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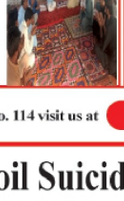
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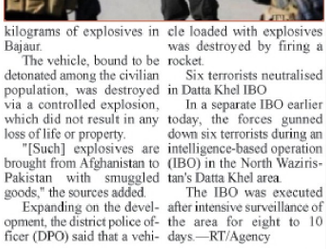


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KARACHI: Edition Vol. XVI No 274 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Saturday, October 18, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 24, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

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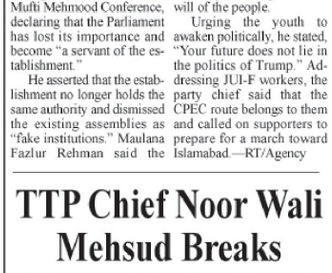
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Sources have indicated that no final decision has been made regarding the inclusion of any minister in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet. The rejection of the advisory council is aimed at fully empowering Sohail Afridi and Alia Hamza.

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Pakistan has not officially owned the airstrike, the first in Kabul since the successful 2022 US targeting of Al Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

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He has revived the group, transformed its strategy, and united warring factions with diplomatic skill, analysts say. Trained as a religious scholar, he also took up an ideological battle.

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Asif also addressed Pakistan's stance on Afghanistan, saying past ambiguities have been resolved and stressing the need to differentiate between allies and adversaries amid rising cross-border tensions.

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The spokesperson said Taliban forces and terrorist hideouts under their use suffered significant losses. "Our retaliatory action was against terrorist elements, not civilians," he stated, adding that a 48-hour ceasefire was enforced from 6pm on October 15 at the Taliban's request.

Khan said both countries are engaged in constructive talks for a peaceful resolution. Pakistan expects the Taliban government to take concrete action against terrorist elements and ensure Afghan soil is not used for terrorism, in line with its commitments.

He further added that Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and seeks dialogue and cooperation to address the shared challenge of terrorism.

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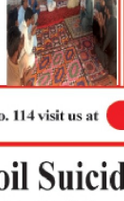
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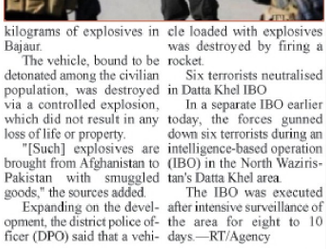


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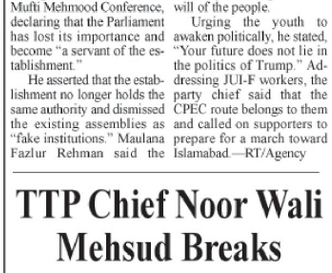
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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



DC Naveed Rehman Larik Chairs Key Umerkot Meeting to Fast-Track District Coordination

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik chaired a meeting of the District Coordination Committee to review implementation of decisions made by federal and provincial apex committees. Officials from various departments, including security agencies, discussed development and security measures. DC stressed timely and effective fulfillment of departmental responsibilities, action against illegal encroachments, unlicensed petrol pumps, and firecracker storage. Departments also presented performance reports.

LUMHS Hosts Two-Day Pediatric Summit Pioneering Breakthroughs in Child Health



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) organized a two-day Paediatric Conference themed "Defining Boundaries Among General & Speciality Paediatric Care." Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan inaugurated the event, commending the initiative for promoting collaboration among experts and young doctors. Held in Jamshoro and Hyderabad, the conference featured sessions on paediatric subspecialties, with speakers from major institutions. Organizing Chair Prof. Dr. Shazia Memon stressed integrated care and stakeholder collaboration.

Commissioner Sukkur's Surprise Visit Exposes Civil Hospital's Flaws, Vows Swift Action

By Absar Alvi



SUKKUR: Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Abid Saleem Qureshi, paid a surprise visit to Civil Hospital Sukkur to review medical services. He visited various departments, interacted with patients, and urged hospital staff to improve healthcare facilities. He met protesting house job doctors and assured them their pending stipends would be resolved within days. Commissioner also inspected the MRI and CT scan units, confirmed operational. Additional MS Dr. Altaf Awan briefed him on patient loads, staff shortages, and budgetary issues. The Commissioner assured that all concerns would be forwarded to the Sindh Health Department for immediate resolution to ensure better public healthcare delivery.

