayudu featured for St Kitts & Nevis Patriots in the CPL and MI Emirates in the ILT20, while Robin Uthappa, Yusuf Pathan, and Suresh Raina have all represented franchises in overseas leagues.

Ashwin has already committed to the inaugural ILT20 auction in the UAE, scheduled for next Tuesday. Should he be picked, he will play in the tournament, which will run from December 2 to January 4.

The BBL season begins on December 14 and continues until January 25, meaning Ashwin would be available for three to four league matches and the finals, if his team qualifies. His proposed deal is also expected to include the 2026–27 BBL season.BBL clubs are allowed only three overseas players in their playing XI, with additional overseas signings possible as replacements. If any players are released to participate in the SA20, Ashwin could fill their spot.

Although he did not nominate himself in the overseas draft earlier this year, league rules provide exemptions for players whose circumstances have changed — a precedent previously set by Martin Guptill (Melbourne Renegades, 2022-23) and Nat Sciver-Brunt (Perth Scorchers, WBBL).

While teams will need to manage Ashwin's salary within their allocated purse, it is expected that a marketing partnership with Cricket Australia will help offset the cost.

The BBL also allows franchises to exceed the cap by five percent in a given year, provided it is balanced out across a three-year cycle.—Agency

Lamine Yamal's father blasts Ballon d'Or jury in fiery rant

Lamine Yamal's father, Mounir Nasraou, has slammed the jury after his son came second to Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward Ousmane Dembele in the Ballon d'Or voting.

Dembele played a decisive role in PSG's historic campaign, guiding the club to its first-ever UEFA Champions League triumph.

The French forward had an outstanding 2024-25 season, recording 35 goals and 16 assists in 53 appearances across competitions for treble-winners PSG

However, Yamal's father believes his son is the best player in the world right now and 'this is the biggest moral damage done to a human being' by not giving him the Ballon d'Or.

"I think this is the biggest, I won't say theft, but moral damage done to a human being because I believe Lamine Yamal is the best player in the world by far, by a huge margin," Nasraou said.

"It's not because he's my son but because he's the best player in the world. I believe there are no rivals. Lamine is Lamine Yamal. Something very strange has happened here. Next year there will be a Spanish Ballon d'Or winner."Yamal who is considered as the future of Barcelona and Spain national team has emerged as one of the biggest stars of current generation following a stellar 2024/25 campaign in which he racked up an astonishing 18 goals and 25 assists in 55 appearances, playing a pivotal role in Barcelona's triumphs in La Liga, the Copa del Rey, and the Spanish Super Cup.

But Barcelona president Joan Laporta believes the Champions League was the difference between Yamal and Ousmane Dembele in the Ballon d'Or race.

"I think winning the Champions League has had its weight," Laporta said.—Agency

Atlanta Braves storm to dominant rout and extend stunning win streak

ATLANTA: Michael Harris II delivered an outstanding performance with three hits and three RBIs, powering the Atlanta Braves to an 11-5 victory over the Washington Nationals at Truist Park on Monday, extending their winning streak to nine games.

Harris went 3-for-5 with a double, a run scored, and three stolen bases, while Marcell Ozuna also tallied three hits.

Rookie catcher Drake Baldwin chipped in with two hits and two RBIs, including a decisive two-run single, and Ronald Acuña Jr. smashed his 19th home run of the season.

The Braves erupted in the third inning with a five-run outburst that saw 11 players come to the plate, opening up a commanding 7-1 lead. A bases-loaded walk to Acuña, followed by RBI hits from Ozuna and Harris, set the stage for Baldwin's clutch knock.

The inning also saw drama when Nationals interim manager Miguel Cairo was ejected by first base umpire Manny Gonzalez after disputing a check-swing ruling.

Later in the same frame, Atlanta suffered a setback when Ozzie Albies exited the game with a fractured hamate bone in his left wrist, an injury that will sideline him for the rest of the season.

On the mound, Chris Sale earned the win despite surrendering five runs over five innings. Nationals starter MacKenzie Gore struggled, lasting just over two innings and allowing four runs to take the loss.

Washington's offense was highlighted by Nasim Núñez, who led off the game with a home run, while Andrés Chaparro and Dylan Crews added RBIs.

But Atlanta's relentless lineup proved too much to handle as the Braves reached double digits in runs for the sixth time during their current streak.

The series continues Tuesday when Washington's Brad Lord faces Atlanta's Hurston Waldrep.—Agency

Chaos in PHF as players wait endlessly for daily allowance payments

LAHORE: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has come under scrutiny for overlooking the issue of players' daily allowances, sources revealed.

According to the sources, while the federation was busy finalising arrangements with the government for the upcoming Pro Hockey League, it neglected to address the players' dues.

Each player is entitled to an international daily allowance of PKR 30,000, amounting to nearly PKR 500,000 per tour.

The delay has sparked frustration among national players, who have yet to receive their international allowances more than six weeks after the conclusion of the FIH Nations Cup.

In contrast, players have only been paid domestic allowances, reportedly at a reduced rate of PKR 2,500 per day instead of PKR 3,000.

"It's difficult to manage household expenses on just domestic allowances. We remain committed to representing Pakistan, but we also have families to support," players expressed.

