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Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad!

PSE 100-index down by 1241.67 points to close at 164,444.71



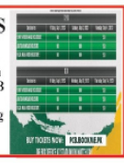
NATIONAL

Punjab Information Minister Says PTI Founder 'Mentally Paralyzed' by Jail Confinement



SPORTS

Pakistan vs South Africa Series: PCB Unveils Ticket Prices for Exciting Showdown





CM Sindh Applauds Brave Forces for Crushing Militants in Mohmand Operation

KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 273 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Friday, October 17, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 23, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Pakistan Army Crushes Attempt By 50 Militants Trying To Cross From Afghanistan



KP: Pakistan Army has eliminated 45 to 50 militants belonging to Indian proxy "Fitna al-Khawarij" while thwarting an infiltration attempt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid border tensions with Afghanistan, .

The group of militants were trying to infiltrate Pakistan's border while taking advantage of the ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Several khawarij were injured in the military action conducted under an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Mohmand district, the sources added.

Meanwhile, security personnel cordoned off the area and commenced a clearance operation. The exchange of fire between the security forces and militants continued for several hours.

Prior to this operation, security forces killed 34 terrorists in three IBOs in KP's North Waziristan, South Waziristan, and Bannu districts from October 13 to 15, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said earlier today.

"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorist found in the area as relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision 'Azm-e-Istehkam' (as approved by federal apex committee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the military's media wing said.3.—RT/Agency

Ball Now In Afghan Taliban's Court As PM Pushes For Permanent Ceasefire



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan is ready to hold talks with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan on reasonable terms as both countries observe a 48-hour temporary ceasefire.

Addressing the federal cabinet meeting on Pak-Afghan border tensions on Thursday, the premier said that now the ball is in the Taliban regime's court for a permanent ceasefire.

The premier said that the Taliban regime carried out the recent attack on Pakistan at India's behest. The attacks came when Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was on a visit to India.

The Taliban forces and India-backed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), alias Fitna al-Khawarij, resorted to an unprovoked attack on Pakistan on Sunday. The Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response to the aggression, killing over 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated militants in a self-defence action. The military's media wing said that 23 soldiers embraced martyrdom in the clashes with the Taliban forces and the terrorists.

Later, at the request of the Afghan Taliban regime, and with mutual consent, Pakistan and the Taliban agreed to a temporary ceasefire for 48 hours, effective from October 15.

Addressing the cabinet meeting, PM Shehbaz said: "Unfortunately, despite all efforts, [Taliban regime in] Afghanistan did not prioritise peace and adopted the path of aggression."

Pakistan had to launch a full-scale retaliatory action as patience had run out after the recent events, he said, while referring to rising incidents of cross-border terrorism.

The premier said Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and other officials repeatedly visited Kabul to convey Pakistan's desire for peace and development in the region.

Heightened tensions

Islamabad and Kabul are witnessing heightened tensions amid the interim Afghan government's reluctance to act against terrorist groups, operating from Afghan soil, in the backdrop of rising terror attacks in Pakistan.

The country has witnessed a surge in cross-border terror incidents since Taliban rulers returned to Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan.

The two nations share a porous border spanning around 2,500 kilometres with several crossing points, which hold significance as a key element of regional trade and relations between the people across both sides of the fence.—RT/Agency

Defence Minister Accuses Kabul Of Waging India's Proxy War, Questions Ceasefire's Future



Islamabad: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif accused Afghanistan's rulers of fighting a "proxy war" on behalf of India and said Kabul has effectively become a puppet of New Delhi. Speaking to the media, Asif expressed scepticism about the durability of the current ceasefire, saying it is weak because Afghanistan is under Indian patronage.

He warned that Pakistan has the capability to fully defend itself against any potential aggression and vowed a strong response if the conflict's scope widens. "If they expand the theatre of war, God willing, we will respond decisively," he said.

The minister said targeted attacks inside Afghanistan and interventions by third countries had undermined the ceasefire's strength.

While urging restraint, Asif made clear that Pakistan will not tolerate cross-border strikes and will protect its sovereignty and citizens. The remarks reflect rising tensions and Islamabad's low tolerance for incursions originating from Afghan territory.—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah Warns Pakistan Will Strike If Kabul Fails To Curb Terror Networks



Islamabad: Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah issued a stern warning that Pakistan will take unilateral action if Afghanistan does not act against terrorist elements operating from its soil. Speaking to a private television channel, Rana said Islamabad's position is clear: no facilitation of terrorism will be tolerated and Afghan territory must not be used to launch attacks against Pakistan.

He said federal agencies have undertaken operations against terrorists over the past three days and made it clear that any attempt by militants to cross into Pakistan during the 48-hour ceasefire window will not be accepted. "The state of Pakistan has made its decision — we will no longer tolerate terrorism," he declared, adding that any cross-border attacks originating from Afghanistan will not be forgiven.

Rana emphasized that Pakistan's demand is straightforward: Afghanistan must prevent its land from being used to harm Pakistan, and Kabul should refrain from allowing militants to shelter or operate from its territory. He framed the warning as a matter of national security and sovereignty, saying Islamabad reserves the right to respond decisively if the threat continues.

The adviser also reiterated the government's broader stance against providing any support or safe haven to extremist groups and urged regional cooperation to eliminate militant networks.—RT/Agency

Trump Boasts He Prevented Eight Wars, Claims He Stopped Indo-Pak Nuclear Showdown



WASHINGTON: U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that he has prevented eight wars to date, asserting his diplomatic interventions have averted catastrophic conflicts — including a near-miss between India and Pakistan that he described as coming "very close" to nuclear confrontation.

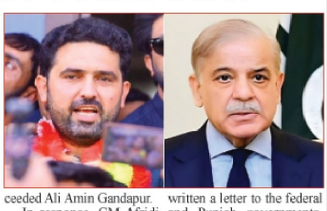
Trump said former Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told him, "You saved millions of lives," referring to a potential India-Pakistan crisis in which, Trump claimed, seven aircraft were shot down. He said he prefers to stop wars and often uses trade and negotiation as tools to prevent conflict.

The president added he has sought to end hostilities in multiple theatres, naming Ukraine as another conflict he is trying to resolve.

Trump also quipped that despite stopping eight wars in eight months, he has not yet received a Nobel Peace Prize — "maybe next year," he remarked.

His comments underscore Washington's continuing diplomatic push to reduce regional tensions and his personal portrayal as a deal-maker in global crises.—RT/Agency

PM Vows Centre-KP Unity, Tells CM Afridi 'National Interest Comes First'



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday congratulated Sohail Afridi for being elected as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and emphasised the centre-province coordination to achieve the national goals.

This was the first telephonic conversation between PM Shehbaz and CM Afridi following the latter's election to the top post amid political friction between the federation and the province led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), respectively.

"Centre is ready to work with you [KP government] for Pakistan's interests," the premier told the newly-elected chief minister, who took oath a day ago and succeeded Ali Amin Gandapur.

In response, CM Afridi expressed gratitude for PM Shehbaz's gesture after the latter congratulated him on assuming the office.

Afridi said he informed the premier that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa represents a population of 45 million people and requested permission to meet his party leader.The CM, talking to journalists in Rawalpindi, said that he had written a letter to the federal and Punjab governments, seeking permission to meet the PTI founder at the Adiala jail, but had so far received no response."The prime minister told me he would look into the matter and inform me accordingly," Afridi said, adding that his government would continue to pursue all constitutional and legal means to secure a meeting.—RT/Agency

Punjab Moves To Book Imran Under PECA For 'Provocative' Social Posts



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chaired a second extraordinary meeting on law and order in Lahore, where the provincial government approved a comprehensive action plan to tighten the noose around those inciting violence, spreading chaos, or challenging state authority under the guise of protest.

The meeting emphasized that the state's target is not any religious party or belief, but rather those seeking to create bloodshed, division, or unrest.

"Those who challenge the writ of the state or promote anarchy will be dealt with an iron hand," the chief minister declared.

Provocative online content to be prosecuted under PECA

The Punjab government decided to register a case under the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) against the founder of PTI, Imran Khan, for allegedly posting provocative and false statements on his X (formerly Twitter) account.

Officials said such incitement to violence and misinformation on social media platforms would not be tolerated, and similar actions will be taken against all violators spreading hatred or falsehoods online.—RT/Agency

Israel Handed Over 30 Palestinian Bodies To Gaza, Confirms Hamas-Run Health Ministry



GAZA: Israel returned the bodies of 30 Palestinians to Gaza on Thursday, bringing the total number handed over to 120, the Hamas-run health ministry and Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis said.

Under a ceasefire deal brokered by US President Donald Trump, Israel was to turn over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for every deceased Israeli returned.Late on Wednesday, Hamas handed over two more bodies to Israel and said it had returned all the remains of deceased captives that it could access.—RT/Agency

PPP And PML-N Move To Table Crucial Talks On Punjab Power Crisis



ISLAMABAD: The effects of the recent meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have begun to surface, with both Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) moving toward dialogue over key Punjab-related issues.

According to sources, the PPP and PML-N leadership are set to hold an important meeting today to discuss matters concerning the party's role and grievances in Punjab. The venue and timing of the meeting will be finalized this morning.

Insiders revealed that PPP's reservations over being sidelined in Punjab and the lack of progress on the agreed power-sharing formula will be taken up during the talks.

Sources said discussions will also focus on issues faced by the PPP in Punjab and possible solutions to ensure smoother coordination between the two coalition partners.

It was further reported that the decision to initiate talks on Punjab-related matters was made during the meeting between the President and Prime Minister earlier this week.

PPP sources added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured President Zardari that all efforts would be made to address the PPP's concerns regarding the implementation of the Punjab power-sharing arrangement.

The move comes following a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday night, where the two leaders also deliberated on the overall regional situation.

The prime minister briefed the president on his recent visits to Egypt and Malaysia, where he made efforts to promote peace in Gaza.

Both leaders exchanged views on key national priorities and the overall direction of the government's policies, agreeing to continue political consultations on matters of national importance.—RT/Agency

Only Shehbaz Sharif Can Handle Trump's Temper, Writes The Guardian



LONDON: The British newspaper The Guardian has claimed that among global leaders, only Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif knew how to handle U.S. President Donald Trump during recent interactions at Sharm El-Sheikh.According to the report, Trump reportedly irritated several world leaders at the summit — praising the Italian prime minister's looks, signaling to the British prime minister as if inviting her to speak, but then abruptly taking over the microphone and embarrassing her.However, The Guardian noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif managed the situation tactfully. During one moment when Trump attempted to return to the stage, Sharif calmly stopped him and continued his speech, earning praise for his composure and diplomatic control. The report concluded that Shehbaz Sharif was "the only leader who knew how to handle President Trump successfully."—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND






Ghulam Nabi Keerio Elected Unopposed as Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club Chief

By Abdul Sattar



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In the annual elections 2025-26 of the Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club, senior journalist Ghulam Nabi Keerio was elected unopposed as President. Other elected office bearers include Muhammad Siddique Chheepa (Senior Vice President), Zulfiqar Chandio (Vice President), Muzaffar Rind (General Secretary), Imtiaz Mangrio (Treasurer), Amir Jan (Joint Secretary), and Sahil Ayaz (Press Secretary). For the Union of Journalists, Muhammad Ramzan Shoro was elected as President, Jabbar Baloch as Vice President, Zahid Qureshi as General Secretary, and Umar Sharif as Joint Secretary. For the Electronic Media Association, Rao Ghulam Hussain became President, Abdul Hafeez Memon as Vice President, Munir Brohi as General Secretary, and Saeed Shaikh as Joint Secretary. Members elected to the Press Club's Governing Body include Abdul Karim Shaikh, Jameel Memon, Qazi Shams Bambhan, Shoaib Keerio, Ghulam Qadir Shoro, and Shahroz Kareem.

The oath-taking ceremony was held in the Press Club Auditorium Hall under the supervision of the election committee members including Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Chancellor of Indus Medical University and civil society representative Dr. GM Gul.