Deaf Woman Marries Rescuer After Conversion, Seeks Police Protection Amid Sujawal Threats

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh



KADHAN: Huma Kolhi, a deaf woman from Jhok Sharif, married her rescuer Ghulam Hussain Lojo after converting to Islam and adopting the name Khadija Lojo. The couple protested outside Badin alleging relatives Hero Kolhi, Rupo, Siwoji, Sobho Kolhi, and supporters Yousif Lashari, Zaman Lashari threaten them with violence and false cases. They urged IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and Badin and Sajawal SSPs to provide protection and action.

Sindh Farmers Squeezed as Loan Sharks Hike Prices of Vital Agricultural Inputs

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: Farmers across Sindh are facing severe economic pressure due to the skyrocketing prices of agricultural inputs sold by loan-based vendors. Fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides are being sold at nearly double or triple their official prices. For example, a fertilizer bag costing Rs 4,200-4,400 is sold on loan for Rs 6,000, while DAP fertilizer is being sold for up to Rs 17,000 per bag. Granular pesticides and spray bottles also face similar price hikes. Due to unregulated markets and the absence of oversight, farmers are forced to buy these essentials from black-market dealers, pushing them into debt.

Hyderabad's Agriculture Office Declared Unsafe, Crumbling Building Puts Staff at Risk

By Javed Samejo

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REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



DC Naveed Rehman Larik Chairs Key Umerkot Meeting to Fast-Track District Coordination

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik chaired a meeting of the District Coordination Committee to review implementation of decisions made by federal and provincial apex committees. Officials from various departments, including security agencies, discussed development and security measures. DC stressed timely and effective fulfillment of departmental responsibilities, action against illegal encroachments, unlicensed petrol pumps, and firecracker storage. Departments also presented performance reports.

LUMHS Hosts Two-Day Pediatric Summit Pioneering Breakthroughs in Child Health



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) organized a two-day Paediatric Conference themed "Defining Boundaries Among General & Speciality Paediatric Care." Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan inaugurated the event, commending the initiative for promoting collaboration among experts and young doctors. Held in Jamshoro and Hyderabad, the conference featured sessions on paediatric subspecialties, with speakers from major institutions. Organizing Chair Prof. Dr. Shazia Memon stressed integrated care and stakeholder collaboration.

Commissioner Sukkur's Surprise Visit Exposes Civil Hospital's Flaws, Vows Swift Action

By Absar Alvi



SUKKUR: Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Abid Saleem Qureshi, paid a surprise visit to Civil Hospital Sukkur to review medical services. He visited various departments, interacted with patients, and urged hospital staff to improve healthcare facilities. He met protesting house job doctors and assured them their pending stipends would be resolved within days. Commissioner also inspected the MRI and CT scan units, confirmed operational. Additional MS Dr. Altaf Awan briefed him on patient loads, staff shortages, and budgetary issues. The Commissioner assured that all concerns would be forwarded to the Sindh Health Department for immediate resolution to ensure better public healthcare delivery.

Deaf Woman Marries Rescuer After Conversion, Seeks Police Protection Amid Sujawal Threats

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh



KADHAN: Huma Kolhi, a deaf woman from Jhok Sharif, married her rescuer Ghulam Hussain Lojo after converting to Islam and adopting the name Khadija Lojo. The couple protested outside Badin alleging relatives Hero Kolhi, Rupo, Siwoji, Sobho Kolhi, and supporters Yousif Lashari, Zaman Lashari threaten them with violence and false cases. They urged IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and Badin and Sajawal SSPs to provide protection and action.

Sindh Farmers Squeezed as Loan Sharks Hike Prices of Vital Agricultural Inputs

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: Farmers across Sindh are facing severe economic pressure due to the skyrocketing prices of agricultural inputs sold by loan-based vendors. Fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides are being sold at nearly double or triple their official prices. For example, a fertilizer bag costing Rs 4,200-4,400 is sold on loan for Rs 6,000, while DAP fertilizer is being sold for up to Rs 17,000 per bag. Granular pesticides and spray bottles also face similar price hikes. Due to unregulated markets and the absence of oversight, farmers are forced to buy these essentials from black-market dealers, pushing them into debt.