The uncertainty has pushed several players to explore alternative opportunities, including participation in international leagues and tournaments abroad. "What can players do? Life has to go on, and we must grab any chance to play overseas," they added.—Agency

Cardinals claw past Giants to keep wild-card hopes alive

SAN FRANCISCO: The St. Louis Cardinals kept their National League wild-card hopes alive with a hard-fought 6-5 victory over the San Francisco Giants at Oracle Park.

Trailing 4-2, Ivan Herrera ignited a pivotal four-run fifth inning with his 18th home run of the season, tying the game.

After Lars Nootbaar's single, Herrera's blast sparked the rally that gave the Cardinals the lead for good. Pedro Pagés and Jordan Walker added run-scoring groundouts to capitalise on the Giants' defensive lapses.

San Francisco had built an early advantage behind Heliot Ramos, who hit his 19th home run and later delivered a two-RBI single in the fourth to make it 4-2. Rafael Devers added a solo shot in the fifth, but the Giants' bats went quiet afterward, managing just one hit over the final four innings.

Michael McGreevy was credited with the win despite allowing all five Giants runs.

The bullpen shut the door, with Ryan Fernandez, John King, Kyle Leahy, and Giovanny Gallegos combining for four scoreless innings.

Romero notched his eighth save of the season.

Giants starter Justin Verlander struggled, surrendering nine hits and six runs (four earned) in 4 1/3 innings.—Agency

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ENTERTAINMENT

Taylor Swift gets ex-cop arrested: 'Tried serving her deposition papers!'

Taylor Swift has just forced an ex-cop into police custody for the way he attempted to serve her papers for a deposition.

The whole thing happened over a month ago, before 2 am on the 15th of September.

According to RadarOnline, the entire thing happened outside Travis Kelce's home, in Leawood, Kansas.

Per court documents the arrest happened because the ex-cop turned private eye, Justin Lee Fisher, tried "jumping the fence onto a private residence in a private neighborhood," in order to deliver the deposition papers.

What is pertinent to mention is that the deposition relates to Justin Boldoni's case against Blake Lively, who used Swift's name in some text messages.

Just two days before this arrest was made an extension was also requested. But in a rejection, the judge in question Lewis Liman said, "The only justification they have provided for the extension is their assertion that Swift's pre-existing professional obligations now prevent her from appearing for a deposition prior to October 20, 2025."

Sabrina Carpenter bares all with blunt take on men

In Sabrina Carpenter's Man's Best Friend, she opens up about unreliable partners; now, she has addressed her views on men.

During an interview with Vogue Italia, she says, "I do think that men have been a super entertaining species to watch. In positive and negative ways."

She continues that she "feels adored and inspired and loved by some of them and really confused and attacked and ridiculed by other."

"Part of life is making light of moments that maybe make us uncomfortable, or at least, that is for me," the Tears hitmaker says.

Elsewhere in the interview, the Please Please Please singer teases her work on a new album. "I'm doing a lot of writing right now, which you wouldn't probably expect after two albums, two years in a row," she adds."My magic writing place is my bedroom, or it's outside. Although I get many bug bites... Once I get enough bug bites, I go walking and I'm just refreshing," the singer says.

In the meanwhile, Sabrina is set to feature in the 2026 Coachella along with Justin Bieber and Kajol G.

Man's Best Friend is streaming on Apple Music, Spotify, and other digital streaming platforms.

Olivia Rodrigo stuns fans with dreamy love and wishes photo drop

The GUTS World Tour was wrapped up last month. So, to let fans know what she's been up to, Olivia Rodrigo shares photos of herself on social media.

On Instagram, she posts a series of images that giv a glimpse of what she is doing in her downtime. The caption on them read, "Love & wishes."

Olivia Rodrigos love & wishes photos on social media

Meanwhile, on the social media platform, the traitor singer speaks out against the suspension of Jimmy Kimmel over his remarks on Charlie Kirk's killer.

"I'm so upset over this blatant censorship and abuse of power. I stand with Jimmy Kimmel and I stand for freedom of speech," she pens in a post.

Since his suspension caused much uproar, ABC's parent company, Disney, in a statement, has now reinstated his Jimmy Kimmel Live! show.

"Last Wednesday, we made the decision to suspend production on the show to avoid further inflaming a tense situation at an emotional moment for our country," the statement read.

"It is a decision we made because we felt some of the comments were ill-timed and thus insensitive," it said.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Ayaz Latif Palijo slams Sindh's collapsing education system at Aga Khan School awards in Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Qaumi Awami Tehreek President Ayaz Latif Palijo, chief guest at the Aga Khan School's annual awards ceremony in Mubarak Colony, condemned Sindh's deteriorating education system, blaming corrupt rulers for its collapse. He criticized outdated curricula, emphasizing the need for modern, scientific education and stressed that girls' education is vital for Sindh's progress. Palijo called on students, teachers, and professionals to embrace knowledge and technology, warning that isolation and ignorance threaten the region. He denounced corruption, terrorism, and favoritism for undermining institutions and urged youth to lead social change, highlighting the crisis of millions of children deprived of education.

Larkana education officials and teachers hail PPP leader Aijaz Ahmed Laghari on his Umrah return

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Education department officials and teachers in Larkana congratulated Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Ejaz Ahmed Leghari on successfully performing Umrah. TEO Larkana Munir Ali Bhutto, teacher leader Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Sohail Akhtar Khosa, Nalay Mitho Naich, and others visited Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto, where they presented flower garlands and extended their heartfelt greetings to Aijaz Ahmed Laghari, who is also the General Secretary of PPP Larkana district and Chairman of the District Council. On the occasion, PPP Larkana Taluka President and District Council Vice Chairman Asadullah Bhutto and other party members were also present.

