Price Rs. 10

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

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The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

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Tanya Rad Gushes Taylor Swift Was 'Magical' at Selena Gomez's Wedding

Heartland

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo Condoles With Sindh Home Minister

Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy!

PSE 100-index Up by 146.75 points to close at 165,640.33

NATIONAL

Maryam Nawaz Unveils Ambitious Train and Bus Projects for Murree

SPORTS

Mohsin Naqvi Slams Indian Media Over Fake Apology Narrative in Asia Cup Trophy Row

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Urges Women to Prioritize Health in Breast Cancer Awareness Drive

KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 259 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Thursday, October 02, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 8, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

18 Indian-Backed Militants Sent To Hell In Balochistan Sweep

QUETTA: At least 18 Indian-sponsored terrorists were killed on Wednesday in three separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted by Pakistani security forces across Balochistan, according to security sources.

The first operation took place in the Gaza Band area on the outskirts of Quetta on the reported presence of terrorists.

During the operation, security forces effectively engaged the Fitna-al-Khawarij location, and after an intense fire exchange, 10 Indian sponsored khwarij were killed. Two security personnel sustained injuries during the operation.

In two other operations carried out in the Zhob and Sherani districts, 8 more terrorists were killed.

Security forces also recovered a heavy cache of weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas.

The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipeout the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice.

Earlier, at least five militants were killed, including a suicide bomber, in an attack claimed to be orchestrated by Indian proxy network "Fitna al-Hindustan," in Quetta, Balochistan, on Tuesday.

The suicide blast was reported near Jinnah Road in Quetta.—RT/Agency

PML-N And PPP Call Truce After Maryam Nawaz Row

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have agreed to end their recent war of words after tensions flared over Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's speeches, sources said on Wednesday.

A PPP delegation met PML-N leaders in National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's chamber to defuse the situation.

The PML-N side included Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Rana Sanaullah, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Rana Mubashir, while the PPP was represented by Naveed Qamar and Ejaz Jakhrani.

During the meeting, PPP leaders voiced objections to Maryam's recent remarks, including her criticism of PPP's handling of flood politics in Punjab and her warning that she would "break the finger" raised against her province.

Naveed Qamar cautioned that negative statements between coalition partners hurt both consensus and governance, urging restraint from both sides.

The controversy erupted last week after Maryam accused PPP leaders of politicising floods in Punjab during the launch of an electric bus service in Dera Ghazi Khan.PPP leaders hit back strongly, with some from Sindh publicly criticising the Punjab chief minister.—RT/Agency

US Govt Shutdown Grips Washington As Partisan Rift Deepens

WASHINGTON: The US government shut down much of its operations on Wednesday as deep partisan divisions prevented Congress and the White House from reaching a funding deal, setting off what could be a long, gruelling standoff that could lead to the loss of thousands of federal jobs.

There was no clear path out of the impasse, while agencies warned that the 15th government shutdown since 1981 would halt the release of a closely watched September employment report, slow air travel, suspend scientific research, withhold pay from US troops and lead to the furlough of 750,000 federal workers at a daily cost of $400 million.

Trump, whose campaign to radically reshape the federal government is already on track to push out some 300,000 workers by December, warned congressional Democrats that a shutdown could clear the path for "irreversible" actions, including cutting more jobs and programmes.The shutdown commenced hours after the Senate rejected a short-term spending measure that would have kept government operations afloat through November 21.—RT/Agency

Hamas Pushes To Rewrite Trump Plan Disarmament Clause

DOHA, Qatar: Hamas officials want amendments to clauses on disarmament in US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan, a Palestinian source close to the group's leadership told AFP on Wednesday.

Hamas negotiators held discussions Tuesday with Turkish, Egyptian and Qatari officials in Doha, the source said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters and adding the group needed "two or three days at most" to respond.

Trump's plan, backed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calls for a ceasefire, the release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, the group's disarmament and a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

But the Palestinian source said: "Hamas wants to amend some of the clauses such as the one on disarmament and the expulsion of Hamas and faction cadres."Hamas leaders also want "international guarantees for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip" and guarantees of no assassinations inside or outside the territory.Six people were killed in an Israeli attack on Hamas officials meeting in Doha to discuss an earlier ceasefire proposal last month.The source said Hamas was also in touch with "other regional and Arab parties", without giving details.—RT/Agency

US Pledges Qatar Security Shield After Israeli Strikes

US: The United States will regard "any armed attack" on Qatari territory as a threat to Washington and will provide the Gulf Arab state with security guarantees, the White House said, after an Israeli strike on the country last month.

"In light of the continuing threats to the State of Qatar posed by foreign aggression, it is the policy of the United States to guarantee the security and territorial integrity of the State of Qatar against external attack," said an Executive Order signed by US President Donald Trump.

In the event of an attack on Qatar, the United States will "take all lawful and appropriate measures — including diplomatic, economic, and, if necessary, military — to defend the interests of the United States and of the State of Qatar and to restore peace and stability," the order said.

The agreement comes after an Israeli strike on the key US regional ally on September 9, targeting officials from the Palestinian group Hamas who were discussing a US peace proposal for the war in Gaza.Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Qatar's prime minister from the White House on Monday, apologising for strikes and promising not to do so again, the United States said.

Netanyahu was in Washington to meet Trump, and had until then been defiant since ordering the September 9 strikes.

Qatar is a key US ally in the Gulf and hosts the largest US military base in the region at al-Udeid, which also includes a regional headquarters for elements of US Central Command.—RT/Agency

Khuzdar Shocker: 4 Terrorists In Women's Attire Nabbed In Daring IBO

KHUZDAR: Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khuzdar, successfully thwarting terrorists' attempt to flee, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

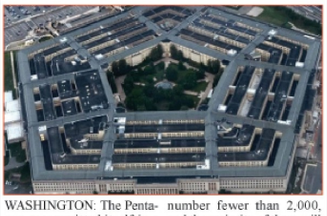
According to the military media wing, "on 1 October 2025, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Khuzdar District of Balochistan, on reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan.

During the conduct of operation, own forces apprehended four Ts trying to flee cowardly by disguising in women attire. Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipeout the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice."

Earlier, at least 18 Indian-sponsored terrorists were killed on Wednesday in three separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted by Pakistani security forces across Balochistan, according to security sources.—RT/Agency

Pentagon Charts Exit Plan To Scale Down Iraq Mission



WASHINGTON: The Pentagon recommitted itself in a statement on Tuesday to scaling back its military mission in Iraq, a process that a US official said will see Baghdad command efforts to combat remnants of Daesh inside its own country.

Under the plan, the US and its coalition allies would instead focus on combating Daesh remnants in Syria and shift most of their personnel to Iraq's Kurdistan region to carry out that mission, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US had approximately 2,500 troops in Iraq at the start of 2025 and more than 900 in neighbouring Syria as part of the coalition formed in 2014 to combat Daesh as it rampaged through the two countries.

Once the transitions are completed, the total number of US forces in Iraq will number fewer than 2,000, and the majority of them will be in Erbil, the official said. A final number has yet to be determined, the official added, without offering a timeline.

US troops remaining in Baghdad will focus on normal bilateral security co-operation issues, not the counter-ISIS fight.

"ISIS is no longer posing a sustained threat to the government of Iraq or to the US homeland from Iraqi territory. This is a major achievement that enables us to transition more responsibly to Iraq leading efforts for security in their own country," a senior defence official said.

The agreement is a boost for the government in Baghdad, which has long worried that US troops can be a magnet for instability, frequently targeted by Iran-aligned groups.—RT/Agency

FinMin Shuts Door On New Taxes As IMF Talks Show Promise

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has made it clear that no additional tax measures are under consideration at present.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Aurangzeb expressed determination to achieve the target of raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to 11 per cent. He made it clear that no additional tax measures are under consideration at present.

He mentioned that several tax cases are pending in the courts and that progress in these cases is expected to improve tax collection.

The FinMin said that negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were progressing well.

Earlier, in a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance chaired by Senator Salim Mandviwala, the finance minister said that macroeconomic stability has been restored. The finance czar announced that the government plans to issue $250 million in Panda bonds by the end of November, with a total of $1 billion to be issued gradually.

Aurangzeb added that the budget for the next fiscal year will not be prepared by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). Instead, the Tax Policy Office within the Ministry of Finance will take responsibility for the new budget. The Tax Policy Office is being activated and will consult on the budget throughout the year.

– FinMin Aurangzeb's interview with Bloomberg –

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has indicated plans to hold an investor conference in Washington this month.

Aurangzeb said the conference aimed to boost US investment in the energy, mining and technology sectors, adding that three global rating agencies have raised Pakistan's rating.The improvement is based on better financial management and increased income, the finance minister added.He maintained that the sectors open for investment in Pakistan are clearly defined.—RT/Agency

Saudi Crown Prince Set For High-Stakes Pakistan Visit

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is expected to visit Pakistan before December 31, 2025, citing Foreign Ministry sources.

According to the sources, the exact dates of the visit are currently being finalized. During the visit, several key agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are likely to be signed.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and a senior official from the Foreign Ministry confirmed that the visit will take place before the end of the year.Bilateral ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have significantly enhanced in recent months, particularly following the signing of a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to the Kingdom. The agreement states that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both."'This agreement, which reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieving security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defense cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression. The agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both," a joint statement shared by PM Office Media Wing said.—RT/Agency

Toshakhana II Drama: Imran And Bushra Bibi Face Jail Courtroom Spotlight

ISLAMABAD: The Toshakhana II case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, was heard inside Adiala Jail on Wednesday.

Special Central Judge Islamabad, Shah Rukh Arjumand, heard the case at the jail premises. Qausain Faisal appeared as the defence counsel for Imran Khan, while Special Public Prosecutor Umair Majid Malik represented the FIA.

More to read: Court dismisses request for stay order against Imran in GHQ attack case

During the hearing, the defense completed the cross-examination of the 19th prosecution witness. The court adjourned the hearing until tomorrow, with cross-examination of the 20th witness to continue.

So far, testimonies from all 20 prosecution witnesses have been recorded, with cross-examination completed for 19 of them. Both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were present in the courtroom during the proceedings.

In addition, Imran Khan's three sisters, Bushra Bibi's sister-in-law, daughter, son-in-law, Senator Ali Zafar, and PTI leader Mishal Yousafzai were also present during the hearing.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

LUMHS Hyderabad Launches Cutting-Edge Microbiology Lab to Battle Deadly Drug Resistance

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Hyderabad/Jamshoro inaugurated a state-of-the-art Microbiology Laboratory to strengthen antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance. Supported by the Fleming Fund Country Grant Pakistan and DAI, the lab enhances diagnostic capacity and data analysis in Sindh. Recognized as a provincial AMR reference lab, it supports Pakistan's National Action Plan on AMR. The upgrade marks a major step toward improved health security and international laboratory standards in the region.