NAPA's Hard-Hitting Play Mitha Mehran Main Milbo Sparks Social Awareness

By Shsikh Sindhi



KOTRI: The National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) presented a powerful social awareness theater performance titled "Mitha Mehran Main Milbo" at Pir Hisamuddin Shah Auditorium, Jamshoro. The play focused on the importance of education, the dangers of drug addiction, and various social evils affecting society. Directed by the veteran artist Mama Lalu, the production featured notable Sindhi actors such as Hajjan Premi, Alia Channa, Kashwar Jabeen, and Shah Nawaz Solangi, who delivered compelling performances that captivated the audience. The event was attended by prominent local figures including Ishtiaq Samejo, Dr. Barkat Ali Laghari, Pir Bakhsh Samo and representatives from civil society, educators, and students. Organizers emphasized that such theater productions are crucial to fostering social responsibility and a healthier community.

Roshni Helpline 1138 Applauded for Tracking and Recovering Missing Children

By Muqeem Keerio



HYDERABAD: DIGP Hyderabad Range, Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, praised the efforts of Roshni Helpline 1138 in reuniting missing children with their families, calling it a mission that brings light back into the lives of distressed parents. Speaking at a ceremony held at Shaheed Waheed Bux Auditorium, he emphasized the importance of coordinated strategies among all stakeholders to address the issue effectively. He highlighted the Sindh Police's dedicated unit working round-the-clock to trace and recover missing children. The event honored officers and focal persons from Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Shaheed Benazirabad for their exceptional services. Roshni Helpline head Muhammad Ali thanked Sindh Police for their ongoing cooperation. Shields were exchanged between police officials and the NGO, while a commemorative tree was planted to mark the occasion. The ceremony was attended by senior SSPs from multiple districts.

Free Hearing and Rehab Services Begin for Disabled Children in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang



HINGORJA: The Life Changing Foundation (LCF), in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), inaugurated a Rehabilitation Center at Syed Irshad Ahmed Shah Lakyari Memorial Hospital. The center now offers free audiological services, including BERA and PTA tests for children with disabilities. Over 130 assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers were distributed during the ceremony. Officials and dignitaries praised the initiative, emphasizing its role in empowering persons with disabilities and promoting social inclusion. LCF's CEO Muhammad Ali pledged continued efforts to expand support services.

Jamshoro Police Nab Dozens of Illegal Afghans in Sweeping Operation

By Munawar Chandio



JAMSHORO: Under the special directives of SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga, a large-scale Search and Combing Operation was conducted across Jamshoro district, with a focus on Khuda Ki Basti in SITE Kotri. Multiple police teams searched residential and commercial areas, resulting in the detention of dozens of undocumented Afghan nationals who failed to produce valid legal documents. The detainees were taken into custody and transferred to police stations for legal proceedings under immigration laws, aimed at their deportation.

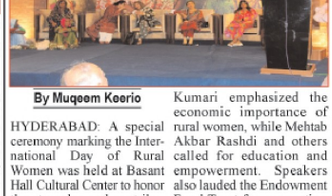
SSP Chhanga emphasized the police's zero-tolerance policy toward illegal residency and pledged to continue such operations to maintain security and public safety.

Rajveer Singh Mourns Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani's Passing

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Special Assistant to CM Sindh, Rajveer Singh Sodho expressed deep sorrow over the passing of senior PPP leader Agha Siraj Durrani, calling him a valuable asset of the party. He praised Durrani's democratic services, stating his contributions will be remembered forever. He prayed for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family.

Hyderabad Event Celebrates Rural Women's Vital Role on Global Stage



By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A special ceremony marking the International Day of Rural Women was held at Basant Hall Cultural Center to honor the struggles and contributions of rural women.

Commissioner Hyderabad Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi praised organizer Sobia Ali for highlighting a vital yet overlooked issue. Former Senator Krishna Kumari emphasized the economic importance of rural women, while Mehtab Akbar Rashdi and others called for education and empowerment. Speakers also lauded the Endowment Fund Trust for supporting rural women's crafts, especially from Thar.

The event was attended by notable figures from various fields, celebrating rural women as symbols of resilience and cultural pride.

Women March Over Shifting of Benazir Income Support Centre from Shadi Palli to Pithoro



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) center has been shifted from Shadi Palli to Pithoro, causing severe difficulties for deserving women. Local women expressed their frustration, saying Pithoro is much farther from Shadi Palli, making it hard for elderly and women with small children to travel such distances.

They urged the higher authorities of BISP to reconsider and relocate the center back to Shadi Palli to ease access for needy women. The protest highlights the urgent need to address accessibility issues for vulnerable beneficiaries.

Emotional Farewell Held for DSP Ali Hassan Baloch in Sakrand



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A farewell party was organized by the Motorway Police staff to honor DSP Ali Hassan Baloch. SSP Motorway Commander Kashif Bhutta was the chief guest, while senior journalist Qazi Javed Sanai attended as honorary guest. Colleagues praised DSP Baloch's dedication and integrity. He was presented with traditional Sindhi gifts.

In his speech, Baloch expressed deep gratitude for the love he received in Sindh, especially during his two-month posting in Sakrand, calling it a memorable experience.

Hyderabad Couple Pleads for Safety After Love Marriage Sparks Threats



By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: A young couple from Qasimabad, Hyderabad, who married out of love, has appealed for protection after receiving alleged life threats from the bride's family. Waqar, son of Hussain Bux Deshek, married Umm-e-Tayyaba, daughter of Imtiaz Mangi, at the District and Sessions Court.

The couple claimed that the girl's relatives, including her father and close family members, are threatening them. They have appealed to Hyderabad Police, IG Sindh, and other officials to ensure their safety and provide justice.

PPP Thatta to Mark Karsaz Martyrs' Day with Ceremonies on October 18

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) District Thatta will observe the anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy on October 18 with Quran Khwani and special prayers for the martyrs of the 2007 attack on Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's convoy.

The gathering will take place at 4:00 PM at the residence of District President MNA Sadiq Ali Memon. Workers from all Union Councils of Taluka Thatta and Makli are urged to attend and pay tribute.

Umerkot Couple Appeals for Protection, Claims False Cases Filed Against Them

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: A couple from neighboring villages of Pithoro spoke at the Pithoro Press Club, stating they married legally in Umerkot court. The wife, Ghulam Nabi's daughter from Balochistan, denied any abduction or coercion. They claim relatives have filed false cases against them, harassing them repeatedly. The couple appealed to IG Sindh, DIG Mirpurkhas, SSP Umerkot, and authorities for protection and dismissal of false charges.

Soldier Bhuro Khan Given Hero's Farewell with Full Military Honours in JNA

By Hakim Baloch



JAM NAWAZ ALI: Soldier Bhuro Khan Khaskheli, who passed away due to a heart attack in Sibi, Balochistan, was laid to rest with full military honours in his native village, Allah Bachayo Khaskheli. The funeral prayer was attended by Colonel Muhammad Asif from Chhor Cantt, local leaders, journalists, teachers, and a large number of residents. Bhuro Khan is survived by his widow, four sons, and a daughter.

Condolences continue to be offered to the bereaved family in the village.

DC Tando Allahyar Visits Fire-Hit Jhando Marri Village, Vows Assistance

By Afaque Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Noor Mustafa Laghari, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Jhando Marri Shehzad Umair Jarwar, visited the village of Gul Muhammad Pali in Jhando Marri after a fire broke out. The Deputy Commissioner assured the victims of full support from the district administration and promised compensation for the losses caused by the fire. He directed the Assistant Commissioner to assess the damage and provide necessary relief supplies to the affected families promptly.

Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar Awards Staff for Exemplary Public Service

By Afaque Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: Over the past six months, the Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar has shown exemplary commitment to public service during Eid celebrations, Muharram, Rabi-ul-Awal, and monsoon season. A special ceremony, led by Chairman Syed Samar Hassan Shah Rizvi and Chief Municipal Officer Abid Wali Khoso, recognized the dedicated staff with awards for their performance.

The leadership praised their professionalism and reaffirmed their commitment to improving municipal services for the citizens in the future.

LUMHS Hosts Hands-On Workshop on Modern Tissue and Molecular Diagnostics

By Munawar Chandio



JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) successfully held its second basic hands-on workshop on Tissue and Molecular Diagnosis at Surgical Unit-IV. Final-year MBBS students and residents actively participated. Vice Chancellor Prof. Ikramuddin Ujjan emphasized practical training's importance.

The multidisciplinary event was attended by senior faculty and aimed to enhance clinical skills, reflecting LUMHS's commitment to quality medical education and student development.

Kotdiji Villages Finally Get Clean Drinking Water Through Charity Effort

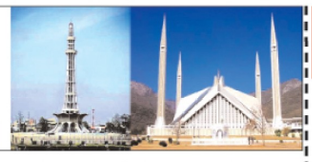
By Naz Solangi

KUMB: In a remarkable act of community service, Syed Iftikhar Hussain has installed clean drinking water tanks and "sabeels" (water distribution points) across 14 water-deprived villages in Tehsil Kotdiji, Khairpur. Previously facing acute water shortages, thousands of villagers now benefit from this initiative, which has brought significant relief.

Locals praised the humanitarian effort, calling it a true example of service to humanity. Prayers and appreciation continue for Syed Iftikhar Hussain and his team from grateful residents.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



PHC Grants Protective Bail to KP CM Till November 18 Amid Political Tensions





PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday granted protective bail to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi until November 18. The two-member bench comprising Justice Ejaz Anwar and Justice Naeem Anwar heard the petition seeking details of cases registered against the Chief Minister.

During the hearing, the court directed authorities to provide complete details of all FIRs lodged against Sohaib Afridi and ordered that he not be arrested in any of the registered cases until the next hearing.

Justice Ejaz Anwar inquired which specific FIRs named the Chief Minister. Responding, the Advocate General remarked humorously that even he was unaware, saying, "Perhaps I might also be named in one of them."

The Chief Minister's counsel informed the court that Afridi intended to meet the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) soon. The court then approved his protective bail and sought a comprehensive report on the cases before November 18.—RT/Agency

Malik Riaz Declared Absconder in High-Profile Money Laundering Cases



ISLAMABAD: Malik Riaz has been declared an absconder in two cases linked to alleged money laundering involving funds from Bahria Town.

The decision came from an Islamabad district and sessions court where Additional District and Sessions Judge Nasr Minallah Baloch presided over the hearings.

Ali Riaz Malik, son of Malik Riaz, has also been declared an absconder in related cases. The cases concern allegations of transferring Bahria Town's funds abroad through suspected money laundering practices.—RT/Agency

Asma Jahangir Group Emerges Victorious in SCBA Elections

ISLAMABAD: The Asma Jahangir group has taken the lead in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) elections, according to unofficial results released on Thursday.

Preliminary counts indicated that the group secured victories in Quetta, Sukkur, Bannu and Swat. In Quetta, Haroon-ul-Rashid of the Asma Jahangir group received 120 votes, while Tauseef Asif of the Hamid Khan group followed with 101 votes.

In Sukkur, Haroon Rasheed secured 55 votes compared to 15 for Tauseef Asif. In Bannu, the vote count stood at 25 to 5 in favour of Haroon Rasheed.

From Swat, Haroon Rasheed gained 27 votes, while Tauseef Asif received 23.

Polling continued until 5 pm across 13 stations set up nationwide for the SCBA elections. A total of 4,393 lawyers are registered to cast their votes. In Islamabad, 710 votes were polled.—RT/Agency

Punjab Information Minister Says PTI Founder 'Mentally Paralyzed' by Jail Confinement



Lahore: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari accused the PTI founder of being "mentally paralysed" by imprisonment and criticised his party's shifting positions during a recent statement. Bukhari questioned the sincerity of calls for protests, saying those who once labelled a particular religious group as extremists are now inviting its workers to demonstrate.She accused PTI of repeated U-turns and said Pakistan has already rejected the party's "final call," asking how it can now expect public support. Bukhari raised concerns that both groups promoting unrest might share a common agenda to destabilise governments.