Neglect of Phuleli canal branches raises alarming breach risks near Matli

By Nooral Khamisani

MATLI: Due to prolonged negligence by the Irrigation Department, the Murad Wah and Matli Branch (Peer Wah) canals offshoots of the Phuleli Canal are in a deteriorated state, with embankments weakened and canal banks severely eroded.

These canals, which cross the Matli-Phalkara road, now face a high risk of breaches. Despite receiving Rs 12 crore annually under the Maintenance and Repair (M&R) fund, locals allege the funds are misused through non-transparent tenders in obscure newspapers. Residents demand urgent repairs, warning that further inaction could lead to major agricultural and infrastructural damage.

Duty evaders in Naushehro Feroze warned of strict action by Municipal Committee Chairman

By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Dr. Kashif Memon, in a press conference, vowed to resolve the legitimate issues of municipal employees but made it clear that habitual absentees and duty evaders would receive no concessions. He stated that employees are receiving full salaries and pensions on time, with no cuts or delays. However, some workers continue to neglect duties while drawing salaries, impacting city cleanliness.

He warned that such employees will face strict legal action and that only those fulfilling responsibilities will have their interests protected.

Grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrated with zeal at Govt Primary School Sagheer Colony

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: A splendid Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) gathering was organized at Government Primary School, Sagheer Colony, hosted by Sain Pardat Kumar. Special guests included PPP City President Mir Irfan Khan Talpur, Vice Chairman Haji Zafar Hussain Arain, preacher Maulana Ijaz Ali Sakandari, senior journalist Shahid Majeed Qaimkhani, councilor Dado Yar Muhammad Khaskheli, and school staff. Students presented naats and speeches which were warmly received by attendees.

At the conclusion, guests praised the school administration and students for their excellent arrangements and emphasized the message of love, unity, and brotherhood in this blessed month of Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Shahpur Chakar government offices fall silent amid province-wide strike

By Aftab Hussain Mallah

SHAHPUR CHAKAR: A massive protest erupted in Shahpur Chakar as employees from various departments including education, health, and irrigation staged rallies and locked down government offices in response to controversial pension reforms. Led by GSTA, APCA, and others, the demonstrators condemned the new policy calling it an attack on employees' livelihoods.

Teachers, doctors, paramedics, and clerks declared a complete halt of operations across Sindh, warning that if their demands including payment of pensions and DRA allowances are not met, the movement will escalate further, and the government will bear full responsibility.

Thul schools and offices locked down as employee protests grip the town

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In response to a call by the Sindh Employees Alliance, Government Abdul Majeed Khosa and Syed Eisan Shah High Schools in Thul were locked down as part of a protest. The demonstration was led by GSTA Taluka President, Teacher Shafiq Ahmed Noonari. Participating teachers included Mazhar Ali Shah, Amanullah Msngi, Muhammad Younis Dayo, Ashiq Menghi, Asif Khosa, Abdul Sattar Khosa, Fareed Ahmed Soomro, Muhammad Ali Dayo, and Muhammad Umar Sarki. Meanwhile, Population Department employees Abdul Wahid Sarki and Mehmoodan Golo led a similar lockdown protest at their office. The protesters vowed to continue until their demands are met.

Umerkot government offices shut tight as Sindh Employees Alliance flexes power

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Like the rest of Sindh, Umerkot's Pithoro, Samaro, Shadi, Palli, Kunri, Dhoronaro, and Chhor also witnessed a total lockdown of government offices on the call of the Sindh Employees Alliance. Government employees of Higher Secondary Schools, Degree Colleges, Taluka Hospital Pithoro, Revenue Office, and other local departments wore black armbands and closed offices in protest against hostile government policies. Schools and colleges barred students from entering, while at Taluka Hospital, all departments except the emergency ward were shut down. Revenue offices also locked their doors. Protesters raised black flags and vowed to continue the strike until their demands are met.

University of Sindh teachers rise in protest over pension cuts

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Teachers at the University of Sindh, led by the Sindh University Teachers' Association (SUTA), staged a protest and boycotted classes against the Sindh government's pension cut from 65% to 15%. They demanded restoration of pensions, allowance reinstatements, and recruitment quotas for families of deceased employees.

The protest, supported by FAPUASA and Sindh Employees Alliance, signals ongoing resistance until their demands are met.

Khairpur teachers march against shocking pension reductions for retirees

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Government Elementary School teachers protested against recent pension cuts imposed on public employees. Led by Tauqeer Ali Shah and other leaders, the demonstration highlighted how pensions are crucial for retirees facing soaring inflation. Speakers condemned the government for denying rightful relief and vowed to continue their protest campaign until the decision is reversed, demanding the restoration of pension benefits for retired employees.

Keti Bandar brought to a standstill as Sindh Employees Alliance protest gathers steam

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: Government schools, offices, and health centers across Keti Bandar, Garho, and Baghan were completely shut as part of a province-wide protest called by the Sindh Employees Alliance. Demonstrators demanded restoration of pension rights, payment of group insurance, reinstatement of the Sindh job quota, and other legitimate employee benefits. Teachers and staff wore black armbands, symbolizing resistance. GSTA Taluka President Niaz Ahmed Memon and other leaders warned that the movement will escalate if the government fails to act. The strike disrupted educational and administrative services, with protestors asserting they are fighting for lawful, long-denied employee rights.