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Parliament Firestorm: Lawmakers Clash Over Loan Deals, Mega Project Failures, and Flood Funds

ISLAMABAD: In its 10th meeting, the National Assembly's Economic Affairs Committee, led by Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, slammed a costly 6% loan from the Islamic Development Bank when Korea offered 0.1% over 50 years. Members also raised alarm over unchecked riverbank construction worsening flood damage. The Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor project drew fire for ballooning costs—from $288M to $1.085B. Despite concerns, MPs urged its inclusion in the PSDP, citing its trade impact. Flood relief efforts and PM-approved compensation for 2025 monsoon victims were also reviewed.—RT/Agency

World Bank Hails Pakistan's FBR as Global Model for Tax Reforms



ISLAMABAD: The World Bank invited Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to present its transformation efforts as a global case study in public sector reform at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's ambitious tax system overhaul, emphasizing its homegrown, comprehensive reform plan, backed by the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Senior officials, including FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, attended the prestigious meeting to showcase the success.—RT

Terrorist Attack Foiled in Bannu: Explosive Rickshaw Blown Up by Police



KP: In Bannu, police thwarted a terror attack on Friday night when terrorists attempted to ram an explosive-laden rickshaw into a police check post. The Muzanga checkpost in Hawiadki was targeted, but police fired at the rickshaw after the driver refused to stop. The explosion that followed was heard miles away, preventing potential devastation. Authorities warned that if the rickshaw had hit its target, it would have caused severe damage. Meanwhile, security forces have killed 94 militants in recent operations in North Waziristan.—RT

Strong Earthquake Jolts KP and Islamabad, No Major Damage Reported

ISLAMABAD: Strong earthquake tremors were felt across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad on Thursday evening, causing panic among residents who rushed out of their homes and offices.

According to the Seismological Center, the earthquake measured 5.6 on the Richter scale with a depth of 120 kilometers. The epicenter of the quake was located in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, a seismically active area known for frequent tremors.

Tremors were strongly felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Swat, Buner, Batkhela, and Chitral, as well as several other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—RT/Agency

Met Office Quashes 'Extreme Winter' Rumors, Predicts Normal Season Ahead

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has dismissed reports predicting an "extremely cold" winter this year, clarifying that such claims lack any scientific basis.

According to the PMD, rainfall across the country from December to February is expected to remain normal or slightly below normal, with some regions likely to experience brief cold waves due to the passage of western disturbances.

The department emphasized that there is no scientific evidence to suggest an unusually harsh or record-breaking winter across Pakistan. Officials noted that while short-term temperature drops may occur in certain areas, overall winter conditions are expected to remain within the usual climatic range.

The PMD urged the public to rely on official forecasts rather than unverified social media reports and assured that regular weather updates will continue to be issued throughout the winter season.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh on Red Alert as Dengue and Malaria Spiral – Dr. Azra Pechuho Leads Emergency Offensive



KARACHI: On Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho's orders, Sindh launched an emergency anti-dengue and malaria campaign after 200,000+ malaria and 819 dengue cases were reported this year. The Health Department has directed all districts to intensify fogging, larvicidal operations, and awareness drives. Lady Health Workers are conducting door-to-door outreach, while banners and pamphlets flood public spaces. Dr. Pechuho stressed public cooperation is vital, calling dengue "preventable through hygiene and vigilance." Health teams are working round-the-clock, and mosquito-breeding sites are being eliminated with help from local governments.—RT

92,000 Lives at Risk: Experts Demand National Cancer Registry and Mass Screening in Pink October Drive



KARACHI: At an NFEH seminar marking Pink October, experts revealed Pakistan sees 92,000 breast cancer cases annually—many unreported due to lack of rural data. Speakers urged urgent mass screening, a national cancer registry, and emergency upgrades to public hospitals. With a 50% mortality rate, early detection is key. Doctors highlighted rising cases among young women and the lack of affordable treatment. Survivors, psychologists, and activists called for awareness, emotional support, and lifestyle changes to fight breast cancer—Pakistan's deadliest cancer for women.—RT

Gas Bill Storm Rocks Karachi: Traders Issue Tough Ultimatum to Government Over Soaring Rates