Linking law-and-order problems to PTI rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she said the province has become a centre of poor governance, corruption and rising militancy. Bukhari warned that the party appears to have no option other than fomenting unrest to regain power. Her remarks underscore growing political polarisation ahead of upcoming contests, with critics and supporters trading increasingly sharp accusations.—RT/Agency

Punjab Govt Moves to Recommend Ban on Hardline Extremist Group



LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to recommend that the federal government impose a ban on an extremist group involved in hate speech, incitement, and lawlessness.

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting on law and order chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The meeting resolved that all individuals involved in spreading hatred, incitement, and violence would be arrested immediately.

According to the official statement, the Punjab government will formally recommend to the federal government to proscribe the extremist organization, while its leadership will be placed under the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Government Finalizes Blueprint for Greater Karachi Plan 2047

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has announced that the provincial government has initiated work on the Greater Karachi Plan 2047 and finalized its framework to ensure the long-term development of the city.

Calling it a "gift from the Sindh government to the citizens of Karachi," the minister said the plan aims to create a sustainable, inclusive, and well-planned urban future for the metropolis.

According to the Director General of the Karachi Development Authority (KDA), public input will be an integral part of the Greater Karachi Regional Plan. —RT/Agency

Rickshaw Driver Booked in Punjab for Blasting Naseebo Lal's Song



OKARA: Police have registered a case against a rickshaw driver for playing a song by Pakistan's renowned singer Naseebo Lal.

According to police, the case was filed under the Punjab Sound System Act.

Okara police spokesperson stated that no one will be allowed to violate the law, asserting that strict action will be taken against all offenders.

A similar case was reported in Lahore last month, where police booked a man for playing Noor Jehan's song loudly in his car.

Punjab Sound System Act

The "Punjab Sound System Act" refers to the Punjab Sound Systems (Regulation) Act, 2015, which was enacted to regulate and control the use of sound systems in Punjab, Pakistan, to prevent public nuisance and disorder. The Act aims to protect public order, decency, and the environment by controlling the use of sound systems and penalizing misuse, which can include imprisonment and fines.—RT/Agency

Business Community Sounds Alarm Over Skyrocketing Gas Bills Threatening Industry



KARACHI: Business leaders from the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), industrial town associations, and textile exporters' bodies have warned that exorbitant and retrospective gas bills could trigger an industrial collapse, unemployment, and export losses.

At a joint press conference, they urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to freeze the Rs791 per MMBtu retrospective levy, calling it unjust and anti-industry. BMG Chairman Zubair Motiwala said rising gas tariffs have made captive power plants unviable, while KCCI President Rehan Hanif cautioned exporters may shift abroad. Jawed Bilwani noted gas prices have surged over 400% in a year. Industrial leaders demanded urgent government intervention to save Pakistan's industrial and export base.—RT/Agency

Sardar Manzoor Kakar Hails Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo as a Statesman "Born Once in Centuries"



Karachi: Senior tribal, political and social leader Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar, President of the Kakar Tribes Federation and Secretary General of the Balochistan Youth Front, has paid rich tribute to veteran politician and former Governor of Balochistan, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, calling him a visionary leader "born once in centuries" and rightfully remembered as the "Father of Balochistan."

In his statement, Sardar Kakar praised Bizenjo's multi-dimensional personality, highlighting his educational journey from Nal to Government Sandeman School Quetta, and later Aligarh University, where he also captained the football team.He noted that Bizenjo opposed the accession of the State of Kalat to Pakistan and joined hands with Prince Abdul Karim in political struggle. His companions included iconic leaders like Bacha Khan, Abdul Wali Khan, Nawab Akbar Bugti, Sardar Ataullah Mengal, Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri, and many Pashtun and Baloch intellectuals.—RT

PPP-Backed Union Sweeps SESSI Referendum; Saeed Ghani Applauds Workers' Victory

Karachi: Sindh Labour Minister and PPP Karachi Division President Saeed Ghani has congratulated the PPP-backed Peoples Staff Union on a historic victory in the Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI) referendum.

This marks the third consecutive win for the union, which secured 1,271 votes out of 1,330 cast, from a total of 1,615 registered voters.

Ghani extended his felicitations to all successful office-bearers, including Ahmed Nawaz Samijo (President), Ejaz Abbasi (Chairman), and Shakir Munir (General Secretary). He also acknowledged the contributions of Habibuddin Junaidi and Aslam Samoon of the Peoples Labour Bureau.—RT

TLP Offices Sealed in Islamabad After Bloody Protests Leave Five Dead

Islamabad: Authorities have shut down multiple offices of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in the federal capital following a series of deadly demonstrations this week that resulted in five fatalities and scores of injuries, official sources confirmed Thursday.

The Islamabad district administration took action to seal TLP centers located in Bharakahu, Sohan, and other areas. The move comes as a direct response to the party's protest marches, which escalated into widespread violence.—RT/Agency

Tragedy on Swat Expressway: 17 Killed as Nomads' Truck Plunges Into Ravine

Swat: At least 17 people, including 10 children, were killed when a truck carrying nomadic families plunged into a ravine on the Swat Expressway on Wednesday.

According to Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Fayaz, most of the deceased were children. Rescue officials confirmed that the victims included 10 children, 4 women, and 3 men. Their bodies have been sent to their native town in Bahrain, Swat.

The truck was reportedly carrying nomads from Swat's Bahrain area when it lost control and fell into the deep gorge. Eight others sustained injuries and were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Motorway Police Bring Road Safety Awareness Drive to Concordia College Gojra

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The Motorway Police Road Safety Unit held a session at Concordia College Gojra to raise awareness among students and teachers. Incharge Muhammad Usman Shabbir emphasized the importance of wearing seat belts for safety and warned of strict legal action against violations. Principal Professor Atif Kasana highlighted that following traffic rules is key to preventing accidents, applauding the police initiative.

Toba Tek Singh Rescue Team Wins Big at Punjab Inter-District Rescue Challenge

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Led by District Emergency Officer Mian Faraz Muneer, the Toba Tek Singh Rescue Challenge Team excelled at the three-day Punjab Inter-District Rescue Challenge held in Lahore. The team showcased outstanding skills in Trauma, Scuba, and Fire Fit categories, impressing judges with their expertise in medical emergencies, underwater rescues, and fire response. Their exceptional performance brought pride to the district and demonstrated their readiness to handle any emergency. The success highlights the team's dedication and strong leadership.

Gujranwala Unveils e-Biz Portal to Drive Digital Punjab Vision

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed announced the successful implementation of the Punjab Government's e-Biz portal (https://ebiz.punjab.gov.pk, offering 52+ business services online. The platform enables citizens to apply for licenses, permits, and approvals digitally, ending manual submissions after October 13, 2025. Help desks are being set up in AC offices with trained staff for guidance. The initiative aims to improve transparency and efficiency. DC urged the public and business community to utilize the service and support Punjab's digital transformation efforts.

Authorities Order Crackdown on Substandard Medicines in Narowal

By Rana Mudassar



NAROWAL: Deputy Commissioner Syed Hassan Raza chaired a District Quality Control Board meeting to review 25 cases related to medical stores. Ten cases were referred to court, two for review, one pharmacy de-sealed, and 12 store owners warned. CEO Health Dr. Muhammad Adnan and other officials attended. The DC stressed zero tolerance for fake medicines and urged intensified anti-quackery efforts. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring safe, quality medicines for the public.

Mian Naseer Ahmed Vows to Uphold Traders' Unity and Fight for Their Rights

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Senior Vice Chairman of Central Anjuman-e-Tajiran, Mian Naseer Ahmed, has reiterated his unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and unity of the trader community. Speaking at the Press Club, he said, "Self-serving elements trying to divide traders will never succeed." He praised traders as the backbone of Pakistan's economy and vowed to continue raising his voice for their rights. "Serving traders is my mission," he stated, pledging to stand with them against injustice, excessive taxation, and economic pressures.

Gujranwala Police Nab Two Notorious Drug Peddlers, Seize Major Narcotics Haul

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: In a major crackdown, police stations Nowshera Warkan and Arup arrested two notorious drug dealers, recovering 3.24 kg of heroin and 1.17 kg of ice. Acting on CPO Muhammad Ayaz Saleem's orders, SHOs Ziyaf Bath and Safdar Atta led the successful operations. The CPO praised the teams, vowing continued strict action against drug networks to protect the youth's future. Further investigation is underway.

Senate Chairman Warns of Looming Global Food Crisis, Urges Urgent Action

Islamabad: Amid escalating global challenges, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani issued a stark warning on Thursday, calling for immediate and unified international action to combat the growing threats of hunger and food insecurity.

In a powerful message commemorating World Food Day, the Chairman emphasized that access to sufficient and nourishing food is a basic human right, not a privilege. He reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of "Zero Hunger."

Mr. Gilani identified climate change, rapid population expansion, and soaring food prices as critical issues demanding a coordinated response. —RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, October 17, 2025

National Interest Above All: A Welcome Step Toward Unity

In a rare and refreshing gesture of statesmanship, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's assurance to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's newly elected Chief Minister Sohail Afridi that the federal government is ready to work with him "in the interest of Pakistan" deserves genuine appreciation. At a time when the country stands at a crossroads—facing renewed threats from terrorism, a fragile economy, and tensions along the Afghan border—this commitment to cooperation between Islamabad and Peshawar carries profound national significance.

The week-long political and constitutional turbulence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could easily have escalated into yet another destructive confrontation between the federation and the province. Instead, this pledge of unity offers a glimmer of hope that maturity and national interest might finally triumph over political ego and divisiveness. It is high time that the federation and provinces act as partners, not rivals, because our enemies thrive only when we are divided.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan continue to pay the highest price in the ongoing war against terrorism. Militants exploit every fissure within our political structure, and the only way to defeat them is through complete civil-military, federal-provincial, and political cohesion. Words of unity must now translate into deeds—joint security coordination, economic collaboration, and rebuilding trust between the Centre and the province.

The Prime Minister's outreach and Chief Minister Afridi's reciprocal tone mark the beginning of what could be a new era of cooperative federalism. Let this not remain a fleeting headline or polite formality. In this critical hour, Pakistan cannot afford discord. We must rise above partisanship and remember: the flag we serve is one, and its strength lies in our unity.

THE HEARTLAND






Sharjeel Orders Tough Action in Katcha, Confirms Arrest of Illegal Afghans

By Absar Alvi



SUKKUR: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized the need for coordinated operations between Sindh and Punjab to restore law and order in the riverine (katcha) areas. Speaking to the media at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Airport, he stated that joint efforts would leave no hiding place for criminals, and encouraged dacoits to surrender peacefully to avoid fatal police encounters. He also confirmed strict action against undocumented Afghan nationals residing in Sindh, with several arrests and deportations already executed in Karachi. He reiterated the government's clear stance on illegal residents and emphasized Pakistan's commitment to peace, warning that any proxy attack on citizens would be met with a strong response from the armed forces. Memon paid tribute to late Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani, praising his parliamentary legacy. He further revealed that talks are underway with international investors to introduce a fast train service between Karachi and Sukkur to enhance regional connectivity.

Matli Farmers Protest on World Food Day, Call for Fair Crop Prices



By Nooral Khamisani

MATLI: On World Food Day, members of the Pakistan Hari Mazdoor Tehreek protested in Matli against the economic exploitation of farmers. Leaders from Badin and Tando Muhammad Khan demanded increased support prices for agricultural produce. They criticized rising costs of seeds, fertilizer, and fuel, warning that if fair prices are not ensured, Pakistan's food sovereignty and farmers' livelihoods will be at risk.

Grief in Sehwan as Soldier Zahid Hussain Succumbs to Dengue

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: Zahid Hussain Sahto, a resident of Arazi village near Sehwan and a Pakistan Army soldier, passed away in Rawalpindi due to dengue fever. His body was brought to his ancestral village with a military convoy, where a large crowd gathered, chanting "Long live Pakistan Army." The funeral prayer was held with military honors, attended by officers, soldiers, officials, teachers, students, and locals. The martyr was laid to rest in the village cemetery, and his family expressed pride in his sacrifice for the nation.