Hope in Larkana as unemployed youth, women and transgender community handed business grants

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a significant initiative to combat unemployment, Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN), with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), distributed grant cheques to unemployed youth, women, and transgender persons to start their own businesses. The ceremony was held at a local hotel in Larkana, with Khair Muhammad Shaikh, President of the Larkana Chamber of Commerce, as the chief guest. PMN and UNIDO representatives including Syed Shafqat Hussain Shah, Babar Aziz, Zulfiqar Ali, Fatima Jaffari, Tayab Saqib, and Ali Gul Solangi were also present. Organizers shared that out of 200 received applications, 50 individuals were selected in the first phase to receive grant cheques totaling Rs 24.9 million. They expressed hope that the recipients would now launch small businesses and contribute to supporting their families, helping reduce unemployment in the region.

Commissioner lauds efforts to preserve historic Besant Hall

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi visited Besant Hall and lauded the Endowment Fund Trust for Preservation of the Heritage of Sindh and the hall's management for maintaining this cultural landmark. He praised the libraries for providing an inspiring environment for readers and students and admired the exhibition displaying rare pictures of Quaid-e-Azam. The Commissioner highlighted the Trust's valuable publications as a significant resource reflecting the literary history of the region. He also appreciated the building's stunning architecture and expressed confidence that Besant Hall will remain a vital institution preserving Sindh's heritage for future generations.

Literary world mourns as renowned book depot owner Iftikhar Arain passes away in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Iftikhar Ali Arain, the well-known owner of Iftikhar Book Depot in Daulatpur's historic Shahi Bazaar, passed away at the age of 65 due to a heart attack. Widely respected in the city, his death has left the community in mourning. Political leaders, business associations, social activists, and organization representatives expressed deep sorrow, calling him a "shining chapter in Daulatpur's history that has now come to an end." His funeral prayer will be held this evening in his ancestral village, Deh Phulel. Community members have described his passing as an irreparable loss.

PPP Dadu kicks off membership drive

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Dadu District President and MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq has officially started the process of collecting membership forms as part of the party's new organizational restructuring. At Pir House Dadu, PPP District Information Secretary Mir Saddam Hussain Bulharo submitted the restructuring forms. Political and social leader Sardar Rajab Khan Shahani, Deputy General Secretary PPP Dadu, Senior Vice President PPP Taluka Dadu, and the Senior Vice President of PPP Taluka Johi also submitted their forms as part of the reorganization process.

Kot Ghulam Muhammad teachers stage dramatic school lockdown protest

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: In response to the Sindh Employees Alliance's province-wide call for a strike from September 23 to 27, teachers in Kot Ghulam Muhammad locked down schools and staged protests. Outside the Kot Ghulam Muhammad Boys High School, leaders from GSTA and GOAS, including Muhammad Aslam Qaimkhani, Sain Wazeer Khaskheli, Sain Amir Ali Nondani, and Sain Zubair Arain, led the protest.

Wearing black armbands, they locked the school gates and raised slogans demanding their legitimate rights, calling for immediate attention from the authorities to resolve long-standing issues faced by government employees.

Traditional mela of Syed Qabool Shah Ghazi draws crowds near Shadi Palli

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The annual Mela of Syed Qabool Shah Ghazi near Shadi Palli began with the traditional chadar offering led by Zafar Bhatti, followed by the first of five Malakhro (traditional wrestling) matches featuring wrestlers from across the region, celebrating Sindhi culture. The festival grounds were adorned with children's swings, toy and sweet stalls, and local food vendors, including popular fish karahi stalls. Wrestlers received prizes from community members and notables, while Headmaster Shaamir Kumbhar of Government High School Shadi Palli provided half-price tokens to students for rides and circus activities, promoting community engagement and festivity.

METRO KARACHI

Sindh cabinet takes digital leap, declares CM Murad

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah announced that the provincial cabinet has been fully digitized, marking a significant step toward e-governance.Speaking to the media, the chief minister stated that all cabinet members have been provided with iPads. From now on, no physical files will be used during cabinet meetings, as all documents and agendas will be shared digitally.He added that each minister has received the complete cabinet agenda on their devices, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and a paperless working environment.Murad Ali Shah emphasized that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to adopting modern technology for better governance and faster decision-making processes in Sindh.—RT/Agency

JI leader blasts Mayor Murtaza Wahab, accuses him of masking failures

KARACHI: Opposition Leader in the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Advocate Saifuddin of Jamaat-e-Islami, strongly criticized Mayor Murtaza Wahab's press conference, alleging that the mayor was deflecting from corruption charges by targeting JI.

Saifuddin claimed that Karachi's citizens are praying for relief from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), while serious allegations persist regarding land encroachment in Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim, corruption in Hub Canal projects, and irregularities on Shahrah-e-Bhutto.He further alleged that the KMC has become a "hub of corruption" where up to 70 percent commission is taken on tenders, while the Sindh government withholds development funds. According to him, corruption worth Rs. 3,360 billion has drained Karachi's resources under PPP's rule.Reassuring residents, the JI leader vowed that the people of Karachi would not be left alone and pledged continued opposition against corruption and mismanagement.—RT/Agency

Karachi lights up in green to mark Saudi Arabia's 95th National Day

KARACHI: On the occasion of Saudi Arabia's 95th National Day, Karachi was decorated in solidarity with the Kingdom, following the directives of Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

Various prominent locations across the city were adorned with decorative lights and posters commemorating the Saudi National Day. The initiative reflects the strong bilateral ties and cultural affinity between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is celebrating its National Day with great enthusiasm. Major roads and buildings across the Kingdom have been decorated with national flags, while special events and ceremonies are being held in different cities.