KARACHI: Karachi's business community erupted in protest against skyrocketing gas bills, issuing a stern ultimatum to the government: resolve the crisis by October 20 or face serious consequences. Traders warned that failure to act will result in extreme measures, including refusal to pay bills, industrial shutdowns, and legal action. They expressed deep frustration over the unbearable economic burden, saying soaring energy costs are strangling businesses. The traders demanded immediate relief in energy tariffs and steps to ease financial pressure. If the government continues to ignore their plea, they vow to escalate their movement, potentially disrupting commercial activity across the city. The clock is ticking, and tensions are rising in Pakistan's economic hub.—RT

Karachi Heist Shock: Parrot Trick Used in Daring Apartment Robbery

KARACHI: In a bizarre theft in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar, a young man tricked an elderly resident to steal a mobile phone. Claiming his parrot had flown into the man's flat, he asked to retrieve it from the gallery. Once allowed in, he pretended to spot the bird above and said he'd scare it down from the roof, asking the resident to keep watch. The man left — and never came back. After a long wait, the family grew suspicious. Upon checking, they found the mobile phone missing from the lounge table. The "parrot rescuer" had vanished — with their phone!

Sindh Government Declares Diwali Holidays for Hindu Employees



KARACHI: The Sindh government has declared a two-day holiday on October 20 and 21 for Hindu employees in government and municipal institutions to celebrate Diwali. A notification issued by the Services, General Administration, and Coordination Department confirms that only Hindu staff will avail of the holiday. Hindu employees in universities, colleges, and schools with exams on these dates have been advised to reschedule them.—RT

Pakistan-Africa Trade Conference Kicks Off in Addis Ababa, Uniting Nations for Economic Growth



ETHIOPIA: The 5th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference and Made in Pakistan Exhibition opened today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together over 100 Pakistani exporters and African business leaders. This three-day event fosters trade, investment, and cooperation, particularly between Pakistan and East Africa. Keynotes from ambassadors highlighted the growing bilateral ties, emphasizing Ethiopia's role as a gateway to Africa. The conference features B2B matchmaking, sectoral presentations, and discussions to unlock opportunities in textiles, pharma, and agri-products, promoting shared prosperity.--RT

UAE's International Holding Acquires 85% Stake in Pakistan's First Women Bank

ISLAMABAD: The UAE's International Holding Company (IHC) has finalized a deal to acquire 85% of First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) in Pakistan for $14.6 million. FWBL, founded in 1989 and 82.64% owned by Pakistan's government, is undergoing this deal under the Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions Act, 2022. The UAE government seeks to expand its investment portfolio in Pakistan through this significant acquisition.—RT

PM Shehbaz Shares Lighter Moment, Expresses Wish to Taste Karachi's Famous Nihari

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his desire to enjoy Karachi's famous nihari and haleem during a meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and an MQM-P delegation in Islamabad.

Governor Tessori, responding humorously, invited the Prime Minister to visit Karachi and taste the city's renowned nihari together. During the meeting, the Governor congratulated the Prime Minister on his participation in the peace accord held in Egypt. The MQM-P delegation accompanying the Governor included Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Dr. Farooq Sattar, Aminul Haque, and other senior members.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Toba Tek Singh Goes Green with Plastic Ban and Smart Waste Management Plan

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The district administration has intensified efforts to protect the environment by banning plastic bags thinner than 75 microns and single-use plastics. So far, 1,236 inspections and 266 notices have been issued, with 6,116 kg of banned plastic confiscated. Under the Smart Waste Management Program, five-color dustbins will be placed in schools, which are registering as "Punjab Green Schools." Shopping malls will become "Shopper-Free Zones" to encourage eco-friendly bags.

Gujranwala Police Bust 'Boot Robber' Duo, Recover Cash and Weapons

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Jinnah Road police arrested two suspects linked to Ali Hamza, aka Boot Robber gang. Authorities recovered Rs 2.69 lakh in cash and illegal weapons from them. The arrests, led by SP Civil Line Imran Khan and SDPO Satellite Town Mahmuda Lahsan Rana, were made using modern technology and CCTV footage. The suspects admitted to multiple robberies across the district. City Police Officer Muhammad Ayaz Saleem emphasized strict action against criminals to protect citizens' life and property. Investigations continue.