Dadu MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb Presses Officials to Fix Failing Schools

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan Peoples Party's Dadu District President and MPA Barrister Pir Mujeeb Urged education department officers in a meeting at Pir House, Dadu, to address educational problems in the district. He instructed TEOS to monitor schools daily, reopen closed schools, ensure teacher and student attendance, and fix shortages of furniture and solar equipment. He demanded a comprehensive report on school deficiencies to present to the Education Minister. Pir Mujeeb also emphasized merit-based promotions and warned of personal inspections and no tolerance for negligence. Various officials and local leaders attended the meeting.

Senior PPP Leaders Offer Heartfelt Condolences Over Agha Siraj Durrani's Death

By Adeel Alvi



SHIKARPUR: Senior Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with several other prominent leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), visited Garhi Yasin to offer condolences to the bereaved family of the late Agha Siraj Khan Durrani. Among those who accompanied him were Provincial Minister for Works and Services and Prisons Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Provincial Minister for Livestock Muhammad Ali Malkani, Member of National Assembly Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, and Members of the Sindh Assembly Imdad Pitafi and Siraj Qasim Soomro. The PPP leaders expressed deep sorrow over the loss, remembering Agha Siraj Durrani as a committed and loyal leader. They offered prayers for the departed soul and extended heartfelt sympathies to the grieving family.

Paddy Farmers' Sit-In in Phulji Intensifies as Price Dispute Deepens



By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: Farmers held their third consecutive day of protests outside the Press Club for fair prices of paddy crops. Leaders including Imran Arain and Sikandar Ali Panhwar condemned the exploitation, stating that tue traders are purchasing paddy crops at their favorite rates but the governmet has shown an indifferent approach in this regard. They demanded increase in the rate of paddy crops otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Sindh University, Sir CJ Institute Join Hands to Boost Mental Health Services

By GM Chandio



HYDERABAD: Sindh University's Department of Anthropology and Archaeology has partnered with Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Institute of Psychiatry to improve mental health research and services. Led by Dr. Abdul Razzaque Channa, the delegation emphasized integrating cultural understanding into psychiatric practice for more effective, locally relevant treatments. Medical Superintendent Dr. Nisar Ahmed Soho highlighted mental health as a human right, calling for interdisciplinary collaboration. The institutions agreed to formalize their partnership through joint workshops, lectures, and research projects, aiming to advance mental healthcare quality and accessibility across Sindh.

NDF Pakistan Takes Jati Fisherfolk to Keti Bunder for Learning Visit

By GM Chandio



HYDERABAD: The National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan, in collaboration with IUCN International, organized an exposure visit for Jati fisherfolk to Keti Bandar under the "Alternative Livelihood Opportunities for Fishermen" project. Hosted by SRDS Sindh, the visit aimed to promote knowledge exchange, economic empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. NDF President Abid Lashari emphasized mutual learning, while Program Manager Tariq Channar highlighted the importance of training and self-reliance.

Tando Bago Traders Shut Down City in Protest Over Low Wheat Prices

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Farmers, settlers, and political leaders in Tando Bago held a complete shutter-down strike protesting traders' low wheat rates and 3 to 5 kg deductions per maund. Led by Mirza Group's Dilbar Sindhi and Jamaat-e-Islami's Abdul Kareem Buledi, demonstrators marched from Allah Wari Chowk to Bago Wah Bridge demanding wheat prices be raised to Rs 5,000 per maund and an end to unfair weight cuts. They urged authorities to regulate rates and protect farmers from debt and exploitation by traders.

Book Fair at SMBB Medical University Promotes Reading and Student Culture

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University hosted a two-day discounted book fair. The event featured stalls from various publishers offering over 100,000 books across medical sciences, literature, religion, and philosophy. Dr. Shah highlighted the importance of nurturing a love for reading despite digital trends. Students praised the fair for broadening their knowledge. The event also included a tree-planting campaign by the Green Youth Movement.

IBA Test Pass Candidates Rally, Demand Immediate Offer Letters

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Candidates who passed the IBA-conducted tests for Grade 5 to 15 government posts staged a protest outside the Press Club, demanding the cancellation of the interview policy and issuance of offer orders. Led by Babar Khuhro, Sajid Ali Noonari, and others, protesters blocked the road, suspending traffic temporarily. They criticized delays, saying two years have passed since results were announced. The candidates warned that protests would continue until their demands are met and offer orders issued.

One Dead, Four Injured in Violent Clash Over Marriage Dispute

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: In village Waliyo Khan Lashari near Shahdadpur, a violent clash broke out between two groups of the Lashari community over a marriage dispute. Armed confrontation, use of axes and sticks left five people injured. Zahoor Ahmed Lashari succumbed to injuries at the hospital, while four others were referred to Hyderabad in critical condition. Police reached the scene and began investigation. Tension remains high as both sides are reportedly armed and fortified.

Two Brothers Accuse Land Mafia of Grabbing Their Family Plot

By Saleem Soomro

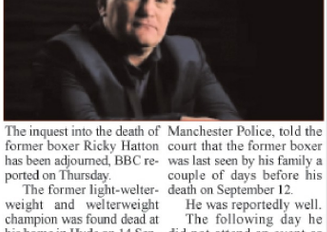
LARKANA: Barkat Ali Tunio and his brother Safdar Ali Tunio claimed in a press conference that their ancestral residential plot, inherited from their grandfather Abdul Majid Tunio, was forcibly occupied by their influential uncle Ahmed Bakhsh Tunio, his son Imran Ali, and a police official. They face threats, false cases, and harassment. The family has filed a case in local court and appealed to higher authorities for justice and protection.

REGIONAL TIMES
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SPORTS



Ricky Hatton Death Mystery Deepens as Inquest Adjourned



The inquest into the death of former boxer Ricky Hatton has been adjourned, BBC reported on Thursday.

The former light-welterweight and welterweight champion was found dead at his home in Hyde on 14 September. He was 46.

It was revealed during the South Manchester Coroner Court's proceedings that Hatton was found by his manager, Paul Speak.

Alison Catlow, of Greater Manchester Police, told the court that the former boxer was last seen by his family a couple of days before his death on September 12.

He was reportedly well.

The following day he did not attend an event as expected.

On 14 September Speak, who was in court to represent the family, attended Hatton's home to pick him up for a flight to Dubai.—Agency

Hafeez Urges Revival of Red-Ball Cricket to Rescue Game's Spirit

Former Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez has suggested that the Pakistan Cricket Board to focus on red-ball games to save Pakistan cricket.

His remarks came following Pakistan's epic 93-run victory against South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Noman Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi were instrumental in the crucial win over the defending champions, who were bundled up for 183 while chasing a target of 277.

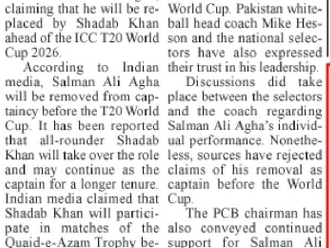
Taking to the social media platform X, Mohammad Hafeez emphasised that a stronger red-ball structure holds the key to resolving Pakistan's long-standing issues in other formats as well.

"All formats technical & tactical issues will be resolved if we pay detail attention to red ball cricket of Pakistan," Hafeez wrote.

"PCB management should prioritise red ball cricket at all levels. Best wishes Mohsin Naqvi."

Hafeez, who has represented Pakistan in all formats, believes red-ball cricket remains the foundation of technical discipline and mental toughness, qualities that inevitably strengthen performances in shorter versions of the game.—Agency

Indian Media Fuels Buzz: Shadab Khan Poised to Replace Salman Ali Agha as T20I Captain



Indian media outlets have launched a campaign against Pakistan T20I captain Salman Ali Agha, claiming that he will be replaced by Shadab Khan ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026.

According to Indian media, Salman Ali Agha will be removed from captaincy before the T20 World Cup. It has been reported that all-rounder Shadab Khan will take over the role and may continue as the captain for a longer tenure. Indian media claimed that Shadab Khan will participate in matches of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy before the tri-nation Series.

However, sources within the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have confirmed that Salman Ali Agha retains the board's confidence and will lead the side in the T20 World Cup. Pakistan white-ball head coach Mike Hesson and the national selectors have also expressed their trust in his leadership.

Discussions did take place between the selectors and the coach regarding Salman Ali Agha's individual performance. Nonetheless, sources have rejected claims of his removal as captain before the World Cup.

The PCB chairman has also conveyed continued support for Salman Ali Agha, reaffirming his position as captain of the national T20 side.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Ahmed Raza
About me: I'm passionate about gaming and modeling!
Location: Karachi

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

Abhishek Sharma Crowned ICC Player of the Month for September 2025



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Abhishek Sharma as the Player of the Month.

Following his remarkable performance in the Asia Cup 2025, the Indian opening batter has been awarded this prestigious title.

Reacting to the major accomplishment, the Indian opener said that it felt great to win an ICC award, adding he was happy that it had come for matches where he contributed significantly to the team's wins.

He further stated that he was proud of the team for performing well under pressure, and he was thankful to the panel that nominated him for the award.

Abhishek Sharma finished the Asia Cup campaign having scored 314 runs at an average of 44.85 and an impressive strike rate of 200.

Most notably, the Indian star delivered an unforgettable performance against Sri Lanka in the semi-final. Sharma's innings played a major role in securing India's place in the final.

In addition to his crucial semi-final knock, Abhishek Sharma also contributed important innings of 75 runs against Pakistan and 74 runs against Bangladesh.

The Indian opener has now reached a career-best T20I rating of 931, surpassing England's Dawid Malan in the men's T20I cricket rankings.

Last year, the ICC revealed the nominees for the ICC Player of the Month awards, with Pakistan star pacer Haris Rauf among the contenders.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the exceptional cricketers who have been nominated for the ICC Player of the Month awards for November. Fast bowlers Haris Rauf, Marco Jansen, and Jasprit Bumrah have received nominations for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for November 2024, owing to their impressive wicket-taking performances across various formats.—Agency

Pakistan vs South Africa Series: PCB Unveils Ticket Prices for Exciting Showdown



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has officially announced ticket prices for the upcoming Pakistan–South Africa white-ball series, which includes three ODIs and three T20 Internationals starting later this month.

According to the announcement, the minimum ticket price for the ODI series has been set at Rs400, while the most expensive ODI ticket will cost Rs3,000. For the T20 series, VIP tickets will be available for Rs800.

ODI series to be played in Faisalabad

All three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) will be hosted at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad, known for its vibrant crowd and electrifying atmosphere.

Fans in Faisalabad are expected to turn out in large numbers to witness Pakistan take on South Africa, as the city gears up for its first major international series in several years.

The PCB said ticket sales will open online and at selected outlets in the coming days to ensure smooth access for fans.

T20 series schedule and venues

Following the ODI leg, the T20 International series between Pakistan and South Africa will be played from October 28 to November 1.

The first T20 will be held at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium,

The second and third T20 matches will take place at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

A couple of days ago, Pakistan pulled off a remarkable 93-run victory over reigning world champions South Africa in the first Test at Lahore, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. —Agency

West Indies in Freefall After Suffering Fifth Straight Defeat

Former giants West Indies reeling after five straight defeats



West Indies have suffered back-to-back series whitewashes by Australia and India in a run of five straight losses that has exposed not just technical and structural gaps but a deeper erosion of the pride that once defined the famous maroon cap.

The former behemoths of the game have been on a steady decline since the 1990s and often struggle to assemble a decent test squad having lost their best talents to the lure of franchise cricket.

Few expected an overnight change in their fortunes when the test captaincy was thrust on Roston Chase in May but five consecutive defeats since then show how far the erstwhile giants have fallen.

Australia blanked them 3-0 and the humiliation of being bundled out for 27 in the final test in July triggered an emergency meeting also involving some of the past greats.

It provided no silver bullet though.

India outclassed West Indies 2-0 earlier this month, inflicting an innings defeat inside three days in Ahmedabad and the ignominy of a follow-on in Delhi.

Talking to reporters ahead of the Delhi test, Chase said finance and facilities limited his side's potential.

"I think the systems in the Caribbean are a bit poor in terms of training facilities and stuff," Chase said though he did not use it as an excuse for the team's free-fall.

"But what I would say is yes, there is obviously a struggle in the Caribbean for finances."