Sindh Farmers Warn of Mass Uprising Over Unfair Crop Prices

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Sindh Hari Committee President Comrade Samar Hyder Jatoi has condemned the low prices being offered for rice crops, calling it economic exploitation of Sindh's farmers. He criticized Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's remarks on rice rates as deeply insensitive.

Jatoi warned that Punjab is exploiting Sindh's resources and attempting to draw canals from the Indus River to irrigate Cholistan, despite Sindh facing severe water shortages. He demanded Rs 4,000 per maund for rice and immediate withdrawal of canal plans. If ignored, he warned of launching a mass protest against canal construction, corporate farming, and the occupation of Sindh's resources.

Shahdadpur Erupts as Sindh Employees Press for Allowances and Pension Rights

By Sajan Jani Detho

SHAHDADPUR: On the ninth consecutive day, doctors and paramedical staff at SIMS Hospital in Shahdadpur boycotted OPD services as part of the Sindh Employees Alliance protest. Leaders demanded the approval of DRA allowances, rollback of pension reforms, group insurance, benevolent fund, and other benefits at retirement. They criticized the Sindh government for implementing a different system from other provinces, causing distrust among employees. They urged PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari to address their demands immediately.

Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi Sounds Alarm on Sindh's Governance Crisis

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Senior GDA leader and National Peoples Party head Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi appeared before the Larkana First Additional and Sessions Judge along with his legal team in a case registered at Dokri Police Station. Due to a lawyers' strike, the hearing was adjourned until October 17. Speaking to media, Jatoi said that since 2008, political tolerance has faded and turning political rivalry into personal enmity undermines democracy. He expressed concerns over Sindh's governance and warned that if current conditions continue, the province could face serious unrest. Criticizing PPP's leadership, he stated that the party has deviated from Bhutto's vision. He also emphasized the need for fair water distribution and mutual respect among political leaders for stability and progress.

Umerkot Bar Slams Punjab CM's Anti-Sindh Tirade, Demands Public Apology

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Umerkot District Bar Association strongly condemned Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's alleged anti-Sindh remarks, passing a unanimous resolution in a meeting chaired by Vice President Mian Bux Khoso. Lawyer leaders said the statement harms provincial harmony and the federal structure, calling it deeply offensive to Sindhi people. The Bar boycotted court proceedings in protest and demanded a public apology from the CM, urging federal and provincial authorities to take serious notice.

Bloody Shootout: Two Robbers Downed, One Escapes in Fierce Police Encounter

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: In a police encounter in Detha Goth, within Naseem Nagar police limits, two armed suspects were arrested in injured condition while one accomplice escaped in the dark. Acting on SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio's orders, SHO Abdul Malik Abro and his team were patrolling when three suspects opened fire. Police retaliated, injuring Naveed Machhi and Habibullah Machhi; Abdul Ghafoor Machhi fled. Weapons and stolen items were recovered. A search operation is ongoing.

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo Condoles With Sindh Home Minister

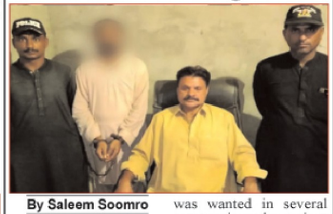
NAWABSHAH: Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo visited Nawabshah to extend condolences to Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar on the passing of his mother. Minister Dharejo offered Fateha for the departed soul, prayed for her eternal peace, and expressed deep sorrow over the irreplaceable loss. He also conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved Home Minister and his family, praying for their strength and patience during this difficult time.—RT

Allama Qumi Rallies for Justice for IBA Pass Candidates

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Religious scholar Allama Ayaz Hussain Qumi condemned the brutal police crackdown on protesting IBA pass candidates. He criticized the appointment of low-scoring candidates, while deserving ones with 40 marks are ignored and tortured. He demanded immediate job orders and a six-month extension. Qumi warned that continued injustice could spark a nationwide movement strong enough to topple the current power structures.

Larkana Police Crush Outlaw Network in Katcha Operation, Key Criminal Caught



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Larkana Police conducted a successful operation in the Kacha area near Dosu Daro, arresting a most-wanted suspect involved in multiple serious crimes. The accused has been identified as Mir Khan Shar, who was wanted in several cases registered at various police stations. In recognition of the successful operation, SSP Larkana Ahmed Chaudhry (PSP, QPM) has ordered appreciation certificates for ASP (R) Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Ali and SHO Keti Mumtaz.

Hyderabad Police Crack Down Hard: Robbers and Drug Kingpin Nabbed

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police, under SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio, intensified anti-crime operations, arresting two notorious robbers in a police encounter in Naseem Nagar and a key burglar at Airport Check Post. Two pistols, stolen goods, and a mobile phone were recovered. Meanwhile, Hali Road police apprehended drug supplier Anwar Pathan, seizing 5 liters of illegal liquor. Police vowed strict action against criminals to ensure public safety and law enforcement across the city.

Sindh Employees Alliance Keeps Protest Flame Alive Against Controversial Laws

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: On the ninth consecutive day, government employees across Johi and other departments continue a complete strike under the Sindh Employees Alliance's call. Led by leaders like Daramad Kotar and Manir Rand, employees protested against Sindh government's unfair laws, symbolically hanging themselves and starting a hunger strike. They demand an end to illegal deductions and pension cuts. A historic sit-in is planned in Karachi on October 6.

Sindh Universities Told to Match Global Standards at CIEC Session

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The future of higher education in Sindh hinges on quality, innovation, and accountability, emphasized at the Charter Inspection and Evaluation Committee's (CIEC) orientation workshop held at the University of Sindh. Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and Quality Enhancement Cell directors from across Sindh gathered to discuss aligning local universities with global academic benchmarks. Secretary Sindh HEC, Dr. Moin Siddiqui stressed that quality assurance is vital for universities to gain international recognition. Chairman CIEC, Dr. Sarosh Lodhi introduced updated monitoring frameworks and digital inspection tools aimed at enhancing transparency and efficiency. University of Sindh Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalil-ur-Rehman Khoumbati highlighted ongoing institutional efforts to integrate quality and innovation in academic programs. Participants agreed that Sindh's universities must move beyond rhetoric to concrete action to improve institutional credibility, student employability, and global standing.

Matiari DC Hails Free Anti-Rabies Drive, Urges Wider Vaccination Campaign

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousif Sheikh visited the Anti-Rabies Control Program office and Livestock Department in Matiari. He appreciated the department's efforts in organizing a free vaccination camp on World Anti-Rabies Day, benefiting livestock owners. He emphasized the importance of vaccinating dogs and cats to prevent rabies, a deadly disease transmitted through bites. The Deputy Commissioner also announced an upcoming stray dog culling campaign in the district. Deputy Director Livestock Dr. Riaz Ahmed Laghari briefed him on flood relief efforts, including medical camps and livestock relocation. The visit concluded with a traditional Loongi presented to the Deputy Commissioner, symbolizing local hospitality and respect.

Tragedy in Thul: Cancer Vaccine Reaction Claims Girl's Life, Sister Critical

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A tragic incident occurred in Sudurabad, Thul, where two minor sisters reportedly collapsed after receiving a cancer prevention vaccine administered by a health department team. As per initial reports, the girls Sumera and Nasiman, daughters of Ilyas Buriro were vaccinated at their home. Soon after, both girls lost consciousness and were rushed to a private hospital in Sukkur in critical condition. According to hospital sources, 14-year-old Sumera could not survive despite medical efforts and was pronounced dead during treatment. Her younger sister, Nasiman, remains under intensive care due to her deteriorating condition. The body of the deceased was transferred to Taluka Hospital Thul for post-mortem, and later handed over to the family. Health officials have yet to issue a formal statement. The incident has sparked grief and concern in the area. According to statements from the family, they were unaware of any potential side effects and claim they were not informed about any risks. The grieving parents have demanded an impartial investigation into the matter and called for justice. Further investigation is underway to determine the cause of the reaction and to verify the vaccine administered.

HESCO Cracks Whip: Rs 63 Crores Recovered, Thousands of Power Thieves Disconnected

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: HESCO has intensified its crackdown on electricity theft, disconnecting 26,521 illegal connections and recovering over Rs 63 crore in outstanding dues since January 19, 2025. During recent operations across multiple sub-divisions, 322 illegal connections were disconnected, 1,532 meters of illegal cable seized, and over Rs 53 lac recovered. HESCO CEO Faizullah Dahri emphasized zero tolerance for electricity theft, warning that defaulters face disconnection and legal action, including arrest. The ongoing drive aims to eliminate electricity theft completely and ensure 100% recovery of dues. HESCO urges consumers to pay bills promptly to avoid penalties and support improved electricity services. Legal authorities like Rangers and Police are involved to enforce these measures strictly.

Scholars Declare Bhittai's Wisdom a Guiding Light in the Age of AI

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: A seminar at Government College University Hyderabad highlighted the enduring relevance of 18th-century Sufi poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA) in today's age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Scholars emphasized that Latif's poetry transcends time, offering timeless wisdom and guiding humanity amid rapid technological change. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Amjad Ali Arain called Shah Latif a global poet whose message enlightens all humanity. Ammar Fayaz Buriro showcased "Bhittai Pedia," an AI-powered digital platform translating Shah's poetry into 230 languages, expanding its global reach. Literary experts stressed Latif's role in inspiring self-awareness and social transformation. Dr. Ehsan Danish described Latif as the "poet of past, present, and future," whose call for mastery remains vital today. The event featured soulful poetry performances and student presentations, celebrating Latif's profound legacy in the AI era.

Journalists Take to Streets in Sita Road Over Murder of Imtiaz Mir

By Zain-ul-Abideen

SITA ROAD: On the call of Sindh Press Club Sita Road, journalists and social workers held a strong protest against the brutal murder of anchorperson Imtiaz Mir. Speakers condemned the targeted killing, calling it a direct attack on press freedom. They demanded immediate justice and protection for journalists. Members of Sindh Press Club, local journalists, and civil society figures participated in large numbers.

REGIONAL TIMES

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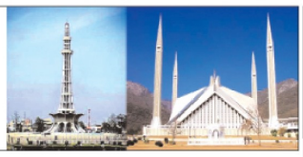

Gandapur Accuses Aleema of Splitting PTI, Hints Minus-Founding Leader Drive

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said his recent meeting with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Imran Khan, after a long gap was aimed at apprising him of the growing divisions within the party, while accusing Aleema Khan of playing a role in campaigns to sideline the PTI founder.

Ali Amin Gandapur revealed that in his previous interaction with the PTI founder, it had been decided to make changes in the provincial cabinet. He said Asad Qaiser and Shahram Tarakai were informed about the reshuffle, while Aqib Khan and Faisal Tarakai were told their portfolios would be altered. "Such adjustments at the government level are routine and not unusual," he clarified.