Governor Tessori's gesture highlights Pakistan's longstanding fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia, as both nations continue to reaffirm their bond of friendship and cooperation on this historic occasion.—RT/Agency

Karachi music teachers' protest enters ninth day over long-delayed joining letters

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Music teachers in Karachi sustained their protest outside the Press Club for the ninth consecutive day, demanding the issuance of their joining letters. They condemned police brutality during a recent peaceful demonstration, which resulted in baton charges and the arrest of 22 protestors, including prominent poets and artists, who were later released after legal intervention. The teachers rejected the Sindh Education Minister's claim that the matter is in court and vowed to continue their sit-in until their demands are fulfilled. Political and social leaders, along with lawyers, have expressed solidarity with the protestors.

35,000 parents across Sindh refuse polio drops for children, sparking health alarm

KARACHI: During the recent anti-polio campaign in Sindh, as many as 35,000 parents refused to administer polio drops to their children, with the majority of refusals reported from Karachi.

According to media reports, 34,000 refusals came from Karachi alone, where in District East over 8,000 parents declined vaccination. The province-wide campaign was conducted from September 1 to 7 across 25 districts, with a target of administering polio drops to more than 2.1 million children in Karachi.

Health officials have expressed concern over the high refusal rate, warning that such resistance poses a serious threat to Pakistan's ongoing efforts to eradicate polio. Despite extensive awareness campaigns, misconceptions and mistrust surrounding vaccination continue to hinder progress.

Authorities have urged parents to cooperate, stressing that polio vaccination is critical for protecting children from lifelong disability and for achieving a polio-free Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Father of kidnapped Landhi child recounts harrowing ordeal

KARACHI: A tragic incident of child abduction has shaken Landhi, where a father reported that his son went missing after stepping outside the house in the evening.The distressed father told reporters, "I personally dropped and picked my son from school, but that evening he went outside and never came back." His statement reflects the family's anguish and growing concern over the child's whereabouts.

Local police have been informed, and a search operation has been initiated in surrounding areas. Authorities are also reviewing CCTV footage and questioning nearby residents to trace the missing child.The incident has sparked fear among residents of Landhi, with parents urging authorities to strengthen security and take swift action against those involved in child abductions.Community members have joined the search efforts, while the family has appealed for immediate recovery of the child.—RT/Agency

Gulshan-e-Hadeed hosts soulful Mehfil-e-Milad led by Rizwan Akhtar Arain

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A soulful Mehfil-e-Milad ? was organized by social figure Rizwan Akhtar Arain at One Stop Oil Change near Shehbaz Petrol Pump, Gulshan-e-Hadeed. Renowned naat khawans recited naats in praise of the Holy Prophet ?. TLP's Farooq ul Hassan Qadri, scholars, political leaders, and community members attended. Speakers highlighted the importance of following the Seerat-un-Nabi ? and promoting peace and unity in society.

Sewerage collapse in North Karachi Sector 5E unleashes health crisis

KARACHI: Residents of North Karachi's Sector 5E are facing severe hardships as the sewerage system in the area has completely collapsed, leaving filthy water accumulated on streets and creating an environment ripe for disease outbreaks.

According to locals, stagnant sewage has led to a surge in mosquitoes, triggering cases of malaria, dengue, diarrhea, and other health risks. Despite repeated complaints to the concerned authorities, no effective action has been taken to resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSB) has increased water bills by Rs. 32, further frustrating residents who complain that service quality has worsened instead of improving.—RT/Agency

Gold prices smash records, hit historic highs across Pakistan

KARACHI: Gold prices in Pakistan surged to an all-time high on Monday, with a sharp increase recorded in local markets.

According to the All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of gold rose by Rs. 5,100 per tola, reaching a historic level of Rs. 398,800. Similarly, the rate for 10 grams of gold jumped by Rs. 4,372, now standing at Rs. 341,906.

The surge in domestic prices is linked to developments in the international market, where gold climbed by $51 per ounce, pushing the global rate to $3,770.

Traders noted that rising global demand, coupled with currency volatility, continues to drive prices upward. With the bullion market witnessing record highs, buyers are facing mounting pressure, while investors increasingly turn to gold as a safe-haven asset.—RT/Agency

Karachi street vendor admits to shocking child abuse in court

KARACHI: Shabbir Tanoli, a sherbet vendor accused of sexually assaulting multiple children in Karachi, confessed his crimes before a judicial magistrate at City Court .

The accused recorded his statement under Section 164 in six registered cases, admitting to abusing five children. He revealed that he lured children with money before taking them to secluded rooms or bushes to commit the assaults.

During the hearing, the magistrate questioned whether the police had subjected him to torture or coercion, to which Tanoli replied in the negative. The court further ensured that the confession was made voluntarily and without external pressure.Following the admission, the magistrate ordered the accused to be placed in judicial custody. The case has sparked outrage in the city, raising demands for stricter measures to protect children from predatory crimes.—RT/Agency

Monitoring control room established to oversee Sindh by-elections

KARACHI: The office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh has established a Provincial Monitoring Control Room in Karachi to oversee the upcoming by-elections on 28 local government seats across 14 districts of Sindh.