WEST INDIES NEED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Head coach Daren Sammy revisited history and felt West Indies did not reap the financial rewards despite being cricket's driving force.

Now that they are in the doldrums, the global game owes West Indies more than nostalgia, he said.

"It's like India now. Everybody wants India to tour, because that's where the financial gains are. India brings that to the home territory. That was West Indies in the past."—Agency

Nepal and Oman Clinch Spots in Upcoming T20 World Cup



Nepal and Oman have officially sealed their spots for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup after confirming top-three finishes in the Asia/East Asia-Pacific Qualifier on Wednesday.

Both teams remained unbeaten in the qualifiers, as they joined the lineup for next year's mega event featuring 20 teams.

The tournament will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Their confirmed qualification comes ahead of their much-anticipated Super Six clash on Thursday.

Oman currently sit atop the standings, narrowly ahead of Nepal on net run rate, with both sides boasting three wins from as many completed matches.

Nepal entered the Super Six stage carrying two points and went on to edge out both the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar in last-ball thrillers.

Oman, on the other hand, also carried two points forward before registering victories against the same opponents to secure their qualification.

With two of the three available spots locked, the battle now heats up for the remaining place.

The UAE are in pole position to claim the final berth, sitting third in the table, but Japan, Qatar, and Samoa all remain mathematically alive in the race.—Agency

Raducanu Ends Season Early, Battles Lingering Health Issues in China



Former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu will end her season prematurely after pulling out of her final two scheduled events in Tokyo and Hong Kong amid physical issues, British media reported on Thursday.

Raducanu was beaten 3-6 6-4 6-1 by China's Zhu Lin in her Ningbo opener on Tuesday after receiving treatment for a back issue, a week after the 22-year-old retired from her meeting with Ann Li while trailing 6-1 4-1 in Wuhan.

The Briton had looked to carry her encouraging showing at the U.S. Open into the ongoing Asian swing.

She enjoyed her best run at Flushing Meadows in late August since winning the title in 2021, securing two dominant victories before falling to ninth seed Elena Rybakina.

The world number 29 will now hope that she has done enough to be seeded for the Australian Open next year.

British media reported that she will continue working with Spanish coach Francisco Roig heading into next season following a string of changes to her team in recent seasons.

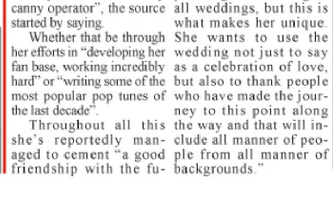
Raducanu has struggled with form and fitness issues since her only Grand Slam triumph as a teenager but rediscovered her competitive spirit during her run to the Miami Open quarter-finals earlier this year.

She won 28 matches this year, notably reaching the semi-finals in Washington in July.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT



Taylor Swift Reportedly Planning Special Gesture to Thank Prince William and Kate at Wedding



An insider has just come forward to deliver an update regarding the relationship Taylor Swift has with Prince William and Kate Middleton.

During their interview with Fox News Digital the source admitted that there is chatter that the Wales' will be at her wedding to Travis Kelce.

"Taylor Swift is one very canny operator", the source started by saying.

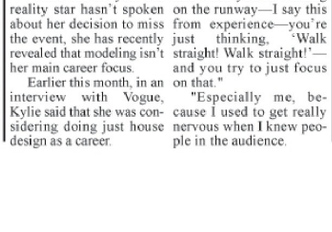
Whether that be through her efforts in "developing her fan base, working incredibly hard" or "writing some of the most popular pop tunes of the last decade".

Throughout all this she's reportedly managed to cement "a good friendship with the future king Prince William over 10 years ago".

For those unversed, its become "a relationship that has culminated in private letters, inspirational cards and good wishes to Princess Catherine during her difficult year."

Hence "now, Taylor is planning the wedding of all weddings, but this is what makes her unique. She wants to use the wedding not just to say as a celebration of love, but also to thank people who have made the journey to this point along the way and that will include all manner of people from all manner of backgrounds."

Kendall Jenner Skips 2025 Victoria's Secret Show to Pursue Bold New Career Path



The 2025 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show took place last night in New York City, but one familiar face was notably absent.

Kendall Jenner did not join her famous friends Gigi Hadid and Bella Hadid on the runway, nor did she appear in the audience on Wednesday, October 15.

While the 29-year-old reality star hasn't spoken about her decision to miss the event, she has recently revealed that modeling isn't her main career focus.

Earlier this month, in an interview with Vogue, Kylie said that she was considering doing just house design as a career.

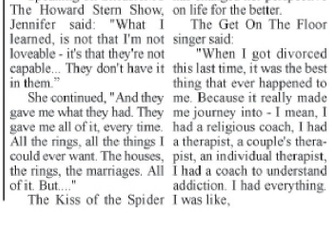
"I swear to God, I'm going to stop everything and just design homes," she said. "I'm not kidding."

In 2019, the Keeping Up With The Kardashians star talked about pre-show nerves with Elle.

"I used to get really nervous during fashion shows," said Kylie. "I feel like when you're walking on the runway—I say this from experience—you're just thinking, 'Walk straight! Walk straight!'—and you try to just focus on that."

"Especially me, because I used to get really nervous when I knew people in the audience.

Jennifer Lopez Stuns Fans with Candid Confession About Love and Life



Jennifer Lopez does not believe she has experienced true love as of yet.

The 56-year-old star has been married and divorced four times and suggested that the men in her life were "not capable" of giving her the love she truly wanted.

Speaking on SiriusXM's The Howard Stern Show, Jennifer said: "What I learned, is not that I'm not loveable - it's that they're not capable... They don't have it in them."

She continued, "And they gave me what they had. They gave me all of it, every time. All the rings, all the things I could ever want. The houses, the rings, the marriages. All of it. But...."

The Kiss of the Spider Woman star did however that the problem from her side in the relationship was that "I didn't love myself" at the time.

JLo separated from actor Ben Affleck after two years of marriage in 2024 and explained that the experience has changed her perspective on life for the better.

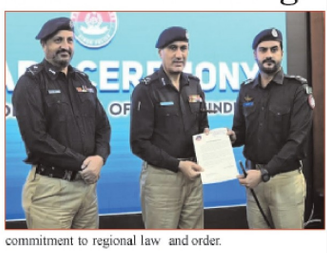
The Get On The Floor singer said:

"When I got divorced this last time, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. Because it really made me journey into - I mean, I had a religious coach, I had a therapist, a couple's therapist, an individual therapist, I had a coach to understand addiction. I had everything. I was like,

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

IG Sindh Hails SSP Jamshoro for Busting Infamous Criminal Gang

By Munawar Chandio



JAMSHORO: IG Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon has awarded SSP Jamshoro, Muhammad Zafar Siddique Chhanga, with a commendation certificate and cash reward for a successful police encounter on the M-9 Motorway that neutralized a notorious gang involved in the murder of Adnan Magsi during a vehicle snatching in Karachi. IG praised the swift action and urged continued commitment to regional law and order.

Alleged Misuse of School Funds in Jhudo Sparks Anger Among Locals

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Allegations have surfaced regarding misappropriation of contingency funds meant for government primary schools in Jhudo, District Mirpurkhas. Without notifying school heads, officials reportedly withdrew funds allocated for stationery, uniforms, furniture repair, and other expenses. Social and political activists, including Muhammad Asif and Ali Hassan Khan, have demanded an immediate inquiry and strict action against those involved in the suspected collusion within the education department.

Woman Killed as Tractor-Trolley Crashes Into Motorcycle Near Sehwan

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: Near Aral Wah, a tractor trolley collided head-on with a motorcycle on Indus Highway, resulting in the death of a woman on the spot. Her husband and two children were seriously injured and admitted to Sewhan Hospital for treatment. The deceased was identified as Marvi Lund from Dadu's Haji Hussain Bux Lund village. The tractor driver fled the scene, and no police case has been registered yet. The body was handed over to the family after necessary formalities.

Young Man Reported Missing in Suspected Tando Bago Kidnapping

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Near village Soomro Kaloi, unknown individuals reportedly kidnapped a young man, Pyaro Kaloi, from his agricultural field. According to the victim's father, Allah Rakhio Kaloi, his son was working as a guard when the abductors forcibly took him away in a car. Upon hearing his cries, locals tried to intervene but the kidnappers fled. A kidnapping case has been registered at Tando Bago police station. Authorities are investigating, while the family urges police and officials for his safe recovery.

Burfat Community Rises in Protest at Nooriabad

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: Near Hubkan on Siri Link Road, the Palari community staged a five-hour protest against the influential Burfat community, accusing them of raiding homes at night and stealing livestock. The protest blocked traffic completely. Locals claim police, influenced by Burfat leaders, have failed to take action. Protesters demanded a thorough investigation and strict legal action from higher authorities. Police assured prompt inquiry.

Hyderabad Police Launch Snap Checks, Arrest Key Robbery and Murder Suspects

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: On SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio's directives, Hyderabad Police conducted snap checking across urban and rural areas to curb crime, verify suspects via the Talash App, and restrict criminal movement. Checkpoints were set up at over 20 key locations, including Liaquat Bridge and Rahooki Toll Plaza. In a major breakthrough, Phuleli Police arrested Gul Zaman, the main accused in a murder case, after an encounter.

The murder weapon and victim's belongings were recovered. Separately, Chhallgari Police arrested a robbery suspect involved in hijacking a 22-wheeler trailer carrying 36 tons of ghee.

The suspect, Ihsanullah, was injured during a shootout. His accomplices escaped, and raids are ongoing.

Badin Police Round Up Eight in Gutka, Liquor and Theft Crackdown

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Police across various stations in Badin arrested eight suspects involved in gutka sales, liquor possession, and theft. Recoveries included 1800 packets of gutka, 20 liters of homemade liquor, 10 whiskey pints, and a stolen battery.

Operations were led by SHOs of Shaheed Fazil Rahu, Badin, Tando Bago, and Kario Ghanwar. Police vowed continued action to curb illegal activities across the district.

Advocate Zeeshan Junejo Seeks Justice After Brazen Theft at Badin Residence

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a bold robbery, unidentified thieves broke into the house of political and social figure Advocate Zeeshan Anis Junejo in Badin, stealing gold jewelry, two mobile phones, Rs 200,000 in cash, and other valuables. Police have registered an FIR, but no arrests have been made yet. Advocate Junejo has urged SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani to ensure swift arrest of the culprits and recovery of stolen items.

Police Thwart Attempt to Steal Water Pump in Nawab Wali Muhammad

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Unknown thieves stole a water pump from senior journalist and RT Correspondent Yousif Rind's agricultural land and tried escaping on a fast-moving motorcycle. Police, led by Chowki Incharge Muhammad Ashfaq Arain, chased the suspects near Goth Ali Shah Link Road. The thieves abandoned the pump near the village and fled. Police promised to arrest the culprits soon. Locals praised the prompt police action.

Sindh Agriculture in Crisis, Needs United Response: DG Extension Allah Warayo Rind

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Director General Agriculture Extension Sindh, Allah Warayo Rind, emphasized the need for honesty and dedication to uplift the agriculture sector. Speaking during a meeting with directors and staff, he stressed close coordination for ongoing projects like the Hari Card and wheat farmer support. He urged officials to fulfill their responsibilities sincerely, improve per-acre yield, and contribute to institutional development. The DG concluded by thanking all attendees for their participation and commitment to farmers' welfare.

Major Gutka Shipment Seized in Thatta, Smuggler Arrested



By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Thatta police foiled two major attempts to supply Indian Gutka and related materials. SHO Gharo, Inspector Muhammad Ali Damra, arrested one suspect, recovering 2,800 pouches of Gutka 'Aadaab' from a rickshaw. Separately, CIA Thatta, led by Inspector Attar Channa, seized a truck near Shah Jahan Mosque, recovering 800 kg of Gutka material and 500 pouches of 'Mawa'. Cases have been registered under the Gutka Act at the concerned police stations.