Responding to Aleema Khan's recent remarks, Gandapur stressed, "I clarify that the PTI founder is my leader. It is my right to inform him truthfully. Complaints are made by weak people, but I have never complained—I only apprised him of facts." He added that since meetings with the PTI founder had not taken place for a long time, he felt obliged to update him on the situation.—RT/Agency

Punjab Info Minister Claims PPP Fears Maryam Nawaz's Rising Performance

Lahore: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is threatened by the performance of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Speaking to a private TV channel, she remarked that while constructive suggestions from coalition partners are welcome, political point-scoring will not be allowed.

Bukhari stressed that it is inappropriate for any province to interfere in another's administrative affairs. She clarified that support for flood victims is not conditional on their registration with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).—RT/Agency

Dr. Ikhtiar Baig Honored for Tireless Advocacy of Business Community

ISLAMABAD: MNA Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig was awarded a shield by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), in recognition of his services to the business community. The event was graced by FPCCI President Atif Ikram, UBG Patron S.M. Tanvir, former FPCCI President Abdul Rauf Alam, and other prominent business leaders, applauding Baig's unwavering support for economic growth.—RT

Quetta Carnage Condemned as State's Failed Policy

QUETTA: Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar, President of the Kakar Tribes Federation and Secretary General Balochistan Youth Front, has strongly condemned the Quetta blast, terming it brutal terrorism and holding the provincial government responsible. He said Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been turned into killing fields under state policies, with innocent Pashtun and Baloch blood being shed. He demanded strict action against the culprits and expressed solidarity with the victims' families.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Authorities Crack Down on Profiteers, Heavy Fines Imposed in Scheme 33

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Under the supervision of Mukhtiarkar Riaz Hussain Buriro, a crackdown against overpricing was conducted in Scheme 33, targeting areas like Gulzar-e-Hijri and Faria Chowk. Prices of essentials such as milk, sugar, rice, and eggs were inspected, and shopkeepers violating government rate lists were fined. Traders were warned to follow official prices and keep purchase receipts. Buriro stressed that profiteering worsens public suffering amid inflation. Daily inspections are ongoing under Commissioner Karachi's orders, and violators will face strict action, including removal of encroachments for citizens' relief.

State Minister Fahd Haroon Updates Acting President Gillani on Bold Digital Media Drive

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and PM's Special Assistant on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon, met with Acting President Yousuf Raza Gillani at Aiwan-e-Sadr to discuss advancements in digital media. Haroon highlighted government initiatives to boost digital outreach and strengthen public communication. The Acting President praised the efforts, stressing the importance of effective digital strategies in shaping a positive national narrative. The meeting emphasized the growing role of digital platforms in public discourse and reaffirmed the government's commitment to leveraging them for constructive engagement with citizens.—RT

Rauf Ahmed Nagori Named PPP Karachi Division General Secretary

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party District Central congratulated Rauf Ahmed Nagori Bhai on his election as General Secretary of Karachi Division. The party's office bearers from City Areas, Ladies Wing, Minority Wing, Labor Wing, PSF, and Peoples Youth expressed their happiness and appreciation for his leadership. Sardar Khan, PPP District Central President, and Shehzad Majeed, General Secretary, praised Nagori's dedication and efforts.

Maryam Nawaz Unveils Ambitious Train and Bus Projects for Murree

MUREE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz unveils major uplift projects for Murree, including water supply, school upgrades, Green Line buses and train service.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Nawaz Sharif Cardiology Centre in Samli, Murree, the Punjab CM said the facility for heart patients was built in a short period and had already begun operations, with five angiographies performed on its first day.

Cardiac surgeries are set to begin in the days to come, she added.—RT/Agency

Tharo Mangal Goth Residents Gain Ownership Rights as Lease Notification Issued

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Karachi West's historic Tharo Mangal Goth, UC-12, Manghopir Town, has been formally notified for lease, marking a significant milestone for the community. Thanks to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision and Sindh CM's Special Assistant Najmi Alam's efforts, residents are now receiving leases. Shaukat Mangal Brohi, President of the Mangal Baloch Welfare Association, praised the development as a people-friendly initiative to grant ownership rights, despite opposition from some miscreants misusing the PPP's name.

Pakistani Companies Make Big Mark at Intersec Saudi Arabia 2025

KARACHI : Three Pakistani companies — Sarena Textiles, Farooq Garments, and NECOP — made a strong impact at Intersec Saudi Arabia 2025, held at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Centre. The event featured 370+ exhibitors from 35+ countries and drew over 27,000 industry professionals. Pakistani firms showcased top-tier products in security, safety, and fire protection, attracting buyers from Saudi Arabia, the USA, and beyond. Exhibitors praised the experience, calling it a gateway to Saudi giga projects under Vision 2030.—RT

Ikram Rajput Assumes KATI Presidency, Promises Industrial Revival

KARACHI: Muhammad Ikram Rajput has officially taken charge as President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), with Zahid Hameed as Senior Vice President and Muhammad Talha as Vice President. Rajput pledged to prioritize industrial growth, export boosts, and job creation. Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho and business leaders from across Pakistan congratulated the new leadership, expressing confidence in Rajput's vision. KATI vowed to work closely with th—RT

BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

PML-N's Akhtar Bibi Strongly Condemns Quetta Terror Blast

By Abdul Aziz Bangulzai

BOLAN/BHAG: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan Women's Wing General Secretary and MNA Akhtar Bibi Bangulzai strongly condemned the tragic bomb blast in Quetta. She called the targeting of innocent civilians and brave security personnel a cowardly and inhumane act, deserving the strongest condemnation. Calling it a national tragedy, she emphasized that the martyrs' sacrifices will not go in vain. She urged for unity against terrorism and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

IHC Rules Child Marriages Valid but Facilitators Face Penalties

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has disposed of a writ petition related to an underage marriage, while also making broad recommendations for legislative reforms regarding child marriages in Pakistan.

Justice Muhammad Azam Khan issued a detailed judgment in a case filed by petitioner Muhammad Riaz, who sought return of his wife, Madiha Bibi, after her family members took her from his home. The couple had married on May 30, 2025, at the Tehsil Courts Complex in Taxila, despite opposition from the woman's family, The News reported.

The case centered on a factual dispute: the marriage certificate (Nikahnama) recorded Madiha's age as "almost 18 years," but a birth certificate registered after the marriage indicated she was born on September 15, 2009, making her only 15 years old. —RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Bazm-e-Latif Draws Crowd With Poetry Gala and Book Launch in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Bazm-e-Latif organized a vibrant Mehfil-e-Mushaira and book launching ceremony in Toba Tek Singh, uniting major literary organizations like Bazm-e-Wafa-e-Qalam, Sahab Adabi Forum, and Idraak-e-Sukhan. The event was hosted by Chaudhry Yasir Arafat and Syed Ali Tanha, with Professor Dr. Riaz Rahi as the guest of honor and poet Syed Sehar Sheerazi presiding. The ceremony opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat by Muzamil Hussain Jaffari. The prose work Dua-e-Maqbool by Madam Hameeda Niazi was launched. Distinguished poets from across Punjab presented their poetry, receiving enthusiastic applause. Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to literary stalwarts. The event concluded with a grand dinner, celebrating the rich literary culture promoted by Bazm-e-Latif.

Punjab Police Khidmat Centres Serve 14,800 Citizens in Single Day

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Punjab Police Khidmat Centres are efficiently providing digital policing services to citizens across the province. As per the Punjab Police spokesperson, over 14,800 people received services in the last 24 hours alone. These included 6,645 police verifications, 3,349 character certificates, and 1,848 tenant registrations. So far this year, 2.6 million+ citizens have benefitted. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar hailed the centers as a success in promoting public convenience and citizen-friendly policing.

Syed Hassan Raza Takes Charge as District Commander PERA in Narowal

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza officially took charge as District Commander of the Punjab Enforcement Regulatory Authority (PERA). During the ceremony, SDO PERA Shafiq Chishti handed over the command stick, and a salute was presented by the PERA contingent. Addressing the event, DC Raza emphasized PERA's mission to eliminate encroachments and enforce official prices. He urged officers to work with merit and integrity to help realize the vision of a clean and organized Punjab.

Gujranwala Commissioner Inspires Students to Serve Nation Through Education

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Commissioner Gujranwala Division encouraged board position holders to pursue education with a spirit of national service. Speaking at a send-off ceremony at the Gujranwala Board Office, he emphasized students' role in the country's development. A total of 52 students, including matric and intermediate toppers, will represent the board at a provincial event. Officials praised students' achievements and stressed continued support for quality education.

PFA Raids Sialkot Milk Market, Seals Centre Over Adulteration Scandal

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Punjab Food Authority (PFA), under DG Asim Javed, sealed a milk collection center at China Chowk during a major anti-adulteration operation. Authorities discarded 1,500 liters of adulterated milk, 200 kg of fake khoa, and seized loose food colors. An FIR was registered. Fines totaling Rs. 270,000 were imposed on four outlets for poor hygiene and lack of food safety compliance. Crackdowns continue province-wide to ensure the public receives safe and healthy food.

DC Narowal Declares Zero Tolerance for Fake and Spurious Drugs

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza chaired a meeting of the District Drug Quality Control Board, reviewing 12 cases, 7 were sent to court, 2 for re-visits, and 1 received a warning. He directed officials to intensify the anti-quackery campaign per CM Punjab's directives and submit daily reports. He stressed zero tolerance for substandard, fake, or unregistered medicines and vowed strict legal action to protect public health.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, October 02, 2025

Quetta's Blood Demands Unity: Crush Terrorism with an Iron Resolve

Once again, Quetta has witnessed blood and fire. The cowardly suicide blast near the Frontier Corps headquarters that martyred ten, followed within hours by a ferocious clash in Aghbarg where the Counter-Terrorism Department gunned down ten heavily armed militants, is a chilling reminder of the enemy we face. These are no ragtag militants. They are well-funded, highly trained, and directed by foreign hands desperate to destabilize Pakistan. They strike our soldiers, our civilians, and our soil with venomous intent — but they must be met with a force greater than any arsenal: a nation's unbreakable unity.

Our enemies want us divided, fatigued, and demoralized. They want Pakistanis to lose faith in their defenders. But the lesson of Quetta is clear — only through relentless, laser-focused operations and national resolve can terrorism be uprooted. Eradication will not be instant. It will take time, sacrifice, and sustained intelligence-led action. Yet what will break the terrorists' spine is not just bullets and bombs — it is the iron will of a united people standing shoulder to shoulder with their security forces.

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The recovery of heavy weaponry from the slain militants proves that Pakistan is fighting not just an internal menace but a war sponsored from abroad. Every Pakistani must understand: terrorism is the sharpest arrow in the quiver of our enemies. And the shield against it is our unity.

After this latest wave of bloodshed, let us send a thunderous message across the world: Pakistan will not bend, it will not break. These enemies can no longer hide in shadows — they will be hunted, dismantled, and obliterated. From Quetta to Karachi, from Gwadar to Gilgit, our resolve is undefeatable. Terrorists and their backers must know: Pakistan will rise stronger than ever, and their evil will be crushed.