Excellence Evening Coaching Toba Campus Marks Milestone Year with Grand Celebration

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Excellence Evening Coaching (Toba Tek Singh Campus) marked its first anniversary with a grand celebration attended by educators, parents, and students. Chief Guest Prof. Haq Nawaz Danish praised the institution's discipline and academic standards. Principal Shehzad Waria credited the milestone to students' commitment, teachers' dedication, and parental trust. Pre-9th classes are set to begin on October 20, continuing the institution's journey of academic excellence.

Toba Tek Singh Honors 92nd Birthday of Veteran Leader Chaudhary Muhammad Ashraf Jora

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: A heartfelt ceremony was held to celebrate the 92nd birthday of Chaudhary Muhammad Ashraf Jora, a respected public servant and former Chairman District Council. The event, organized by his grandsons, saw friends and family gather at his residence to offer congratulations, prayers, and best wishes for his health and longevity. The joyful celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony with his grandsons.

Tragedy in Gojra: Man Shot Dead, Son Injured in Feud Over Minor Dispute

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A man was shot dead and his son critically injured in Gojra's Mohalla Rasool Pura during a dispute over livestock passage. According to police, Umar Hayat and his son Haroon were attacked by rivals Zubair and Imran, who opened fire and fled the scene. Umar died at THQ Hospital, while Haroon remains in critical condition. Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend the suspects.

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Gilani emphasized that the entire nation stands in solidarity with its security personnel, whose bravery, discipline, and patriotism symbolize the unity and strength of the country.—RT/Agency

Parliament Firestorm: Lawmakers Clash Over Loan Deals, Mega Project Failures, and Flood Funds

ISLAMABAD: In its 10th meeting, the National Assembly's Economic Affairs Committee, led by Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, slammed a costly 6% loan from the Islamic Development Bank when Korea offered 0.1% over 50 years. Members also raised alarm over unchecked riverbank construction worsening flood damage. The Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor project drew fire for ballooning costs—from $288M to $1.085B. Despite concerns, MPs urged its inclusion in the PSDP, citing its trade impact. Flood relief efforts and PM-approved compensation for 2025 monsoon victims were also reviewed.—RT/Agency

World Bank Hails Pakistan's FBR as Global Model for Tax Reforms



ISLAMABAD: The World Bank invited Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to present its transformation efforts as a global case study in public sector reform at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's ambitious tax system overhaul, emphasizing its homegrown, comprehensive reform plan, backed by the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Senior officials, including FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, attended the prestigious meeting to showcase the success.—RT

Terrorist Attack Foiled in Bannu: Explosive Rickshaw Blown Up by Police



KP: In Bannu, police thwarted a terror attack on Friday night when terrorists attempted to ram an explosive-laden rickshaw into a police check post. The Muzanga checkpost in Hawiadki was targeted, but police fired at the rickshaw after the driver refused to stop. The explosion that followed was heard miles away, preventing potential devastation. Authorities warned that if the rickshaw had hit its target, it would have caused severe damage. Meanwhile, security forces have killed 94 militants in recent operations in North Waziristan.—RT

Strong Earthquake Jolts KP and Islamabad, No Major Damage Reported

ISLAMABAD: Strong earthquake tremors were felt across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad on Thursday evening, causing panic among residents who rushed out of their homes and offices.

According to the Seismological Center, the earthquake measured 5.6 on the Richter scale with a depth of 120 kilometers. The epicenter of the quake was located in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, a seismically active area known for frequent tremors.

Tremors were strongly felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Swat, Buner, Batkhela, and Chitral, as well as several other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—RT/Agency

Met Office Quashes 'Extreme Winter' Rumors, Predicts Normal Season Ahead

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has dismissed reports predicting an "extremely cold" winter this year, clarifying that such claims lack any scientific basis.

According to the PMD, rainfall across the country from December to February is expected to remain normal or slightly below normal, with some regions likely to experience brief cold waves due to the passage of western disturbances.

The department emphasized that there is no scientific evidence to suggest an unusually harsh or record-breaking winter across Pakistan. Officials noted that while short-term temperature drops may occur in certain areas, overall winter conditions are expected to remain within the usual climatic range.