PIR JO GOTH: Hur Jamaat Chief Khalifa Kaleemullah Wassan and other distinguished dignitaries are offering condolences on the demise of religious scholar Mufti Muhammad Rahim Sikandari.—RT



TANDO ALLAHYAR: DRO and DC Noor Mustafa Laghari administers oath to newly elected District Council Chairman Mir Sohail Talpur. — RT

NATIONAL

KP CM Sohail Afridi Returns Without Meeting PTI Founder at Adiala Jail

Rawalpindi: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi returned without meeting PTI founder Imran Khan during his visit to Adiala Jail, sources confirmed on Thursday. Despite seeking a meeting with the imprisoned former Prime Minister, Afridi was reportedly denied access due to security and procedural reasons. The visit was expected to address internal party matters and discuss the political situation in KP. Sources suggest that the CM's inability to meet Imran Khan may indicate communication challenges within the party's current structure. Further developments are expected as PTI leadership responds to the incident.—RT

Inside Story: Bilawal Bhutto Conveys Coalition Concerns to PM Shehbaz Sharif

Islamabad: In a key meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari** voiced serious concerns about the functioning of the coalition, particularly in Punjab and at the federal level.

Bilawal reportedly complained that the PPP is being sidelined despite being a coalition partner. He stressed that while the party wants to continue supporting the government, its role and input are being ignored, making cooperation increasingly difficult.

He also conveyed disappointment over internal criticism faced by the PPP for praising Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's governance, saying the goodwill gesture was not well received by some within the ruling party.—RT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING (DEV) DIVISION JAMSHORO
Near Railway Crossing Kotri @ Deputy Commissioner Office Jamshoro @ Kotri

No: TC/NIT/2352/ 2025, Jamshoro **Dated: 15/10/2025**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Procuring Agency invites bids on bidding documents in **Single Stage Two Envelop** procedure from all the interested bidders under SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended upto date) for the following work.

S#	Description	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money 5%	Tender Fee	Completion Period	PEC Category
	Provincial ADP					
1	Construction of Surface Drains & Paving Blocks in Sehwan Town (ADP#2685)	190,620,000	9,531,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
2	Water Supply line & Construction of Water Supply Schemes of Nursing & Paramedical School at Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of Medical Science Hothbanbi / Benazeer Housing Society Taluka Sehwan (ADP # 2511)	35,236,000	1,762,000	5000	18 Months	C-5 & above
3	Beautification of Bhan Town, Taluka Sehwan. (ADP # 2599)	86,645,000	4,332,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
4	Construction of Storage Tank Size (200'x100) (2 Nos), Providing Laying Jointing & Testing PE Pipe Distribution System 3 & 4"dia and Supply / Fixing Solar LED Lights Scheme namely Renovation / Rehabilitation of Water Supply Scheme U.C. Bajara and U.C. Jhangara, Taluka Sehwan (ADP # 2486)	47,600,000	2,380,000	5000	06 Months	C-5 & above
5	Beautification, Paver, Various streets of Municipal Committee Kotri. (ADP#1612)	72,278,000	3,614,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)					
6	Water Supply Scheme at Village Pandhi Khan Tangyani, Ali Shair Tangyani, Qurban Tangyani, Khamiso Niyalani, Bilalwal Khoso & Mosa Mureedani Taluka Manjhand District Jamshoro. (ADP # 3641, Ref #565)	113,975,000	5,699,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
7	Water Supply Scheme Village Umaid Ali Katchelo Village Dhani Bux Aloodani Khoso, Drainage Paver, CC Allah Bachayo Shoro, Jan Muhammad UC Allah Bachayo Shoro Taluka KotriDistrict Jamshoro (ADP # 3641, Ref # 738)	45,559,000	2,278,000	5000	18 Months	C5 & above
8	Water Supply Scheme Sikanderabad and Khanpur Railway Colony Ward 1 to 11 Municipal Committee Kotri Taluka Kotri District Jamshoro (ADP # 3641, Ref # 739)	50,072,000	2,504,000	5000	18 Months	C-5 & above
9	Construction of Water Supply and Drainage, Paver Block, CC Block Village Unerpur Taluka Manjhand, District Jamshoro (ADP #3641, Ref #742)	49,397,000	2,470,000	5000	18 Months	C5 & above
10	Providing PE Pipe, LSR & Tanks for Water Supply Schemes Sahaho Palari, Kako Palari, Ali Bux Jakhro, Mugeem Palari, Hussain Khaskheli & Waler Supply Scheme Qaisar Jakhro Taluka Thana Bula Khan (ADP #3641, Ref #749)	47,656,000	2,383,000	5000	18 Months	C5 & above
11	PE Pipe Distribution 4"& 3" Thana Ahmed Khan, Rehabilitation of 07 Nos: Tube Wells of Water Supply Scheme Thana Ahmed Khan Water Supply Scheme Village Asghar Khaskheli Near Wadero Mal Khan Palari, Provide Water Supply Scheme with Deep Tube Well Submersible Pump and Solar Energy System 7.5 HP and Distibution Pipe Line of 3' dia for Village Ghazi Khan Burro & Water Supply Scheme Thana Bulla Khan Taluka Thana Bula Khan District Jamshoro (ADP # 3641, Ref # 750)	72,902,000	3,645,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
12	Construction of Deep Solar Bore 36 Nos.Various UCs Taluka Thana Bula Khan District Jamshoro (ADP #3641, Ref # 751)	66,657,000	3,333,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
13	Construction of CC Drains, Paver Block & CC Block from Ward 1 to 6 Town Thana Bula Khan, Village Mole & Village Thana Ahmed Khan Taluka Thana Bula Khan Distict Jamshoro (ADP # 3641, Ref # 752)	68,020,000	3,401,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
14	Construction of CC Drains, Paver & CC Block from Ward 1 to12 of MC Bolhari & Construction of CC drains, Paver Block & CC Block for Various Villages of UC Sindh University Ward No. 1 to 04 Taluka Kotri District Jamshoro (ADP # 3641, Ref #754)	98,485,000	4,925,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
15	Installation 36 Deep Tube Wells with Solar System, Water Supply in Different Villages of Different 07 Union Councils Taluka Thana Bula Khan District Jamshoro (ADP #3641, Ref #803)	63,345,000	3,167,000	5000	18 Months	C-5 & above
16	Provision and Installation of Solar Submersible Pumps in Various Areas of Taluka Thana Bula Khan (ADP #3641, Ref #851)	71,253,000	3,563,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above
17	Water Supply Scheme at Village Allah Bux Khoso Taluka Kotri District Jamshoro (ADP #3641, Ref #950)	111,469,000	5,574,000	5000	18 Months	C-4 & above

Received Date & Time 1st Attempt

The Blank Tender Form / Proposal Documents for above stated works can be obtained from the office of the undersigned situated at Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering (Dev) Division Jamshoro **located near Railway Crossing Kotri @ Deputy Commissioner Office Jamshoro @ Kotri** on any working day from publication upto **13/11/2025 at 5:00 P.M** on submission of written request and payment of prescribed Tender Fee (Non Refundable) in shape of pay order in favour of Executive Engineer, Pubic Health Engineering (Dev) Division Jamshoro.

Tender comprising of Technical Proposal and Financial Proposals must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes with clear marking of **"TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" AND "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL"** & will be received back on **14/11/2025 at 09.30 A.M** from the issuing office. Technical proposal of the participating firms will be opened on the same day **at 10.30 A.M** by the Tender opening committee in presence of participating contractors/firms or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.

The TECHNICAL PROPOSALS shall be evaluated for technical qualification of the firms. Financial bids / proposals of the Technically Qualified firm shall be opened and publically announced on the date and time that will be communicated in writing to all the qualified contractors/ firms in advance, financial bid / proposal of Technically Dis-Qualified contractors shall be retuned to them un-opened.

Received Date & Time 2nd Attempt

In case of un-responded tenders or any other fact the next date of issue will be upto **01/12/2025 at 05.00 P.M** & will be received back on **02/12/2025 at 09.30 AM** and opened at **10.30 AM** on same day.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS:

i) Method of Procurement: **Single Stage Two-Envelope** Procedure (must contain two separate Sealed Envelopes with Signed & Stamp of Firm for "**Technical Proposal** "& " **Financial Proposal**" otherwise such tender ill not be entertained).
ii) **Financial Proposal** will be opened (as per SPPRA Rule) for those firms only who qualify the mandatory requirements in Technical Proposal.
iii) Bidder should be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC Valid for FY 2025-26) in relevant category with specialization in CE02, CE09, CE10, EE11 Supported by PEC valid registration certificate.
iv) Bio data of Engineering and Technical staff (Civil & Electrical Graduates) working with the firm along with Attested CVs and their Income Tax Deduction which showing employment with the firm.
v) At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost 80% of the estimate cost of the work (In Last 05 Years).
vi) A least two (02) Similar nature works each having minimum cost 50% of the estimate cost, completed during past Five (05) years duly supported with completion certificate, certified copies of detailed working estimate and SPPRA ID's shown Bid Evaluation Report.
vii) An original and latest undertaking/ Affidavit on Judicial Stamp Paper that the Bidder and its employees have never been blacklisted by any Government, Semi Government, Autonomous or State Owned Organization & their cases regarding black listing are not under trial by any Court of Law. De-listed firm will be allowed.
viii) Each page of the technical proposal must be numbered and attested by the owner of firm / company along- with its stamp.

Mobile Phone will not be allowed in the room of Chairman of Procurement Committee during all tender procedure.

ix) Evaluation Criteria, sub-criteria, for the evaluation of Full Technical Proposals is based on **Yes/No** OR **Pass / Fail**: it a bidder fails to obtain yes or pass in any criteria or sub- criteria then he / it shall not be qualified.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

a) Average annual turnover should be equivalent as Bid Cost, last five years calculated from tax return and audit report.
b) Certificate of Bank showing credit worthiness of at least 15% (average balance per year for the (Last 05 years) of the estimated cost of work along with bank statement must be provided separately of each year starting from 1stJuly to 30thJune for last 5 years and recent bank certificate must be attached showing available balance.
c) Registration with Income Tax Department (NTN Certificate should be attached) and Sindh Revenue Board (SRB Certificate should be attached) supported by copies of Income Tax return receipts of the (Last 05 Years). Must be active tax payer status.
d) Litigation history in which the decision has been given against or in favor of the firm (s). List and give brief details of arbitration / litigation/ court cases if any in case of no such case seen close an affidavit that the firm has not been involved in any litigation arbitration with any Government Departments.
e) Bank Account Statement in the name of the Bidders Firm for the (Last 05 Years) must be submitted with the tender documents.
f) Annual audited reports of (Last 05 Years) from (CAP) registered audit firm. Audit report issued other than (ICAP) registered audit firms will not be accepted.
g) Affidavit to the effect that the all documents/particulars/information furnished are true and correct, if any information found incorrect misleading the Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject the bid.
h) The application shall accompany of tender fee shown against each work for purchase of bidding documents, in favour of the undersigned.
i) The **5% Earnest Money** as mentioned against each bid shall be submitted with technical proposal in the shape of Call Deposit or Pay order only issued from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering (Dev) Division Jamshoro. The CDR must be attached with Technical Proposal.
j) Conditional tenders will summarily be rejected.
k) Advertisement can be seen on SPPRAPPMS website "*https://ppms.pprasindh.gov.pk*".
l) Tender will be opened before the Procurement Committee & undersigned in the presence of contractors are their authorized agents who were present at the time (with authority letter along- with Original CNIC).
m) Tender must be submitted in sealed envelopes by hand, to: Office of the Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering (Dev) Division Jamshoro and clearly marked as Name of Scheme Clearly and also with serial Number.
n) The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all application as per SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended-upto-date).
o) Any information regarding the project can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
p) In case, Government announces any public Holiday on Scheduled dates, the tender will be submitted / opened on the next working day, as per usual schedule in accordance with rule-41(B) of SPPRA 2010 (Amended upto-date)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Under the following conditions bid will be rejected:-

- Conditional Tenders;
- In case of force majeure on submission / opened date and time or if Government declares Holidays, the tender shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bid not accompanied by bid security of required amount & form as above.
- Incomplete tender, overwriting or conditional tender shall not be entertained.
- Bid received after specified date and time
- The bidders providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect Information are liable to be disqualified and for legal action. Procuring agency has to reject such in the light of cause 11.34 (amended 2019)
- Black listed firms.
- In case of present of representative original Authority Letter on Stamp Paper Signed from Owner of Firm is required.