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THE HEARTLAND

NAWABSHAH: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah, Manzoor Hussain Wassan and others are offering condolences with Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar over the sad demise of his mother.--RT

Disabled Protesters in Daulatpur Demand Jobs on Reserved Quota

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Disabled persons from various villages of Daulatpur held a protest outside Daulatpur Press Club, demanding government jobs under the legally mandated disability quota. Protesters, including Sabir Ali Syed, Manzoor Ali Otho, and others, said that despite orders from the Supreme Court and Sindh High Court, the Deputy Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad is not implementing the quota. They alleged jobs are being sold or given through favoritism while deserving disabled individuals remain jobless. They appealed to the Sindh government to address their grievances and ensure their right to employment.

Custodian Declares Bhittai's Teachings Key to Social Unity and Peace

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Syed Mustafa Hussain Shah Latifi, acting custodian of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's (RA) shrine, emphasized that Bhittai's philosophy can resolve growing social and mental issues. Speaking to Shah Latif Foundation and Latifi Jamaat leaders, he urged the youth to reconnect with Bhittai's message of peace, love, and unity. He announced plans to tour Sindh to promote harmony and human values through Shah Bhittai's teachings.

Special Ceremony Honors Sindh CM's Advisor Gianchand Israni

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: Sindh Chief Minister's Advisor Gianchand Israni visited Hakeem House in Nooriabad, where he was warmly welcomed by Muhammad Aslam Palari, Premchand Dewani, Misri Mal, Taj Muhammad, and Lodho Singh. They presented him with a traditional longi as a token of respect. Guests accompanying him, including Komal Raj Essrani, Mukhi Khemchand Ratnani, and Engineer Daya Ram Israni, were also honored with longis. A reception was hosted by Premchand Dewani in Israni's honour.

Kamran Talpur Pledges to Rebuild Jhudo's Lost Glory with Development Works

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Chairman of Jhudo Town Committee, Mir Kamran Khan Talpur, inspected ongoing development works in Wards 7 and 8, pledging to restore the city's charm through timely completion of quality projects. He instructed relevant staff to ensure standards are maintained. Councilors Javed Qaimkhani and Ayub Nazar Qaimkhani reaffirmed their commitment to public service. Locals appreciated the visit, hoping for improved civic amenities upon project completion.

DC Dadu Orders Swift Action on Public Grievances

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah chaired a meeting to review public services and administrative matters. Officers briefed him on complaint resolution, revenue case progress, and service delivery. DC Dadu directed immediate action on public grievances, emphasizing zero tolerance for negligence. He urged all officials to dedicate efforts toward providing timely services and improving facilities for citizens across the district.

Ayaz Latif Palijo Warns of Catastrophe if Indus River is Tampered With

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) chief Ayaz Latif Palijo launched a scathing critique of the ruling political parties during a powerful speech in Hyderabad, warning against any canal or dam construction on the Indus River, calling it an "act of enmity" toward Sindh. Palijo accused Punjab of looting Sindh's water and lambasted Maryam Nawaz and PPP for playing identity politics. He demanded an immediate minimum rice support price of Rs 4,000 per maund, citing massive farmer losses due to fake seeds, pesticides, and water shortages. Palijo called for genuine democracy, fair resource distribution, and protection of Sindh's rights, warning that millions will resist anti-Sindh policies.

Tributes Pour In for Professor Liaquat Aziz on 7th Death Anniversary

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: On the 7th death anniversary of renowned Sindhi writer and intellectual Professor Liaquat Aziz, Sindhi Adabi Sangat and Progressive Writers Association held a tribute event. Speakers praised his lifelong dedication to Sindhi literature, social justice, and fearless writing. His literary legacy continues to inspire. Awards in his name were presented to outstanding writers and social workers. The ceremony included poetry and musical performances, celebrating his invaluable contributions to Sindhi culture.

Sindh Govt Offices and Schools Shut Down as Employee Protests Intensify

TALHAR: On the call of the Sindh Employees Alliance, all government schools, including Government Primary School Karam Khan Dilwani and provincial offices across Tando Bago and other areas observed a complete shutdown. The strike disrupted official work and led to the suspension of OPD services in hospitals, causing difficulties for patients. Despite continuous protests by hundreds of thousands of employees, the Sindh government has not responded. Citizens and civil society have urged PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to intervene and resolve the employees' issues.--RT

Crime Surge in Jati Triggers Public Anger

By AS Thahim

JATI: A surge in crime has left residents of Jati in fear and frustration, as police fail to control lawlessness. Within a week, one murder, multiple motorcycle thefts, armed robberies, and lootings amounting to over Rs 2.6 million in cash, gold jewelry, and mobile phones have been reported. Traders and citizens staged a protest under the banner of the Sindh National Congress, demanding immediate action from SSP Sujawal Aleena Rajper. Protesters warned of launching a broader movement if peace is not restored, accusing police of leaving the public at the mercy of criminals. They urged authorities to ensure safety and bring the culprits to justice.

Hyderabad Horror: Speeding Car Flips, Bursts Into Flames, One Dead

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A tragic accident occurred near Abdullah Mall when a speeding car from Karachi overturned and caught fire. Rescue 1122 quickly responded and extinguished the flames. Sadly, one person inside the vehicle was burned to death and could not be identified due to the body being completely charred. The remains were shifted to Civil Hospital via Edhi ambulance. Traffic was briefly suspended but later restored.

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SPORTS

India Crush Sri Lanka in Women's World Cup Opener

A splendid all-round display saw India launch their ICC Women's World Cup campaign on the front foot, brushing aside Sri Lanka by 59 runs in the curtain-raiser in Guwahati on Tuesday.

Half-centuries from Deepti Sharma and Amanjot Kaur steadied the ship as India posted a competitive 269 for eight in a contest reduced by rain to 47 overs a side.

Sri Lanka, chasing under lights, had a flying start at 82 for one in 15 overs, with skipper Chamari Athapaththu cutting and pulling anything loose in a rollicking 43 off 47 balls.

But once the spinners were tossed the ball, the wheels came off spectacularly.

The big breakthrough arrived when Deepti, on song with ball in hand, sent down a full delivery that skidded straight on to castle Athapaththu, leaving Sri Lanka's middle order exposed once more and underlining their heavy reliance on the talismanic skipper.

India had their own jitters. At 124 for six they were staring down the barrel as veteran Inoka Ranaweera turned the game on its head. The 39-year-old left-arm spinner bowled an impeccable line prising out three wickets in an over.—Agency

Mohsin Naqvi Slams Indian Media Over Fake Apology Narrative in Asia Cup Trophy Row

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, in a strong rebuttal against recent claims circulating in Indian media, denied apologising to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over the Asia Cup trophy presentation row.

Addressing what he called "fabricated, nonsense and cheap propaganda," Naqvi, who also heads the Pakistan Cricket Board, said that Indian media is prioritising misinformation over facts.

"This fabricated nonsense is nothing but cheap propaganda, aimed only at misleading their own people," he posted on X.

"I have done nothing wrong and I have never apologised to the BCCI nor will I ever do so," the ACC chairman added.

He also took a jibe at the "persistent politicisation" of cricket in India and said, "Unfortunately, India continues to drag politics into cricket, damaging the very spirit of the game."

Naqvi clarified that he was prepared to hand over the trophy on the final day and even today.

"I was ready to hand over the trophy that very day and I am still ready now. If they [India] truly want it [trophy], they are welcome to come to the ACC office and collect it from me," he concluded.

The trophy row followed a series of controversies involving the Indian team during the Asia Cup — from players snubbing handshakes to refusing to receive the trophy from Naqvi.

During a routine ACC meeting in Dubai on Tuesday, the ACC chairman rejected BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla's repeated demands to hand over the Asia Cup 2025 trophy, asserting that the silverware should be collected by the Indian skipper in person, the sources told Geo News.

Naqvi responded that the issue was not part of the meeting's agenda. After further insistence, he remarked that if the Indian team wanted the trophy, its captain should visit the ACC office personally to receive it.

No decision was taken yet on whether the trophy will be handed over to the Indian side.

According to sources close to regional cricket bodies, BCCI officials — who attended the meeting virtually — reacted sharply to Naqvi's stance, demanding instead that the trophy be transferred to the International Cricket Council (ICC) headquarters.

Other ACC members reportedly attempted to defuse tensions, urging Indian officials to show restraint. However, the BCCI delegation abruptly left the meeting and cut its digital feed.—Agency

Saim Ayub Dethrones Pandya as T20I's Top All-Rounder

India's Abhishek Sharma has increased his T20I batting rankings lead, while Pakistan's Saim Ayub has ended Hardik Pandya T20I all-rounder reign.

The accolades continue to flow for Abhishek Sharma as the India opener broke a record that has lasted for almost five years by reaching the highest-ever rating on the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings.

Abhishek reached a rating of 931 points following a stylish half-century during India's successful semi-final victory over Sri Lanka at the Asia Cup and in the process overtook the previous best rating of 919 points, which was achieved by England right-hander Dawid Malan in 2020.

It means Abhishek increases his lead at the top of the rankings for T20I batters, with the left-hander also surpassing the previous best ratings of teammates Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli before he finished the week with a total of 926 rating points.

Abhishek only made his international debut last year, but the 25-year-old has put together an amazing record and was adjudged the Player of the Tournament at the Asia Cup for his total of 314 runs at an average of 44.85.

He now leads England's Phil Salt in second place by a total of 82 rating points, while India teammate Tilak Varma remains in third place on the batter rankings after his 213 runs at the Asia Cup—Agency.

Pakistan's Sardar Tariq Ahmad Creates History with Triple Ironman Triumph

LAHORE: Sardar Tariq Ahmad has etched his name in Pakistan's sporting history by becoming the first Pakistani to complete three Ironman 70.3 races in just 11 weeks. His remarkable journey spanned the Ironman 70.3 Jönköping European Championship in Sweden (July 6), Ironman 70.3 Hradec Králové in the Czech Republic (August 17), and Ironman 70.3 Belgrade in Serbia (September 21).

Across 77 days, Ahmad conquered the grueling 1.9 km swim, 90 km cycling, and 21.1 km run three times, proving Pakistan's endurance potential on the global stage. He dedicated the achievement to discipline, perseverance, and inspiring young Pakistani athletes to chase international dreams.—RT

England's Dark Horses Eye World Cup Glory

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt hopes her team of "outsiders" can thrive at the Women's Cricket World Cup as they seek to end a painful eight-year trophy drought.

The team are one of the best-funded in the women's game but have been overshadowed in recent years by Australia and India.

Since winning the 50-over World Cup at Lord's in 2017, England have fallen short on the global stage, raising questions about their ability to cope under intense pressure.

They were beaten finalists in 2022, losing by 71 runs to Australia despite an impressive 148 not out from Sciver-Brunt.

England have also underperformed at T20 World Cups, losing to South Africa in the semi-finals in 2023 and failing to make it out of the group stage last year.T20 cricket bats

Earlier this year they were put firmly in their place by Australia, suffering a humiliating 16-0 loss in the multi-format Women's Ashes.