According to officials, the control room will remain fully operational throughout the electoral process until the receipt of final results. It will closely monitor all stages of the elections to ensure transparency and smooth conduct.

Citizens have been urged to report any complaints, irregularities, or election-related information directly to the control room via telephone at 021-99204544 or by email at pmcrsindh@gmail.com—RT/Agency

Mayor Murtaza Wahab slams opposition for dragging disputes into courts

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, while addressing a press conference on Monday, said that those who believe in democracy and parliament must decide whether political disputes should be resolved within the council or in the courts. He remarked that Opposition Leader Saifuddin has chosen the latter instead of parliamentary politics.

Wahab stated that despite hurdles created by the opposition, the budget session successfully approved tax increases in the council. He added that his administration is continuing development work in the city regardless of political roadblocks.

Highlighting past achievements, the mayor said, "We have cleansed Karachi of terrorism, and now we will rid the city of hypocrisy as well." He stressed that double standards cannot be accepted, declaring, "It cannot be that whatever you do is right, but whatever we do is wrong."—RT/Agency

KCCI urges FBR to extend income and sales tax filing deadlines

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has urged Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial to extend the statutory deadlines for filing Income Tax and Sales Tax Returns, citing technical and logistical difficulties faced by taxpayers.

In a communication to the FBR chief, KCCI President Muhammad Jawed Bilwani requested that the last date for filing Income Tax Returns for Tax Year 2025 be extended from September 30 to October 31, 2025. He also sought a one-month extension in the deadline for submission of Sales Tax Returns for August 2025.

Highlighting persistent challenges, Bilwani noted that the FBR's IRIS portal continues to face frequent glitches and severe slowdowns, especially during peak hours, making it nearly impossible for taxpayers to file efficiently. Despite repeated assurances, he said, the system has not been upgraded to meet the increasing number of filers.

He further pointed out that recent flash floods and heavy monsoon rains have disrupted internet and telecom services across the country, with 4G and 5G connectivity functioning poorly in many areas. These outages, he said, have added to the difficulties of filers who rely solely on online platforms.

Bilwani reminded that in the past, FBR had granted similar deadline extensions under comparable circumstances, which not only facilitated compliance but also contributed to better documentation of the economy and higher revenue collection.—RT/Agency

Sindh employees storm Gulzar Hijri College in protest over pension cuts

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Teaching and non-teaching staff of Government Boys Degree College Gulzar Hijri and Government Boys Degree College Gulistan-e-Jauhar held a protest under the banner of Sindh Employees Alliance, locking classrooms to demand their rights. Led by SUP leaders Dr. Ghulam Rasool Lakho, Ashfaq Memon, and others, the staff called for the restoration of disparity allowance, group insurance, and reversal of pension cuts. Protesters criticized the Sindh government for denying allowances granted in other provinces and warned of escalating protests if demands remain unmet.

Open drain in Gulistan-e-Johar Block 12 poses growing health hazard

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: An open drain in front of Bombay Arcade in Gulistan-e-Johar Block 12 is causing health hazards and accidents for local residents. During rains, contaminated water enters homes and apartments, increasing the risk of diseases and foul odors. Over the past six months, several motorcycle accidents occurred, and two vehicles fell into the drain. Residents and traders blame Faisal Cantonment Board (East) and KMC for negligence, stating that despite repeated complaints and protests, no action has been taken. They demand immediate cleaning, improved drainage, and covering of the drain to prevent a major disaster.

Gulshan-e-Hadeed set for water supply relief, vows MPA Sajid Jokhio

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Former Provincial Minister and MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio, along with PPP Malir General Secretary Imdad Jokhio and Deputy Commissioner Malir Saleemullah Odho, visited the ongoing construction of a new pumping station for Gulshan-e-Hadeed. The project, initiated by the Water & Sewerage Board, aims to resolve the area's water shortage. MPA Jokhio assured residents that the project will be completed within days, and also confirmed that Pakistan Steel Mills has begun replacing damaged cables, which will restore the 110 water supply line soon.

Karachi seminar exposes alarming rise in tobacco addiction, demands urgent action

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: A powerful seminar on "Anti-Tobacco, Quitting Tobacco, and the Use of New Tobacco Products" was recently held under the banner of the Sukhar Welfare Organization. Dr. Zeeshan, a prominent lecturer and keynote speaker, shocked attendees by revealing that nearly 800,000 people in Karachi alone are addicted to cigarette smoking, and the total number for all forms of tobacco usage in the city soars to a staggering 2.5 million. Dr. Zeeshan passionately called for an immediate, city-wide anti-tobacco campaign, urging mandatory educational sessions to combat this growing crisis. He emphasized that smoking is often the first gateway to more dangerous drug addictions.Siddique Singhar, General Secretary of the Kachi Foundation, voiced strong criticism of law enforcement's approach, advocating for a "people-friendly" rather than "crime-friendly" stance.

You cannot change what you refuse to confront.

—Unknown

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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 2025

PM Shehbaz Stands With World Leaders At UNGA Opening Session

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday joined the world leaders at the opening ceremony of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session in New York.

The premier was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi.