BID VALIDITY PERIOD: 90 days

The procuring agency reserves the right to reject any or all tenders subject to relevant provision of SPP Rules-2010 (amended up to date)

(FAISAL AFTAB)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG: (DEV)
DIVISION JAMSHORO

INF-KRY No: 3305/25

METRO KARACHI



CM Sindh Applauds Brave Forces for Crushing Militants in Mohmand Operation



Karachi: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation in Mohmand, stating that 45 to 50 Khawarij (militants) were eliminated during the operation. He said the ongoing operations against terrorism are progressing rapidly and the time has come to eradicate the menace of terrorism from its roots.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the Pakistan Armed Forces are the true guarantors of the country's security, and that the world recognizes their exceptional capabilities. He expressed hope that a new era of peace and real development is about to dawn in the country. Murad Ali Shah said the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave soldiers, adding, "We will always be proud of our armed forces."—RT

Mayor Murtaza Wahab Takes Parks Battle to Supreme Court Over Commercial Land Use



Karachi: Mayor Murtaza Wahab has approached the Supreme Court seeking permission for the commercial use of parks in Karachi. Along with the Director Parks, the mayor has filed an appeal against the Sindh High Court's decision, which had restricted such activities.

The petition questions whether charging a fee for services on amenity plots constitutes commercial activity, and has requested the Supreme Court to suspend the High Court's ruling.

It is noteworthy that in August, Opposition Leader in the City Council Saifuddin Advocate and nine Town Chairmenfiled a petition in the Sindh High Court against the commercial use of public parks. —RT

Pakistan's Health Coverage Index on the Rise, Says Mustafa Kamal



CAIRO/KARACHI: Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal has said that Pakistan's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Index has shown consistent improvement due to effective policy measures.

Addressing the 72nd Regional Committee Meeting of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, the minister said that the government is taking strong steps to strengthen the healthcare system. Under the National Health Support Programme, a comprehensive package of essential interventions has been prepared for primary and community-level healthcare.

He added that Pakistan has significantly enhanced its preparedness and rapid response capacity in the health sector. The minister also praised the role of partners under the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar for their continued support.—RT/Agency

SBCA Wrecking Crews Move In on Karachi's Crumbling Buildings



Karachi: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has launched an operation against dangerous and dilapidated buildings across Karachi to prevent potential structural disasters.

According to SBCA officials, demolition work is currently underway in Lyari, where two unsafe buildings in the Agra Taj Colony area are being razed. The Director of Demolition stated that one of the structures was a seven-storey building constructed on a 60-square-yard plot, which had already been vacated by the district administration before demolition began.—RT/Agency

Fahim Khan Warns Imran Khan's Detention Spells Danger for Democracy

Karachi: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Senior Vice President and former MNA Fahim Khan has said that the illegal and inhumane detention of PTI founder Imran Khan for over 804 days is a serious violation of human rights and a threat to democracy. He claimed that Imran Khan has been kept in solitary confinement under harsh conditions, with the jail authorities denying him access to his doctor and family despite court orders.

Fahim Khan described the accelerated hearing of the Toshakhana-II case as an act of political revenge, aimed at extending Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi's imprisonment. He added that the lack of action on similar cases involving other political figures exposes double standards in the justice system.

He further said that the oath-taking of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi represents the victory of Imran Khan's ideology and the strengthening of democratic continuity.—RT/Agency

Children's Hospital Staff in Karachi Rise Up Over Months of Unpaid Wages

Karachi: Operations at the Sindh Government Children's Hospital, North Nazimabad, have been disrupted as employees protested over the non-payment of salaries for the past five months.

According to media reports, the hospital has remained partially closed for nearly a month, with only the outpatient department (OPD) functioning to cater to patients. More than 400 staff members, including doctors, nurses, and support staff, have not received their salaries, prompting growing frustration and demonstrations.

Employees have urged the authorities to release their pending payments immediately, warning that prolonged delays could further affect healthcare services. Officials, however, indicated that the revised budget has now been approved, raising hopes that the disbursement of salaries will begin soon.

The situation has underscored the financial and administrative challenges facing government-run healthcare institutions in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Dengue Cases Spike to 175 in Sindh, Karachi Bears the Brunt

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department has released its latest report on confirmed dengue cases across the province, revealing a total of 175 cases recorded so far this month.

Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho said Karachi remains the most affected, with 85 new cases, followed by Hyderabad with 48, Mirpurkhas with 37, and Sukkur with 5 cases.

Since the start of 2025, the total number of dengue cases in Sindh has reached 819, with one fatality reported. Dr. Pechuho stated that the provincial government is taking comprehensive measures to curb the spread of dengue, intensifying anti-dengue campaigns across all divisions, including Karachi.

She added that hospitals have been directed to ensure proper treatment facilities for dengue patients. The Health Department has also appealed to the public to prevent water accumulation in homes, emphasizing that dengue is a preventable disease and community cooperation is key to controlling its spread.—RT/Agency

Mustafa Kamal Salutes Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's Founding Premier



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Health and senior MQM-P leader Syed Mustafa Kamal has paid rich tribute to Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first Prime Minister and a close associate of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on his 74th death anniversary.

In his message, Mustafa Kamal said that Liaquat Ali Khan's life and legacy represent honesty, integrity, and selfless service in Pakistan's political history. He lauded his vital role in the freedom movement and his tireless efforts to strengthen the newly formed state after independence.

Kamal urged the youth to draw inspiration from Liaquat Ali Khan's exemplary leadership and dedication to national service. He emphasized that Pakistan's progress depends on establishing a transparent, honest, and stable governance system inspired by the founding leaders' vision.—RT/Agency

Stephen Khokhar Sworn In as UC-10 Manghopir Vice Chairman Amid Cheers

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: The newly elected Vice Chairman of Union Committee No. 10, Manghopir Town, Stephen Khokhar, formally took the oath of office in a dignified ceremony administered by Returning Officer and Assistant Commissioner Ijaz Ali Halipota.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a Naat and prayers for the late Agha Siraj Durrani and Mahmood Hussain Mian. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Manghopir Town Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, PPP District West leadership, councilors, and social figures.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Brohi said UC-10's victory reaffirmed the people's faith in Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the PPP's vision of service and development. He vowed to address key civic issues, including sanitation, sewerage, and road repairs.

Vice Chairman Khokhar pledged to serve residents with dedication and make UC-10 a model union committee through collective efforts and public-oriented development.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Urges Youth to Step Into Local Government Leadership



By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad stated that Pakistan People's Party is committed to empowering youth at all levels, viewing them as the nation's valuable asset. Speaking at an awareness program on local government with students from Karachi University, Habib University, and MITI, he stressed youth leadership as a top priority. The program included detailed briefings on city departments and field visits. Salman assured continued educational initiatives to help youth understand and actively participate in local governance.

Sindh Minister Shaheena Sher Ali Persuades Hesitant Parents in Malir Polio Drive



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Women Development Shaheena Ali and Deputy Commissioner Malir Saleemullah Odho visited UC Muzaffarabad, Malir to review the performance of the ongoing polio campaign. During the visit, the minister personally met with parents who had initially refused polio vaccination for their children. After detailed awareness on the dangers of polio, the parents agreed, and their children were vaccinated. The parents pledged to cooperate in all future campaigns. Both officials expressed satisfaction with the team's efforts.

Gold Prices Shoot Up by Rs1,900, Markets React in Shock



KARACHI: Gold prices in Pakistan rose sharply on Wednesday, increasing by Rs1,900 per tola.

According to the All Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of 24-karat gold surged to Rs442,800 per tola after a rise of Rs1,900, while the rate for 10 grams of gold increased by Rs1,629 to reach Rs379,629.—RT/Agency

Karachi Parched as Massive Water Lines Undergo Emergency Repairs

KARACHI: The Karachi water supply has been severely disrupted as repair work continues on major pipelines and pumping stations across the city.

According to a spokesperson for the Karachi Water Corporation, maintenance work is underway on the 11K line connected to the North East Pumping Station, where leakage occurred in a 48-inch main pipeline.

Due to this, three pumps supplying water to the city have been shut down temporarily, while one pump at the Dhabeji Pumping Station has also been halted for repairs, further affecting the Karachi water supply network.

Areas including Scheme 33, Safora, North Nazimabad, Gulberg, Liaquatabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, and Federal B. Area are among the worst-hit, facing a critical shortage in the Karachi water supply.

The spokesperson confirmed that the suspension of main lines has also paralyzed the water tanker service, worsening the city's ongoing crisis. "Due to repair work, around 150 million gallons per day (MGD) of Karachi water supply has been cut off temporarily," the spokesperson said.—RT/Agency

Motorbike Snatching Victim Stages Dramatic Protest at Karachi Press Club

By Fida Hussain Panhwar



KARACHI: Armed robbers snatched a motorcycle from Irfan Soomro near Bilawal Shah Noorani in Sachal after he dropped his children at school. The victim protested at the District East Press Club, demanding action against Sachal Police. He urged DIG Sindh East to address the worsening law and order situation and police negligence in the area.

Young Man Dies After Taking Toxic Medicine at Karachi Clinic

KARACHI: A 22-year-old youth died after reportedly consuming a poisonous medicine at a clinic in Karachi's New Karachi area.

According to media reports, the incident occurred at a clinic located in Noor Khan Goth, New Karachi, where the victim, identified as Mujahid, allegedly ingested a toxic substance.

Police said an investigation has been launched to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.—RT/Agency

Bulldozers Roll Into Afghan Settlement Near Northern Bypass

Karachi: Police have launched a major demolition operation at an Afghan settlement near the Northern Bypass to reclaim government land, officials confirmed on Wednesday.

According to authorities, heavy machinery is being used to demolish illegal structures, and so far, around 350 houses have been razed. The operation aims to reclaim more than 200 acres of land worth billions of rupees.

Law enforcement agencies, including Sindh Rangers, police, and MDA officials, are present at the site to maintain order amid tense conditions. Officials said that once the area is cleared, the recovered land will be handed over to the Malir Development Authority (MDA). Security remains tight as the large-scale anti-encroachment drive continues, part of an ongoing effort to remove illegal settlements and reclaim government-owned land around Karachi.—RT/Agency

Religious Groups, Civil Society, Traders Unite to Reject Strike Call

Karachi: Religious parties, civil society representatives, and the business community have rejected the strike call given for Friday.

President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, termed violent protests and unnecessary strikes as inappropriate, saying that unjustified objections to government policies and acts of vandalism are anti-people and cause severe economic losses. He added that the business community would not take part in any strike.

Trader Umer Butt also announced that all business activities will continue as usual tomorrow. Meanwhile, Hafiz Ameer Hamza stated that after defeating India, Pakistan has emerged as a rising power, which India cannot tolerate.

The leaders urged citizens to maintain peace and stability, emphasizing that progress and development can only be achieved through dialogue and constructive engagement rather than disruption.—RT/Agency

Karachi Hosts Workshop on Battling Food and Healthcare Crimes

By Rahib Gaho



Karachi: A one-day awareness and training workshop on "Investigation of Healthcare and Food Crimes" was held at the Sindh Police Museum Auditorium, Karachi. Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho attended as chief guest. Organized to enhance collaboration between law enforcement and regulatory bodies, the event was attended by officials from the Sindh Healthcare Commission, DRAP, Sindh Food Authority, Sindh Pharma Council, and the judiciary.

Speakers emphasized the need for scientific methods and inter-agency cooperation to combat crimes such as counterfeit medicines, adulterated food, and substandard health products, which pose serious risks to public health. Odho highlighted the importance of modern training for police officers in identifying and investigating such crimes.

Shields were distributed at the end, with participants appreciating the initiative as a positive step towards public welfareand effective crime prevention in the healthcare and food sectors.