But there have been signs of progress under the leadership of all-rounder Sciver-Brunt and coach Charlotte Edwards, both of whom have only been in their posts since April.

England defeated reigning world champions Australia and co-hosts India in tournament warm-up matches, though Sciver-Brunt accepts they will still be the teams to beat.

"We were never going to be going in as favourites, that's India and Australia, but not having that label will hopefully free us up," she said.

The expectation of being outsiders will spur us on, I guess, but internally we have certain expectations to put something out that we are proud of and compete against the very best teams.—Agency

Jonathan Kuminga Seals New Deal with Golden State Warriors

SAN FRANCISCO: Congolese forward Jonathan Kuminga has agreed to a two-year, $48.5 million deal to return to the Golden State Warriors, the team announced on Tuesday.

According to an ESPN report, the contract includes a team option in the second year, giving the Warriors or any team that might acquire him in a trade the flexibility to restructure or sign a new contract after the 2025-26 campaign.

The Warriors also reached a one-year agreement with free agent guard Seth Curry, who will join his younger brother Stephen Curry as training camps begin on Wednesday.

Negotiations with Kuminga had stretched throughout the offseason, with Warriors general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. and Kuminga's representatives initially at a stalemate.

Golden State ultimately increased its two-year offer by $8 million between July and September, guaranteeing Kuminga roughly $15 million more than the one-year, $8 million qualifying offer he was set to receive this season.

Earlier offers included a two-year, $45 million contract with a team option, and more recently, a three-year, $75 million proposal.

Kuminga entered restricted free agency with an uncertain future. While many within the organisation value his athleticism and potential, he has struggled to fully integrate, alongside Stephen Curry, particularly with the recent addition of Veteran forward Jimmy Butler.

With Kuminga's situation resolved, Golden State can now move forward in finalising its roster.—Agency

Selectors Under Fire Over Asif Afridi's Test Inclusion

Questions are being raised over the sudden inclusion of Asif Afridi, convicted in a corruption case, into the national team at the age of 38. The PCB had imposed a two-year ban on the spinner in February 2023, but it was surprisingly lifted within just one year.

According to details, in 2022, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's left-arm spinner Asif Afridi was suspended by the PCB for violating the Anti-Corruption Code during the National T20 Cup. In February 2023, he was formally banned for two years, effective from September 12, 2022, the date of his initial suspension. But, in a surprising turn of events, he was allowed back into domestic cricket as early as October 2023.

He was charged with breaching Article 2.4.10 of the Anti-Corruption Code – "directly or indirectly inducing, persuading, encouraging, inciting, or intentionally facilitating any participant to commit a violation." His second charge was under Article 2.4.4 – failure to report corrupt approaches. For this, he received an additional six-month suspension, which ran concurrently with his two-year ban. Such offenses could have warranted a lifetime ban, but the board adopted a lenient approach.

Two other cricketers were also suspected in this case, and a coach's role was deemed highly questionable, but no further investigations were carried out.

In the KPL Asif Afridi represented Rawalakot Hawks. Even before the tournament began, organizers had suspicions about him. When the PCB was asked, it replied that Asif was not barred from playing because the board wanted to "get to the root of the matter." In the first rain-affected match against Jammu Janbaz, he conceded 35 runs in 3 overs with one wicket. Before the next match against Kotli, instructions had already been given to closely monitor him. In that match, Rawalakot lost by 10 wickets. Batting at number three, Asif was bowled out first ball, and with the ball, he gave away 52 runs in 4 overs without taking a wicket. After the match, tournament organizers had a detailed discussion with the PCB Anti-Corruption Unit officer. Shockingly, he was later selected for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's squad in the National T20 Cup, which drew criticism from certain quarters. Against Central Punjab, he picked 2 wickets for 24 runs, but after that, he wasn't given another game and was again suspended.—Agency

Frank Admits Spurs Still Lack a Reliable XI Before Leeds Clash

Thomas Frank has confessed that he still does not have a 'go-to' starting eleven as Tottenham Hotspur prepares to face Leeds United, stating that rotation is essential while settling in with new players.

Frank made the comments after Spurs were held to a 2-2 draw against Bodo Glimt in the Champions League, as his side struggled at times against an aggressive opponent.

The 51-year-old admitted that his players found it difficult to cope with the Norwegian intensity and that finding a settled line-up would take time.

During a press conference, Frank explained his approach and added that identifying a preferred eleven was 'something I am looking into' and described the process as normal for a manager.

"I think it's overall, you can say with a lot of games, that go-to starting XI you like to find at a certain stage, that's something I'm looking into, which is normal," Frank said.

"New coach, new players, and we still need to do a little bit of rotation."

In contrast, Manager Daniel Farke has mostly stuck to a regular starting lineup, and Leeds is a formidable opponent thanks to their excellent home record this season, where teams like Everton, Newcastle, and Bournemouth have failed to win.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Humayun Sheikh
About me: I'm a Karachi Gamer Living Life Through Video Games!

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

REGIONAL TIMES
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ENTERTAINMENT

Nicole Kidman–Keith Urban Divorce: Real Truth Behind the Split Revealed

Nicole Kidman made the decision to end her 20-year marriage to Keith Urban after he made some really "questionable choices."

According to sources close to the couple, the country singer had "been going through some stuff" for quite a while.

While the couple's separation was confirmed in September, insider revealed to People Magazine that the signs had been building quietly for some time.

Urban has "just been going through some stuff" as of late, adding, "He has been making questionable choices for some time now and this was not the case of them just drifting apart."

Another source close to Kidman said that this wasn't just a case of drifting apart but followed a pattern of "questionable choices" on Urban's part.

"For those around him this has felt more like a gradual drift than some big shocking break," the source added.

Urban and Kidman announced their separation after nearly two decades together, ending one of Hollywood's longest marriages.

Aimee Lou Wood Wins Fans by Owning Her Boldest Trait

Aimee Lou Wood has kept it no secret that she has quirks. But what she praises is that her fans accept her as who she is.

"I think of those people who thank me for being weird because it means they can embrace their weirdness," The White Lotus star adds in an interview with the Radio Times.

When any negative thoughts cross her mind, the actress says she remains mindful. "It gives me confidence on the days where sometimes that little demon comes back up."

Meanwhile, it's no secret that Aimee, as a teen, battled social anxiety, obsessive thoughts, ADHD, body dysmorphia, and bulimia.

"I get it so bad after social situations: obsessive, repetitive thoughts of, 'Did I really say that? That was weird.'"

In a separate interview, Aimee looks back at growing up with the conditions her peers did not have.

"Growing up, I felt a deep need to be 'normal,' but then I realised all my favourite people... were weird — even my favourite characters, like Jane Eyre," the star refers to the character in Charlotte Bronte's novel. In the end, Aimee explains her self-acceptance of her diagnosis by thinking of it as a "superpower."

Tanya Rad Gushes Taylor Swift Was 'Magical' at Selena Gomez's Wedding

Radio host Tanya Rad has opened up about her first encounter with Taylor Swift.

During the latest episode of her and Becca Tilley's Scrubbing In podcast, the 38-year-old radio personality revealed that she met the pop sensation at Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco's wedding.

Rad shared that her pal Paulina Char introduced her to Taylor by revealing to the pop star that the radio star had walked down the aisle to one of her songs.

"Actually, it was my first dance and I walked down the aisle to it," Rad said, correcting her friend. "She was so kind. She loved it."

"She asked me what song, and she was like, 'That means so much.' I cannot explain to you how magical, regal, genuine, present, locked in, invested and normal [she was]," she added. "I audibly gasped."

For those unversed, Rad got married in March and had her first dance to Taylor's track, Invisible String.

Selena and Benny tied the knot on September 27 in Santa Barbara, California.

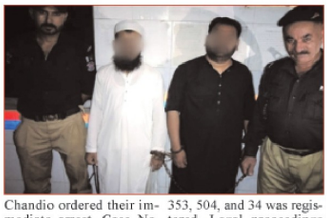
Jennifer Stone, David DeLuise, Ed Sheeran, Steve Martin, Martin Short, Finneas, SZA, Zoe Saldaña, Edgar Ramirez, Camila Cabello, and Paris Hilton were among the guests who attended the singer and music producer's big day.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

SSP Hyderabad Orders Stern Action Against Traffic Rule Breakers

By Muqeem Keerio



HYDERABAD: SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio has issued a firm warning that traffic law violations will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Last night, Naeem Ahmed and Aleem Ahmed entered Lajpat Road from the wrong side, disrupting traffic. When City Traffic In-Charge Sub-Inspector Rana Zulfiqar intervened, the duo resisted and used abusive language. SSP Chandio ordered their immediate arrest. Case No. 137 under PPC Sections 353, 504, and 34 was registered. Legal proceedings are ongoing.

Rubina Brohi Emerges as Fearless Voice for Women's Protection Laws in Sindh

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Advocate Rubina Brohi, a bold and dedicated human rights lawyer, has spent over 25 years fighting for women's rights in Sindh. She played a key role in drafting and passing the Sindh Domestic Violence Act and has served on several major commissions. Her tireless efforts have made her a respected social leader and a powerful voice for gender equality and justice in Pakistani society.

Maulana Rashid Soomro Blasts Sindh Govt, Maryam Nawaz Over Employee and Water Crises

By Hashim Brohi:

JACOBABAD: JUI-F Sindh Chief Allama Rashid Mehmood Soomro strongly criticized the Sindh government's "anti-employee policies" and Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz's controversial water statement. He condemned the exclusion of Sindh employees from benefits like the Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA), calling it an economic massacre. He termed Maryam's claim that "water belongs to Punjab" as unconstitutional and dangerous for national unity, vowing to continue political struggle for Sindh's rights.

Commissioner Pushes for Fast-Track Completion of N-5 from Moro to Ranipur

By Samad Ayaz Dahri

NAWABSHAH: A high-level meeting chaired by Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Shahmeer Khan Bhutto, was held to accelerate construction on the National Highway (N-5) between Moro and Ranipur. The Commissioner expressed concern over delays causing fatal accidents and directed the NHA to work round-the-clock using floodlights, install safety signboards, and deploy guiding staff. Officials assured progress, with 20 km of the 86-km stretch completed so far.

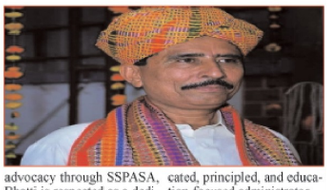
Condolences Pour In Over Passing of Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar's Mother

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Prominent PPP leaders, including CEC member Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq, Barrister Pir Majeeb-ul-Haq, PPP District President MPA Dadu, and Chairman Pir Danish Ali, expressed deep sorrow on the passing of Maajida, mother of Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar. They prayed for her soul's peace and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and Lanjar community

Veteran Educationist Qurban Ali Bhatti Retires After Illustrious Career

By Farooq Randhawa



DIGRI: Renowned educationist and Deputy Director Schools (ES&HS) Mirpurkhas, Professor Qurban Ali Bhatti, has retired after decades of service. Starting as a secondary teacher, he rose through key positions, including Principal of HSS Digri. Known for his leadership in school upgrades and advocacy through SSPASA, Bhatti is respected as a dedicated, principled, and education-focused administrator.