PM Shehbaz, who reached New York late Monday night mainly to attend the UNGA session, will also partake in the special summit of Arab and Islamic countries, co-hosted by the United States and Qatar.

The prime minister has been specially invited to participate in the summit, which will also be attended by US President Donald Trump.

At the UN, the prime minister, while speaking to the reporters, praised the US president and his team for playing a significant role in the ceasefire between Pakistan and India.

The prime minister described President Trump as a strong advocate for peace and stability across the globe.

"President Donald Trump is a man of peace. He, along with his team, played a key role in bringing about the ceasefire between Pakistan and India," said the PM.

During the day, the premier met Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker, Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid and other world leaders on the sidelines of the UNGA session.

PM Shehbaz and the Austrian chancellor expressed their desire to further enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors.

The premier highlighted trade, tourism, climate change and education as possible avenues of positive collaboration and stressed the need to enhance bilateral trade ties.

The Austrian chancellor thanked the prime minister for the meeting and also conveyed his desire to work together to create new avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to exchange delegations to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism between the two countries.

In his meeting with the Kuwaiti crown prince, the PM recalled the longstanding, historic fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kuwait.—RT/Agency

Dar Meets Hungarian FM At UNGA To Expand Bilateral Ties

GENEVA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar met with Hungary's Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, the two ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Hungary. The meeting emphasized enhancing collaboration in key sectors including trade, investment, and higher education.

Dar calls for unity on Palestine, strengthens ties at UN

The spokesperson added that both leaders stressed the need to give a new dimension to Pakistan-Hungary ties by fostering deeper cooperation and people-to-people linkages.

Earlier during the UNGA session, Ishaq Dar also held meetings with GCC Secretary General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand. In both meetings, regional cooperation and bilateral relations were discussed, with a shared commitment to strengthening institutional ties and boosting economic collaboration.—RT/Agency

US Lawmaker Warns China Tensions Could Spark Deadly Military Misunderstanding

BEIJING: The leader of a US congressional delegation to China warned Tuesday of the "risk of a misunderstanding" between the two countries' militaries as advances in defence technology move at breakneck speed.

Adam Smith, the most senior Democrat on Washington's Armed Services Committee, told journalists in Beijing that China needs to talk more about its military with other global powers "for basic de-confliction".

We've seen this with our ships, our planes, their ships, their planes coming entirely too close to one another," he said at a news conference at the US Embassy.

"We need to have a better conversation about de-conflicting those things."

The four-person delegation also includes other members of the same Armed Services Committee — Democrats Ro Khanna and Chrissy Houlahan — as well as Republican congressman Michael Baumgartner, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The group on Monday met Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun, with whom they talked about the importance of "working through our differences" and more candid dialogue, according to a statement from the US side.

Dong called on the visitors to "remove disruptive and restrictive factors" between them, China's Xinhua state news agency reported.

Speaking on Tuesday alongside the other lawmakers and the US Ambassador to China, David Perdue, Smith said: "AI and drone warfare and cyber and space is moving so rapidly and innovation is happening so quickly.

"The risk of a misunderstanding of capabilities on one side or the other is great," he said, adding the two sides need to talk so they "don't stumble in any sort of conflicts".

Tariffs and TikTok

The bipartisan congressional delegation comes just days after Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump spoke by telephone for the second time since the return to the White House of Trump, who has tried to keep a lid on tensions despite his once virulent criticism of China.—RT/Agency

World Bank Says Pakistan's Poverty Rate Has Surged 7% In Four Years

ISLAMABAD: The poverty rate has increased by seven percent in Pakistan during last four years according to a report released by the World Bank.

The World Bank's country director Pakistan Ms. Bolormaa Amgaabazar in a press briefing said that the poverty rate in the country has reached to 25.3 percent as hike recorded in the poverty rate in recent years.

"The poverty rate was 18.3 percent in Pakistan in Year 2021-2022, which soared to 24.8% in Year 2022-2023. The poverty rate further enhanced to 25.3 percent in year 2023-2024," according to the World Bank report.

According to the report, the poverty rate was declining by 3 percent in the country per annum up to the Year 2015. "Frome 2015 to 2018 poverty rate decreased by one percent yearly.

The World Bank said that the country's poverty rate started increasing after 2020.

"The income increased by only two to three percent from Year 2011-2021," according to the report.The poverty rate in the country decreasing with agriculture and other sources of income, the report said.—RT/Agency

Jaffar Express Derails In Mastung After Deadly Track Explosion

QUETTA: Several passengers were injured when three carriages of the Jaffar Express derailed in Mastung's Dasht area on Tuesday following an explosion on the railway track, officials said.

According to railway authorities, one carriage overturned while two others came off the track. The train was travelling from Peshawar to Quetta at the time of the incident.

Rescue sources confirmed that ambulances had been dispatched from Quetta to Dasht to transport the injured to hospitals. Levies officials said multiple passengers sustained injuries in the accident.

This is not the first time the train service has been attacked.

Earlier in June, five bogies of Jaffar Express derailed after a blast took place on a railway track near Jacobabad. The train was en route from Peshawar to Quetta.The explosion damaged the railway line, disrupting train services in the area, however, no casualties were reported, they added.

On March 11, the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) militants blew up train tracks and assaulted the Jaffar Express, holding over 440 passengers hostage in a day-long standoff with security services in a remote mountain pass in the Bolan district.The military, after clearing the train and rescuing hostages, killed 33 attackers.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Hails Wave Of International Recognition For Palestinian Statehood

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has welcomed the announcements made by several countries regarding the recognition of the State of Palestine.