Malaria Outbreak Intensifies in Karachi With Over 3,000 Cases This Year



Karachi: More than 3,000 malaria cases have been reported in Karachi in the first ten months of 2025, according to data released by the Sindh Health Department.

The Vector Borne Disease (VBD) Control Programme in Hyderabad confirmed that 3,072 cases were detected out of 84,452 individuals screened from January 1 to October 15.

Despite the surge in cases, no malaria-related deaths have been reported across Sindh, said Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho.

She reaffirmed the government's commitment to eradicating malaria and controlling other vector-borne diseases, stating that all available resources are being utilized to tackle the threat.—RT/Agency

Kindness is always fashionable.

—Unknown

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 2025

Finance Minister Aurangzeb Briefs Saudi Counterpart On PIA And Airport Sell-Off Plans



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb met his Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al-Jadaan in Washington, DC and briefed him on the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and key airports, said the finance ministry in a statement on Thursday.

The finance ministry said that the meeting between Aurangzeb and his Saudi counterpart took place on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington, DC.

Pakistan is moving ahead with plans to privatise its heavily indebted national carrier in an effort to raise funds and overhaul loss-making state-owned enterprises under the terms of its $7 billion programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Officials, in a recent briefing, told the Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation that the sale of PIA is expected to be completed by November 2025.

During the meeting today, both sides reviewed the growing trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The finance czar also underscored the government's commitment to ensuring transparency and efficiency in the privatisation process."The minister highlighted Pakistan's resolve to attract strategic foreign investment through structural reforms and improved governance in state-owned enterprises," the statement added.

Aurangzeb also sought Saudi support for infrastructure development projects, emphasising Pakistan's commitment to fostering a deeper economic partnership with the kingdom.The two ministers agreed that institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) could play a vital role in mobilising private sector investments in Pakistan," it added.This week, Aurangzeb also met Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), and reaffirmed the strategic partnership between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.A high-level business delegation from Saudi Arabia had visited Pakistan this month, where it signed multiple MoUs

The delegation, during its Karachi visit, signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).The first MoU was signed for the sale and purchase of shares in KES Power Ltd. The second MoU was signed between K-Electric Limited and Trident Energy Ltd to explore strategic cooperation and investment opportunities in Pakistan's power sector. The visit came after Islamabad and Riyadh signed a "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" on September 17, pledging that any attack on either nation would be treated as an act of aggression against both.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Freezes Afghan Cargo Movement After Deadly Border Clashes

By Fida Hussain Panhwar



KARACHI: Amid ongoing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan owing to violent border clashes, Islamabad has suspended cargo transport under the Afghan Transit Trade from Karachi ports, The News reported on Thursday.

Following the directives issued by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), all port terminals have begun offloading containers already loaded onto vehicles.

The decision to suspend the Afghan Transit Trade, made during a meeting at the Directorate of Transit Trade Headquarters, Customs House Karachi under chairmanship of Afghan Transit Trade Director General (DG) comes amid heightened tensions between the two neighbours.

Both countries have been engaged in fierce border clashes in recent days first triggered after Pakistani forces acted in self-defence while responding to unprovoked overnight attack by the Taliban forces and India-backed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) alias Fitna al-Khawarij last week.

The skirmishes saw Pakistan carrying out "precision fires and strikes, as well as physical raids against Taliban camps and posts, terrorist training facilities and support networks operating from Afghan territory" resulting in the elimination of more than 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated terrorists.

The fighting once again erupted this week, prompting Pakistan to carry out precision strikes against key Taliban positions in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

The two sides, since then, agreed to a temporary 48-hour ceasefire on the request of the Afghan Taliban regime on Wednesday.

Qatar And Allies Mediating To Defuse Pak-Afghan Tensions, Says Prime Minister



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan was attacked from Afghan soil on India's behalf, warning that Islamabad's patience over repeated terrorist incidents has run out.

The premier made the remarks during an address to the federal cabinet in which he outlined Pakistan's firm stance on regional security, terrorism, and the future of Pak-Afghan relations. During the meeting, the government reviewed national and international affairs, and ongoing administrative reforms.

The prime minister took the cabinet into confidence regarding his foreign visits, recent diplomatic engagements, and Pakistan's achievements at the international level. Cabinet members were briefed on the current regional situation, including security developments in neighbouring countries.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan was "forced to respond" after persistent provocations, making it clear that the "ball is now in Afghanistan's court." He categorically stated that Pakistan would not accept a ceasefire merely as a delay tactic, emphasizing that the Afghan Taliban must take concrete steps to ensure a permanent ceasefire.

"Ceasefire cannot be used to pass time. The Afghan Taliban will have to act decisively if they are serious about peace," the prime minister asserted.

Call for complete elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij

The PM stressed that the Fitna al-Khawarij must be completely eliminated. He said the government and armed forces are united in their determination to eradicate the group and restore long-term peace in the border regions.—RT/Agency

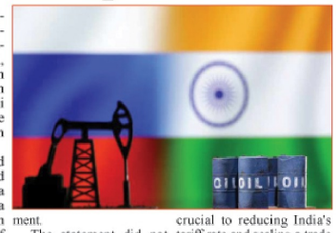
Security Officer Protecting Polio Team Gunned Down In Balochistan Attack



BALOCHISTAN: A Balochistan Constabulary officer, deployed for the protection of an anti-polio vaccination team, was shot dead in Balochistan's Surab district, Levies officials confirmed on Thursday.

In a statement, the Levies authorities said that the constabulary personnel were travelling from Qalat to Khuzdar after completing their duties for the anti-polio campaign when unidentified assailants opened fire.The officials said that the officers retaliated, resulting in the killing of one attacker during the exchange of fire.Law enforcement personnel later cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace other suspects involved in the attack.Pakistan is one of two countries, along with Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Hundreds of security personnel and health workers were killed by miscreants over the past decade.This was the third security officer who was gunned down during the ongoing nationwide anti-polio campaign targeting 45 million children across the country.—RT/Agency

Indian Refiners Brace To Cut Russian Oil Imports Amid Trump Pressure



DELHI: Some Indian refiners are preparing to cut Russian oil imports, with expectations of a gradual reduction, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, with the US pressuring New Delhi to stop buying Russian crude to help end the war in Ukraine.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured that India will stop buying oil from Russia, India's top source of imported oil.

India said on Thursday the country's two main goals were to ensure stable energy prices and secure supply.

"It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective," the foreign ministry statement said in a statement.

The statement did not refer to Trump's comment about India's purchases of Russian oil.

Trade-off against steep tariffs

Indian officials are in Washington for trade talks, with the the US having doubled tariffs on Indian goods to pressure New Delhi to reduce Russian oil imports. US negotiators have said curbing those purchases would be crucial to reducing India's tariff rate and sealing a trade deal.

India and China are the two top buyers of Russian seaborne crude exports, taking advantage of the discounted prices Russia has been forced to accept after European buyers shunned purchases and the US and the European Union imposed sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.—RT/Agency

CJCSC Shamshad Reiterates Pakistan's Unwavering Pledge To Regional Peace



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to promoting regional peace, stability, and balanced diplomacy.

He made the affirmation while addressing the closing ceremony of the Islamabad Symposium 2025 at NUST.

Speaking as the chief guest, General Mirza highlighted Pakistan's active and constructive role in maintaining peace and promoting understanding between the Global North and South through dialogue, dignity, and principled diplomacy.

He urged the replacement of confrontation with cooperation, noting that Pakistan's foreign outlook is guided by a vision of coexistence rooted in mutual respect and international law.

The CJCSC also reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for the just and peaceful resolution of long-standing disputes, including those of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir.

The event, organised by the National Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) at NUST, was attended by diplomats, academics, bureaucrats, business leaders, and students from leading universities.—RT/Agency

Govt Top Brass Vows Crackdown To Choke Miscreant Networks Nationwide



ISLAMABAD: The federal government has resolved not to permit any individual or group to spread unrest or chaos in the country and tighten noose around the miscreants.

The decision came during a key meeting on Thursday at the Ministry of Interior, convened to assess the current law and order situation. Those present included Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Sardar Yousuf, Attaullah Tarar, and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry.

The meeting underscored that the security and protection of the public will be ensured under all circumstances.

It was agreed that no one will be allowed to create disorder or instability.

Subsequently, speaking to media following the meeting, Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said that in Sharm El-Sheikh, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received thanks for his support, said Atta Tarar.He said that the Palestinian president did not weep with joy over the ceasefire.—RT/Agency

French PM Survives Twin No-Confidence Votes After Pension Concession



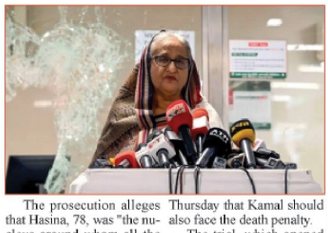
FRANCE: French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu survived two no-confidence votes in parliament on Thursday, winning crucial backing from the Socialist Party thanks to his pledge to suspend President Emmanuel Macron's contested pension reform.

The two motions presented by the hard-left France Unbowed and the far-right National Rally (RN) secured just 271 and 144 votes respectively — well short of the 289 votes needed to bring down Lecornu's days-old government.Lecornu's offer to mothball the pension reform until after the 2027 presidential election helped sway the Socialists, giving the government a lifeline in the deeply fragmented National Assembly.

Despite the reprieve, the motions underscored the fragility of Macron's administration midway through his final term."A majority cobbled together through horse-trading managed today to save their positions, at the expense of the national interest," RN party president Jordan Bardella wrote on X.The French bond market remained steady after the back-to-back votes, with the government victory widely expected by investors.

Lecornu faces arduous budget negotiations By putting the pension reform on the chopping block, Lecornu threatens to kill off one of Macron's main economic legacies at a time when France's public finances are in a perilous state, leaving the president with little in the way of domestic achievements after eight years in office.—RT/Agency

Bangladesh Prosecutors Demand Death For Ex-Premier Sheikh Hasina



DHAKA: Bangladeshi prosecution lawyers demanded on Thursday that fugitive ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina receive the death penalty in her trial for crimes against humanity.

Hasina has defied court orders to return from India, where she fled last year, to face charges of ordering a deadly crackdown in a failed attempt to crush a student-led uprising.

Up to 1,400 people were killed in the clashes between July and August 2024, according to the United Nations.

"We demand the highest punishment for her," chief prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters outside court.

"For a single murder, one death penalty is the rule. For 1,400 murders, she should be sentenced 1,400 times — but since that is not humanly possible, we demand at least one."

The prosecution alleges that Hasina, 78, was "the nucleus around whom all the crimes committed during the July-August uprising revolved".

She is being tried in absentia alongside two former senior officials.

Her ex-interior minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, is also a fugitive, while former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun is in custody and has pleaded guilty.

The prosecution said on Thursday that Kamal should also face the death penalty.

The trial, which opened on June 1, has heard months of testimony alleging Hasina's role in ordering or failing to prevent mass killings.

"Her goal was to cling to power permanently — for herself and her family," Islam said.

"She has turned into a hardened criminal, and shows no remorse for the brutality she has committed."—RT/Agency

PPP Leaders Clash Over Punjab Power-Sharing Formula In Meeting With Dar



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) delegation has raised concerns over the non-implementation of the power-sharing formula in Punjab.

According to details surfaced on Thursday, the PPP's leadership met Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and agreed to maintain contact with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Moreover, the PPP delegation informed the government team of its concerns regarding Punjab, the sources said. Concerns were expressed over legislation relating to local government elections in Punjab.

The PPP delegation said it was regrettable that no consultation had taken place despite being allies.Furthermore, the deputy prime minister assured the delegation he would convey the concerns to the party leadership, sources said.—RT/Agency

Prime Minister Calls For Global Unity To Tackle Looming Food Security Crisis



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in his message on World Food Day, emphasized the importance of food as a basic human necessity and called for coordinated global and national efforts to ensure food security.

He stated that the prosperity of farmers and agricultural development are fundamental to food availability, but climate change, unpredictable crop patterns, and floods are worsening food shortages and farmers' economic challenges.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is utilizing all available resources and adopting effective strategies to tackle these challenges but noted that global collaboration remains essential for sustainable food security.—RT/Agency

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