Badin Mourns as Senior Journalist Younis Bukhari's Father Passes Away

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Senior journalist and radio broadcaster Younis Bukhari's father, Abdullah Bukhari, has passed away after a period of illness. His funeral prayers were held near their ancestral village, Misri Bukhari, Wahnai Sharif. A large number of political, social, literary, and media personalities, along with local residents and community members, attended the funeral. He was laid to rest in the local cemetery. Condolences continue to pour in for Younis Bukhari and his family.

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Picture shows a student named Komal Farooq Junejo, who passed his HSC examination with flying colors.--RT

Pithoro Protesters Demand Swift Arrest of Imtiaz Mir's Killers

By Muhammad Bachal

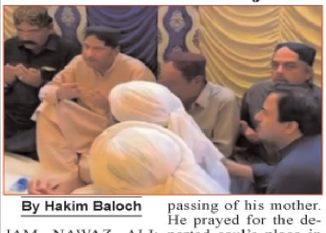
UMERKOT: Journalists and social leaders held a protest outside Pithoro Press Club, condemning attacks on press freedom and demanding the swift arrest of senior journalist Imtiaz Mir's killers. They accused the Sindh government of failing to protect journalists and warned of expanding protests if justice and safety measures are not ensured for media workers.

Hyderabad Lawyers Celebrate Barrister Sameer Sikandar Rahputo's Return from Abroad

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Young legal scholar Barrister Sameer Sikandar Rahputo, originally from Sehwan Sharif, was warmly welcomed by Hyderabad's legal community after completing advanced legal studies abroad. A ceremony at Hyderabad Gymkhana saw senior lawyers and bar leaders praise him as a role model bringing modern legal knowledge to Sindh. Rahputo vowed to use his skills for public rights and justice, emphasizing the vital role of lawyers in upholding law and constitution.

Jam Shabbir Ali Khan Offers Condolences to Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: PPP MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan visited Lanjar House to offer condolences to Provincial Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar on the passing of his mother. He prayed for the departed soul's place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and patience for the grieving family. Sikandar Ali Katohar also accompanied him on this occasion.

Waterlogging Disaster: Daulatpur Canal Floods Croplands

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: At 17L of Daulatpur branch canal, an 8-foot breach has occurred, flooding crops in nearby villages. The submerged fields include three acres of Soomar Channa and two acres of Badal Mallah. The floodwater is advancing towards villages Saeed Khan Channa, Dholan Mallah, and Qaim Khan Gabol. Villagers said upstream landowners blocked the watercourse after recent rains, causing the flood. Irrigation officials have been informed but have yet to respond.

Blind Malala Rahu Dreams of Karbala Healing, Mother Appeals for Help

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: A heart-wrenching plea was made at Thatta Press Club by Basran, mother of 12-year-old blind girl Malala Rahu, who dreams of being cured through a spiritual journey to Karbala. Once a healthy first-grade student, Malala lost her sight mysteriously at age five. Her mother now seeks support from philanthropists and authorities to help fulfill her daughter's wish for treatment and pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Ali Raza (AS).

Unusual Verdict: Gutka Sellers Ordered to Plant 100 Trees in Dadu

DADU: In a bold and unusual verdict, a local court has ordered two gutka sellers to plant 100 trees as punishment for selling the banned substance. The Consumer Protection Court, led by the Civil and Judicial Magistrate, handed down the eco-friendly sentence after the accused were found guilty.The two men were arrested three months ago by Dadu B-Section police for their involvement in the illegal trade. Rather than opting for a traditional jail term or fine, the court chose a more rehabilitative route — mandating tree plantation to compensate for the social harm caused.Officials say the move aims to raise awareness about environmental issues while holding offenders accountable. Legal experts have praised the decision as a creative form of justice that benefits both society and the environment.

Locals have also applauded the ruling, calling it a forward-thinking step to curb harmful practices and promote greener communities.—RT

Energy Shockwave: Huge Gas and Oil Reserves Discovered in Khairpur

KHAIRPUR: In a significant energy breakthrough, the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has discovered vast reserves of natural gas and crude oil in the Khairpur district.

According to an official spokesperson, the newly drilled Batrism East-1 well is set to yield 22.5 million cubic feet of gas per day, along with 690 barrels of crude oil daily — a find that could reshape Pakistan's energy landscape.

Drilling operations began on June 30, 2025, and reached a depth of 3,800 meters before striking the reserves. OGDCL stated that the discovery will play a vital role in reducing dependence on imported fuels, boosting local energy production, and supporting economic stability.

Energy officials hailed the find as a strategic win for national self-reliance, noting that it will help close the supply-demand gap and strengthen Pakistan's long-term energy security.

Sindh on the Brink: Protests Explode as Government Stalls

By GM CHANDIO

HYDERABAD: The province of Sindh is rapidly descending into crisis as government employees from health, education, revenue, and multiple other departments launch widespread strikes, crippling public services across the region. The recent massive protest at Civil Hospital Hyderabad, which saw the complete shutdown of its outpatient department, is just the tip of the iceberg. Led by the All Sindh Employees and Grand Health Alliance (ASEGHA) and the Sindh Employees Alliance (SEA), the movement is gearing up for a major escalation with plans for an indefinite sit-in outside Bilawal House in Karachi starting October 6, signaling a direct challenge to the ruling party's leadership. This wave of unrest is gaining significant traction with the Sindh Bar Council, Karachi Bar Council, and various political and social organizations throwing their support behind the protestors, amplifying pressure on the government.

Rare Ibex Slaughter Sparks Outrage: Four Arrested in Thatta

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: In a shocking violation of Sindh's wildlife laws, four men from the Khoso community have been booked for the illegal hunting of a rare ibex in the hills of Loni Kot near the Kirthar mountain range. The accused—Shokat, Mujahid, Kamal, and Ali Bux—were caught on video slaughtering the protected animal, with the footage going viral on social media and triggering widespread condemnation from environmentalists and civil society. The Kirthar range is a critical sanctuary for the ibex and other endangered species, and this brazen act threatens years of conservation efforts. Wildlife officials have registered a formal case and promised strict legal action, while activists demand stronger enforcement and harsher penalties to prevent further poaching.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH

U.S. Journalists Demand Justice for Slain Reporter Imtiaz Mir

By Zia Qureshi

Virginia: A condolence gathering was held to honor Pakistani journalist Imtiaz Mir, brutally martyred in Karachi. U.S.-based journalists, including Shoaib Bhutto, Zia Qureshi, and others, attended and offered prayers for his soul. Speakers condemned the alarming rise in journalist killings in Sindh, citing cases like Jan Muhammad Mahar. They alleged possible involvement of the Pakistani state and powerful actors in Mir's murder. The gathering urged international human rights groups to act urgently to protect journalists and investigate these targeted killings.

METRO KARACHI

Sindh High Court Cracks Down on Karachi Co-operative Housing Union Amid Rs1.19 Billion Scam Allegations

KARACHI: In a dramatic order shaking the foundations of Karachi's housing sector, the Sindh High Court has stripped the embattled Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Limited (KCHSUL) of its financial control, following explosive allegations of massive corruption amounting to over Rs1.193 billion. The constitutional petition, filed by the Darul Aman Co-operative Housing Society, accused the KCHSUL management of unlawfully clinging to power despite its tenure having expired under the Sindh Co-operative Societies Act, 2020. The petitioner alleged that the office-bearers not only manipulated the electoral process but also shielded individuals accused of siphoning off billions through fake transactions and overseas property acquisitions.—Agency

Sindh CM Leads High-Stakes Session on Rs 55.8 Billion Wheat Support Plan

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Chief Minister of Sindh on Wednesday said that the wheat production dropped to absence of support price and the government procurement.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah was chairing a session on the wheat support program for farmers.

Murad Ali Shah said that a package of 55.8 billion rupees being given for wheat cultivation for the food security. "A DAP and two Urea bags will be provided to the farmers own up to 25 acres of land," chief minister said.

He said there are 4,11,408 farmers in Sindh who hold 22,62,742 acres of the land. The PPP government in Sindh will distribute 22,62,746 bags of DAP and 45,25,492 urea bags, CM said.

Sindh Minister for Agriculture informed the meeting that the procurement committee has been notified, while a survey team headed by D.G. Agriculture has also been notified.

He said a cell has been constituted for verification of eligible farmers, fertilizer will be given after wheat survey and verification of the crop, minister said.

Chief minister directed the minister for distribution of the fertilizer and urea from the second week of November and ensure a bumper crop of wheat.

Karachi University Clash Between Student Groups Leaves Two Injured

Karachi: A violent clash between two student organizations at the University of Karachi left two students injured, who were later shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

According to a spokesperson of Islami Jamiat Talaba (IJT), two of their members were present at the Arts Lobby when nearly two dozen outsiders allegedly attacked them. The spokesperson claimed that the attackers severely injured their workers.

The IJT has demanded that the university administration take strict action against the assailants and register a case against the external elements involved in the incident.

University officials confirmed the disturbance and said security measures on campus have been tightened to prevent further unrest. Police have also been informed about the incident, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the involvement of external groups.—RT/Agency

SBC Calls Strike, Boycotts Courts Over Maryam Nawaz's Remarks

Karachi: The Sindh Bar Council (SBC) has announced a strike and boycott of court proceedings today in protest against remarks made by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The council demanded that the chief minister withdraw her statements and issue an apology.

The protest follows Maryam Nawaz's speech in Faisalabad, where she said: "My water, my money—why should anyone object to that? Punjab gets equal funds under the NFC Award, so those giving advice should keep it to themselves. Where do you spend your share? The begging culture must end now."

SBC representatives condemned the remarks as derogatory and divisive, stressing that such statements undermine interprovincial harmony. Lawyers in Sindh announced they would not participate in court proceedings until their demand for an apology is met.—RT/Agency

Wifaq-ul-Madaris Bars Online Classes and Exams for Shaven Students

Karachi: In a major decision, Wifaq-ul-Madaris has announced a ban on online education and barred students who shave their beards from appearing in examinations under its system. According to ARY News, the board clarified that any madrassa operating online classes or offering part-time education must submit a detailed report.

The decision further restricts the release of videos and photographs from official gatherings or events, with office-bearers prohibited from sharing such material publicly. Wifaq-ul-Madaris also confirmed that it will compile textbooks for primary, sixth, and seventh grades, keeping in view the guidelines of the Textbook Board and other educational bodies.

Officials stressed that the measures aim to uphold traditional values and maintain uniformity in religious education. —RT/Agency

Governor Sindh Launches SME Cell at Governor House

Karachi: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has announced the establishment of a dedicated Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Cell at the Governor House to boost and strengthen the sector. He said work has already begun at a fast pace to empower small businesses, which he termed the backbone of the economy.