According to details, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, in a post on X (formerly Twitter), said he welcomes the declarations made by France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and others.

He described these announcements as a victory for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and urged more countries to recognize Palestine in line with international law.He further emphasized that the two-state solution is a vital step towards achieving just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson said that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar represented Pakistan at a high-level meeting on the Palestine issue, co-hosted by Saudi Arabia and France.The spokesperson added that the growing number of countries recognizing Palestine has enhanced the importance of the meeting.At the conclusion of the conference, Pakistan expressed its full support for the "New York Declaration" aimed at resolving the Palestinian issue.Read more: PM Sharif lands in New York to attend UNGA sessionThe Foreign Office reiterated that Pakistan's backing of the declaration reflects its longstanding commitment to a just and sustainable peace.

It also recalled that Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Palestine in 1988 and continues to advocate for Palestine's full membership at the United Nations.Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, in his address, termed the two-state solution conference a historic opportunity for peace and welcomed France's step to recognize the Palestinian state.—RT/Agency

Hamas Brands Netanyahu The Main Obstructionist To Peace Deal

GAZA: Hamas denied any responsibility for the failure to reach a peace deal and a ceasefire to end the war in Gaza.

In a statement, Hamas said: "We have never been an obstacle to reaching an agreement."

"The US administration, the mediators, and the world know that Netanyahu is the sole obstructionist in all attempts to reach an agreement."

In his speech at the UN General Assembly earlier, President Trump called for all captives in Gaza to be released in order for the war to end.

Hamas called on the US administration "to intervene positively to compel the occupation government to halt its crimes of genocide and displacement against our people".—RT/Agency

Pakistan To Launch 5G Services In Coming Months, Vows IT Minister

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday announced that Pakistan will introduce 5G services within the coming months, with the initial launch planned in seven major cities.

The promise of 5G internet, however, comes after the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in its annual report for 2024 stated that even with rising broadband penetration, Pakistan will have a difficult transition to 5G, The News reported last year in December.

There are worries over the financial difficulties associated with Pakistan's transition to 5G wireless technology, even as the country's use and penetration of wireless telecommunication services, such as broadband and mobile, continue to grow.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 26th ITCN Asia Expo at Expo Centre Karachi today, she noted that measures were also being taken to ensure more reliable internet access nationwide.—RT/Agency

Dar Urges OIC And UN To Intensify Action For Palestine And Muslim World

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause during a high-level meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and an international conference co-hosted by Saudi Arabia and France in New York.Teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) highlighted

Addressing the OIC session, Ishaq Dar paid tribute to the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), emphasizing peace, justice, mercy, and tolerance.He underscored that the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings align with the principles of the United Nations Charter, noting that historic events such as the Covenant of Medina, the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, and the Conquest of Makkah served as guiding examples for international law and interfaith harmony. He called these historic events a beacon for international relations in today's era.

Dar warned that injustices, including Israeli atrocities in Palestine, the situation in Kashmir, and rising Islamophobia, threaten global peace. He called on the OIC to intensify efforts to protect the rights of the Muslim Ummah and stressed the need for the Prophet's message of mercy and compassion to be transformed into actionable policies.—RT/Agency

Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Sheikh dies At 82

RIYADH: The Royal Court of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday announced the death of the Kingdom's Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Sheikh, at the age of 82.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz directed that Salat al-Ghaib—funeral prayers in absentia—be held for the late scholar at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, and mosques across the Kingdom following Asr prayers.

In addition, funeral prayers will take place today at Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque in Riyadh after Asr.

Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Sheikh was serving as Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, and head of the General Presidency of Islamic Research and Ifta.

He was the Kingdom's third Grand Mufti, succeeding Sheikh Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Shaikh and Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Baz.

Born in Mecca in 1943, Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Sheikh memorized the Quran at a young age.Despite losing his father in childhood and his eyesight in early adulthood, he pursued Islamic scholarship, becoming a prominent preacher at Riyadh's Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque and the Nimrah Mosque.—RT/Agency

ATC Summons Aleema Khan In November 26 Protest Case

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday summoned PTI founder's sister, Aleema Khan, as an accused on September 29 in connection with the November 26 protest case.

The case was heard by ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah, during which the prosecution submitted the challan against Aleema Khan in court.

The prosecutor informed the court that Aleema Khan was named as the prime accused in the November 26 protest, alleging that she incited party workers to protest despite Section 144 being in force.

It is pertinent to mention that a case against Aleema Khan has been registered at Sadiqabad Police Station, Rawalpindi.—RT/Agency

Karachi Family Storms Software House, Gunfire Erupts in Daring Rescue

KARACHI: In a dramatic scene straight out of a thriller, a family in Gulshan-e-Iqbal stormed a software house to rescue their daughter allegedly held in captivity.

According to police, the young call center employee phoned her family after being harassed and confined inside the office. Her desperate plea prompted relatives to rush to the spot, where a violent clash broke out with the owners. The confrontation escalated into an exchange of gunfire, sending panic across the neighborhood.

Fortunately, no one was injured. Police intervened swiftly, safely recovered the girl, and arrested four suspects, including the software house owners.

An FIR has been registered on the complaint of the victim's father. Investigations are underway into the shocking incident that has rattled Karachi.-RT

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