Speaking during his visit to the Crown Group Chinese JV Industrial Park in Bin Qasim Town, alongside the Chinese Consul General, the Governor outlined his vision to expand industrial zones across Sindh to create employment and ensure better wages. He said Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is enabling agreements with foreign partners, assuring Chinese investors that all facilities will be provided within three months.

He stressed that joint ventures with China could generate jobs, transfer technology, and unlock a $2 billion opportunity. He also announced plans to revisit China in January for further investment talks.—RT

Pipeline Burst Sparks Water Woes in North Nazimabad

Karachi: A water pipeline burst during construction work in Block F, North Nazimabad, causing a large stream of water to flow alongside a school and onto the roadside. The incident has created severe inconvenience for students and residents of the area.

Following the burst, the road near the school turned into a makeshift drain, forcing children and pedestrians to struggle while crossing the water-filled path. Locals expressed frustration over the lack of immediate response from authorities, saying that the stagnant water poses not only mobility issues but also health and safety risks.

Residents have urged the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation and municipal officials to take urgent action to repair the damaged pipeline and restore normal traffic flow. They stressed that negligence in addressing such incidents worsens the city's infrastructure challenges and disrupts daily life for the community.—RT/Agency

Stolen UK Range Rover Recovered from Karachi's Saddar

KARACHI: A luxury Range Rover stolen from the United Kingdom has been traced to Karachi's Saddar area, according to media reports. The revelation emerged after Interpol Manchester wrote to Sindh Police on the request of UK authorities, seeking assistance in recovering the high-end vehicle. The letter stated that the black Range Rover was stolen from Harrogate on November 22, 2022. Tracking systems later indicated the vehicle's location in Karachi, specifically in the Saddar locality. UK police shared the exact location details with Pakistani authorities to facilitate the recovery process. Interpol has urged Sindh Police to extend full cooperation in the matter and assist in securing the stolen car. The case highlights the increasing role of international coordination in tracking stolen luxury vehicles, as well as Karachi's emergence as a suspected destination in global vehicle smuggling networks.—RT/Agency

Karachi Mayor Demands Rights, Slams PIDCL's Role

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has criticized the establishment of the Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL), questioning its relevance and authority in the city. Speaking to the media, he remarked that no one knows who heads the company, highlighting the frequent renaming from KIDCL to SIDCL and now PIDCL.

Wahab pointed out that PIDCL has no operations in Lahore or Peshawar, yet it is active in Karachi, which he said raises concerns of discrimination. "I want my city to get its due rights," he stressed, adding that Karachi's residents need improvements in living conditions rather than symbolic initiatives such as electric buses.

The mayor urged political leaders to avoid unnecessary statements during the current economic challenges and instead focus on solving the public's pressing issues. He emphasized that practical measures, not cosmetic projects, are essential to addressing the hardships faced by Karachi's citizens.—RT

UAE Consul General Extends Full Backing to Aaghosh Old Home

KARACHI: On the International Day of Older Persons, UAE Consul General H.E. Bakheet Ateeq Al Romaithi visited Aaghosh Old Home, uplifting elderly residents with gifts and personal interaction. He praised Aaghosh's 25-year service to elderly and differently-abled women and pledged support to help the Trust secure permanent shelter and build an orphanage for disabled girls. The Consul General vowed to mobilize UAE-based donors and remain personally involved. Aaghosh founder Shagufta Saba and trustees expressed deep gratitude, calling the visit a turning point in their humanitarian mission.—RT

Gunfire Near Sohrab Goth Leaves One Injured

Karachi: A 25-year-old man was injured in a firing incident near a PSO petrol pump in the Sohrab Goth area on Tuesday. According to Edhi officials, the incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Yousuf Plaza police station, where unidentified assailants opened fire, injuring Osama, son of Muhammad Sarfraz. He was immediately shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment.

Police stated that initial investigations suggest the incident took place during an altercation at the petrol pump. However, the exact cause of the dispute has not yet been determined. Law enforcement officials have begun further inquiries to trace the culprits and establish the motive behind the attack.

Authorities assured that evidence is being collected and those involved will be brought to justice. The incident has caused panic among local residents, who have called for stricter security measures in the area.—RT/Agency

Sindh Fishermen Warned Against Deep Sea Ventures

KARACHI: Fishermen of Sindh have been advised not to venture into deep sea till 3rd October owing to rough weather caused by the well-marked low-pressure area.

The low-pressure area has now been about 310Km distance in southeast of Karachi northeast Arabian Sea in and adjoining Saurashtra coast of Gujarat (India), the Met Office said on Wednesday.

The system is likely to move westwards, intensify further into a depression during next 12hours over northeast Arabian Sea and move initially in west/southwest direction.—RT/Agency

Goods Transporters Reject Fuel Hike, Raise Fares by 3%

KARACHI: The Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance has rejected the recent increase in petroleum product prices, declaring it unacceptable.

Alliance President Malik Shahzad Awan said transporters cannot bear further losses, stressing that the frequent hikes in petrol and diesel prices are creating instability within the transport sector.

He announced a 3% increase in fares, warning that transport unions are set to make another major decision soon if the government does not reconsider the price hike.

It is to be noted that the federal government announced new petrol prices and diesel prices for the next fortnight.—RT/Agency

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Urges Women to Prioritize Health in Breast Cancer Awareness Drive

KARACHI: At the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari issued a message urging women across Pakistan to place their health as a top priority. She emphasized that breast cancer is the most common disease among women in the country, with one in nine women facing the risk of developing it during their lifetime.

Highlighting the importance of timely detection, Aseefa Bhutto stated that early diagnosis can save lives, as survival rates can reach up to 90 percent if the disease is identified and treated at an early stage. She called on women to take the threat seriously, undergo regular screenings, and remain proactive about their health and wellbeing.

The First Lady's message aims to raise awareness and encourage preventive healthcare measures, reinforcing the need for nationwide efforts to combat breast cancer through education, timely checkups, and medical support.—RT

Emirates Jet Hit by GPS Signal Disruption Before Karachi Landing

Karachi: An Emirates Airlines flight, EK606, encountered GPS signal disruption just minutes before landing in Karachi's airspace, officials confirmed. The incident occurred late last night when the aircraft was at an altitude of 3,000 feet.

According to details, the foreign airline's captain immediately informed Karachi Air Traffic Control (ATC) about the difficulty. ATC provided timely guidance and assisted the pilot during the approach, ensuring a safe landing on Runway 25L.

Authorities confirmed that all passengers and crew remained safe, and the flight landed without incident. Aviation experts noted that GPS disruptions, though rare, can pose serious risks during critical phases of flight such as landing.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is reviewing the case to determine the cause of the disruption and assess whether additional safety measures are needed to prevent similar occurrences in the future.—RT/Agency

Road Carpeting Project Completed in Manghopir Town

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: The long-awaited road carpeting project from Kareemi Chowrangi to Shaheed Bhutto Chowk in Manghopir Town has been completed under the direct supervision of Chairman Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi. The project, executed with special attention and strict monitoring, addresses a longstanding public demand as the deteriorated road had caused traffic congestion, affected businesses, and created difficulties for students and daily commuters.

Chairman Brohi personally visited the site with officials to oversee the work, emphasizing that no compromise on quality would be tolerated. He stated that taxpayers' money must be utilized transparently and efficiently, ensuring maximum public benefit.

He further announced upcoming projects including new roadworks, sewerage improvements, streetlight installations, and beautification of parks to modernize Manghopir Town. Local residents expressed satisfaction, praising the chairman's hands-on approach and describing the completed project as a significant step toward easing travel and boosting economic activity in the area.

Karachi Braces for Hot, Humid Weather Today

Karachi: The city is currently experiencing a temperature of 30°C with humidity levels recorded at 75 percent, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Winds are blowing from the northeast at a speed of 11 kilometers per hour.

The Met Office has forecast that Karachi's maximum temperature today is likely to remain between 34°C and 36°C. The sky will stay partly cloudy, with the possibility of light rain in some areas during the day.

Despite the chance of showers, weather experts warned that the overall conditions will remain hot and humid, keeping the city under persistent discomfort. Citizens have been advised to stay hydrated and avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun during peak hours.

The PMD further noted that humidity is expected to keep the "feels-like" temperature higher than the actual reading, leading to ongoing sultry weather across the metropolis.—RT/Agency

Tremors Jolt Karachi as Mild Quake Hits, No Damage Reported

Karachi: Light tremors were felt in the city on Tuesday morning at 9:34 AM, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). The earthquake measured 3.2 on the Richter scale, with a depth of 10 kilometers and its epicenter located 7 kilometers northwest of Malir.

The sudden tremors caused panic among residents, with many rushing out of homes and offices in fear. However, no casualties or property damage have been reported so far.

Seismologists at PMD described the quake as minor, noting that Karachi lies in a region where low-intensity tremors occasionally occur. Citizens have been advised to remain calm but cautious, as aftershocks cannot be entirely ruled out.

Authorities confirmed they are monitoring the situation closely and reiterated that the tremors posed no significant threat to the city's infrastructure or public safety.—RT/Agency

Ethiopian Envoy Jamal Bakar Abdullah Conferred Honorary Doctorate by Sir Syed University

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: In a special convocation held at the Governor House Karachi, Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Letters (D.Litt) on Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Bakar Abdullah for his remarkable diplomatic and social contributions. Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, along with SSUET Chancellor Mohammad Akbar Ali Khan and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Afzal Haq, presented the degree. The ambassador praised Pakistan's educational spirit and highlighted the importance of international cooperation. Governor Tessori emphasized Pakistan's resilience and growing international partnerships. SSUET Chancellor noted the strengthening ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia. The ceremony was conducted by Registrar Commodore (R) Syed Sarfaraz Ali and attended by notable dignitaries and academic leaders.

KIHD to Offer Free Lab Tests Under Public-Private Partnership, Mayor Announces

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has announced that free medical tests will soon be available at the Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases (KIHD) under a public-private partnership initiative. He stated that within the next two months, a fully functional free laboratory will be established at the hospital, ensuring that patients receive essential diagnostic services without cost. Wahab also criticized a former governor for preventing these hospitals from being handed over to the Sindh government in the past, which, he said, delayed much-needed reforms. Highlighting the current situation in Punjab, the mayor expressed solidarity with the people of the province, particularly those in southern Punjab who have been severely affected by floods. He stressed that it is a moral responsibility to ease their suffering, reaffirming the Sindh government's commitment to supporting flood-hit communities and improving healthcare facilities for citizens across the country.—RT/Agency

Classy is not just a word, it's a way of life.

—Unknown

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 02 2025

Pakistan Reels From Rs371bn Flood Losses, GDP Target Slashed To 3.9%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has apprised the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of economic losses amounting to Rs371 billion in the aftermath of recent floods, which severely damaged infrastructure and agriculture.

The government had set a real GDP growth target of 4.2% for the ongoing fiscal year (FY26), approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) and parliament at the time of the budget, The News reported on Wednesday.

However, in light of the flood-related damages, authorities have projected a downward revision of the target by 0.3 percentage points, bringing it to 3.9%.

Ministry of Finance highups briefed the IMF review mission about external financing needs of $26 billion, out of which $12 billion will be rolled over, citing the example China's ambassador gave commitment before IMF last time that all rollover and refinancing requirements of Pakistan would be fulfilled within the stipulated timeframe.

The IMF has also been apprised that Islamabad will reappear on the radar screen of the international bond market during the current fiscal year. It may prefer to launch Eurobond in the last quarter (April-June) 2026 with two pre-requisite conditions, including a further reduction in policy rate by Fed Reserve in US.

Secondly, Pakistan's risk premium recedes with the improvement of one more notch from international rating agencies.

On macroeconomic modelling and flood damages, Pakistani high-ups informed the Fund review mission recent floods caused 1,006 deaths, 1,063 injuries and 12,569 house damages. The floods also caused damage to 2,133 kilometres of roads, 248 bridges and water infrastructure of 866 in all over the country.—RT/Agency

AJK Protests Turn Deadly With 3 Killed As Govt Seeks Talks With Action Committee

MUZAFFARABAD: The federal government has once again offered negotiations to the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) amid ongoing protests, which claimed the lives of three police personnel and injured over 100.

"90% of the committee's demands have already been accepted […] federal ministers stand as guarantors to ensure implementation of these demands," Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said while addressing a press conference along with AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq.

Azad Kashmir witnessed an overwhelming shutdown and wheeljam strike on the second consecutive day, a day earlier, amid intermittent skirmishes between law enforcers and activists in the state capital, Muzaffarabad.

Shops, hotels, and commercial centres across Muzaffarabad remained closed, while public transport disappeared from the roads. Although schools were officially open, classrooms were largely empty as students stayed home.

The PAC has issued a 38-point charter of demands, including ending 12 reserved seats for refugees and rolling back "privileges of the elite".—RT/Agency

Over 1,000 Dead In Catastrophic Floods: NDMA

ISLAMABAD: At least 1,006 people, including 275 children, have lost their lives in devastating floods across Pakistan following weeks of relentless torrential rains and flash flooding, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported on Wednesday.Rescue and relief operations are ongoing as authorities struggle to reach affected communities and assess the full scale of destruction.Punjab has recorded the highest death toll with 304 fatalities — 110 children, 143 men, and 51 women.In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 504 people have died, including 90 children, while Sindh has reported 80 fatalities. Balochistan confirmed 30 deaths, Gilgit-Baltistan 41, Azad Jammu & Kashmir 38, and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 9.In addition, 1,063 people have been injured nationwide, with Punjab again the worst hit — reporting 661 injuries, including 200 children.Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 218 injuries, Sindh 87, Gilgit-Baltistan 52, AJK 37, Balochistan 5, and ICT 3.—RT/Agency

Dar, Iranian FM Eye Regional Peace And Stronger Alliance

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, according to the spokesperson for the Foreign Office.

The two foreign ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran and discussed the overall regional situation.

The spokesperson stated that both sides exchanged views on ongoing diplomatic efforts to promote peace and security in the region. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.—RT/Agency

Doctors Stunned After Pulling 29 Spoons And 19 Toothbrushes From Man's Stomach

Doctors in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad district successfully removed a staggering 29 steel spoons, 19 toothbrushes and two pans from a man's stomach after a long and complex surgery.

The patient, identified as 35-year-old Sachin from Hapur city, was admitted with intense abdominal pain. Scans revealed dozens of sharp metal and plastic objects lodged inside his stomach.

According to Indian media reports, Sachin had been admitted to a rehabilitation center for drug treatment. He later told doctors that he began swallowing spoons, toothbrushes and pans out of anger and frustration.

He claimed that the center gave him very little food—often just a few vegetables and rotis. Feeling hungry and upset, he would steal spoons, break them in the bathroom, and swallow the pieces with water.How the objects were removedDoctors initially tried to retrieve the objects using endoscopy, but the sheer number made it impossible. They then performed surgery to safely remove all items."Such habits are often linked to patients with mental health issues," the medical team explained, noting that swallowing sharp objects can cause life-threatening injuries if not treated quickly.—RT/Agency

Gaza Flotilla Claims Entry Into Perilous Zone Near Israel

GAZA: The international flotilla trying to deliver aid to Gaza said on Wednesday that it has entered the high-risk zone near the destination, and several of its boats were approached by unidentified vessels, some navigating without lights.

The Global Sumud Flotilla said in a post on Telegram that the vessels have departed, and participants implemented security protocols in anticipation of a possible interception.

"We have now entered the high-risk zone, the area where previous flotillas have been attacked and/or intercepted," the Global Sumud Flotilla wrote on its Telegram channel. "We are on high-alert".

Meanwhile, Italy said it would stop tracking an international flotilla trying to deliver aid to Gaza with a military vessel, leaving activists vulnerable to Israeli forces.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, consisting of more than 40 civilian boats with over 500 people including parliamentarians, lawyers and Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, aims to break Israel's blockade of the Palestinian enclave.

Once the convoy gets within 150 nautical miles (278 km) of Gaza's shoreline, the Italian frigate accompanying it will stop, the Italian defence ministry said in a statement, adding that it expected it to happen at around 0000 GMT.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Clears $500m Eurobond Payment On Schedule

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully made the timely repayment of a $500 million Eurobond, marking a key step in maintaining financial discipline. According to Advisor to Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad, the 10-year Eurobond, issued in 2015, matured on September 30, 2025, and was repaid on schedule.

Shehzad stated that the timely servicing of debt reflects Pakistan's improved liquidity and strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. He added that international institutions have responded positively, upgrading the country's sovereign ratings, while investor confidence has also strengthened, with Pakistani bonds now trading at a premium.

He further highlighted that Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio has declined from 77 percent to 70 percent, while the share of external debt in total public debt has reduced from 38 percent to 32 percent. The advisor said the repayment demonstrates the government's resolve to stabilize the economy and reduce reliance on external borrowings.—RT/Agency

IMF Sets 2031 Deadline To Erase Circular Debt; Govt Moves To Hike Captive Power Levy

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set 2031 as the deadline for Pakistan to eliminate the power sector's circular debt, while demanding that the government ensure zero annual inflow of debt each fiscal year, sources said on Wednesday.During the ongoing review talks, officials briefed the IMF delegation that Islamabad has drawn up a 3- to 6-year roadmap to gradually wipe out the power sector's debt.They informed that following a Rs1.2 trillion debt arrangement with banks, the circular debt has been trimmed to around Rs400 billion.As part of reforms, the government has also decided to raise the transition levy on captive power plants.

The levy will first be raised to 10%, and from January 2026 it will be increased further to 15%. According to sources, the government expects to collect Rs105 billion in the current fiscal year from off-grid captive power plants under this levy.In addition, annual tariff rebasing will begin on January 1, 2026.

The IMF delegation was also briefed on the severe economic toll of last year's devastating floods, which caused an estimated Rs370 billion in damages.

Officials warned that as a result, GDP growth for the current fiscal year could fall to 3.9% against earlier targets.—RT/Agency

Imaan Mazari And Husband Avert Arrest As Islamabad Court Withdraws Warrants

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad District and Sessions Court on Wednesday recalled the non-bailable arrest warrants issued against human rights defenders and lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha after the two appeared in court.

Arrest warrants had been issued for the two lawyers yesterday for failing to appear before the court in a case related to controversial tweets. A junior lawyer informed the court that Mazari and Chattha had left for another appearance in Rawalpindi after marking their attendance earlier in the day.

The case was heard by Judge Mohammad Afzal Majoka, with police deployed outside the courtroom for tight security.

While the couple appeared in court today, they did not respond with a confirmation or denial when the charge sheet against them was read out.

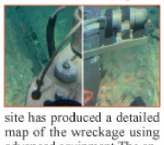
"We will hire lawyers and can respond to the court regarding this after that," Chattha said. "We have filed a new application regarding our documents … No indictment can be made until this application is decided."

The accused had earlier applied to obtain their written statements submitted before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) under Section 161 (examination of witnesses) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and other documents. Section 161 deals with the power of the police to examine witnesses orally during an investigation and to reduce their statements into writing.Judge Majoka then directed the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to provide the documents to both the lawyers and adjourned the hearing until 11:30am.—RT/Agency

Judicial Storm Brews As High Court Judges Weigh Resignation For Pensions

ISLAMABAD: Some high court judges are reportedly contemplating stepping down from office but not before their service tenure meets the threshold required for a lifelong pension and post-retirement benefits for them and their families, sources told Media.According to insiders, the judges in question are carefully watching the calendar to ensure that their resignation comes only after completing the minimum five-year service period, which, under a recent Supreme Court ruling, is necessary for a high court judge to qualify for pension and other post-retirement privileges.The Supreme Court has previously clarified that a high court judge becomes eligible for pension and related benefits only after serving at least five years on the bench. Without completing this minimum period, a judge's resignation would mean forfeiture of such entitlements.—RT/Agency

Lost US Navy Submarine From WWI Finally Discovered



A United States Navy submarine that disappeared during the First World War has been located in the Pacific Ocean.

According to international media, the vessel lies at a depth of approximately 1,300 feet to the west of San Diego. The submarine, identified as the USS F-1, sank during a wartime exercise. 19 sailors lost their lives in the incident.

Recent exploration of the site has produced a detailed map of the wreckage using advanced equipment.The operation also served as a training cruise for both pilots and engineers.

The mission was led by Bruce Strickrott of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His team, capable of reaching depths of up to four miles, captured images and video from the ocean floor.This capability allowed the team to carry out direct observation of the wreckage.

High-resolution photographs and video footage of the submarine have also been produced by the team.—RT/Agency

Family Massacre In Abbottabad As Man Allegedly Guns Down Brother And 3 Relatives

Abbottabad: A man allegedly shot dead his brother, sister-in-law, and their two daughters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Abbottabad district on Wednesday, according to the police.

Abbottabad Police Spokesperson Azam Mir Afzal told Dawn.com that the incident took place in the Bandi Attai area of Havelian.

"The suspect allegedly killed his brother along with his family members, but the motive behind the murders could not be immediately ascertained."

He said a police team had been dispatched to the area and a first information report (FIR) was being registered at the Havelian police station.According to the spokesperson, the suspect killed his brother, his sister-in-law, and two nieces before fleeing the scene.—RT/Agency

PIA Accelerates Push For UK Flight Comeback

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has intensified preparations for the resumption of flight operations to the United Kingdom.

According to details surfaced on Wednesday, applications have been invited for the provision of hotel services for PIA staff in Manchester. The airline is arranging accommodation for captains, engineers and air hostesses stationed in the city.

Interested parties have been asked to submit applications by 3 November. Applications will be directed to the General Manager Procurement, the PIA Supply Chain Department.

It is pertinent to note that last week, the PIA has received permission to resume flights to the UK. Following this development, the airline began planning to restart operational activities without delay.—RT/Agency

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