The PMD urged the public to rely on official forecasts rather than unverified social media reports and assured that regular weather updates will continue to be issued throughout the winter season.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh on Red Alert as Dengue and Malaria Spiral – Dr. Azra Pechuho Leads Emergency Offensive



KARACHI: On Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho's orders, Sindh launched an emergency anti-dengue and malaria campaign after 200,000+ malaria and 819 dengue cases were reported this year. The Health Department has directed all districts to intensify fogging, larvicidal operations, and awareness drives. Lady Health Workers are conducting door-to-door outreach, while banners and pamphlets flood public spaces. Dr. Pechuho stressed public cooperation is vital, calling dengue "preventable through hygiene and vigilance." Health teams are working round-the-clock, and mosquito-breeding sites are being eliminated with help from local governments.—RT

92,000 Lives at Risk: Experts Demand National Cancer Registry and Mass Screening in Pink October Drive



KARACHI: At an NFEH seminar marking Pink October, experts revealed Pakistan sees 92,000 breast cancer cases annually—many unreported due to lack of rural data. Speakers urged urgent mass screening, a national cancer registry, and emergency upgrades to public hospitals. With a 50% mortality rate, early detection is key. Doctors highlighted rising cases among young women and the lack of affordable treatment. Survivors, psychologists, and activists called for awareness, emotional support, and lifestyle changes to fight breast cancer—Pakistan's deadliest cancer for women.—RT

Gas Bill Storm Rocks Karachi: Traders Issue Tough Ultimatum to Government Over Soaring Rates

KARACHI: Karachi's business community erupted in protest against skyrocketing gas bills, issuing a stern ultimatum to the government: resolve the crisis by October 20 or face serious consequences. Traders warned that failure to act will result in extreme measures, including refusal to pay bills, industrial shutdowns, and legal action. They expressed deep frustration over the unbearable economic burden, saying soaring energy costs are strangling businesses. The traders demanded immediate relief in energy tariffs and steps to ease financial pressure. If the government continues to ignore their plea, they vow to escalate their movement, potentially disrupting commercial activity across the city. The clock is ticking, and tensions are rising in Pakistan's economic hub.—RT

Karachi Heist Shock: Parrot Trick Used in Daring Apartment Robbery

KARACHI: In a bizarre theft in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar, a young man tricked an elderly resident to steal a mobile phone. Claiming his parrot had flown into the man's flat, he asked to retrieve it from the gallery. Once allowed in, he pretended to spot the bird above and said he'd scare it down from the roof, asking the resident to keep watch. The man left — and never came back. After a long wait, the family grew suspicious. Upon checking, they found the mobile phone missing from the lounge table. The "parrot rescuer" had vanished — with their phone!

Sindh Government Declares Diwali Holidays for Hindu Employees



KARACHI: The Sindh government has declared a two-day holiday on October 20 and 21 for Hindu employees in government and municipal institutions to celebrate Diwali. A notification issued by the Services, General Administration, and Coordination Department confirms that only Hindu staff will avail of the holiday. Hindu employees in universities, colleges, and schools with exams on these dates have been advised to reschedule them.—RT

Pakistan-Africa Trade Conference Kicks Off in Addis Ababa, Uniting Nations for Economic Growth



ETHIOPIA: The 5th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference and Made in Pakistan Exhibition opened today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together over 100 Pakistani exporters and African business leaders. This three-day event fosters trade, investment, and cooperation, particularly between Pakistan and East Africa. Keynotes from ambassadors highlighted the growing bilateral ties, emphasizing Ethiopia's role as a gateway to Africa. The conference features B2B matchmaking, sectoral presentations, and discussions to unlock opportunities in textiles, pharma, and agri-products, promoting shared prosperity.--RT

UAE's International Holding Acquires 85% Stake in Pakistan's First Women Bank

ISLAMABAD: The UAE's International Holding Company (IHC) has finalized a deal to acquire 85% of First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) in Pakistan for $14.6 million. FWBL, founded in 1989 and 82.64% owned by Pakistan's government, is undergoing this deal under the Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions Act, 2022. The UAE government seeks to expand its investment portfolio in Pakistan through this significant acquisition.—RT

PM Shehbaz Shares Lighter Moment, Expresses Wish to Taste Karachi's Famous Nihari

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his desire to enjoy Karachi's famous nihari and haleem during a meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and an MQM-P delegation in Islamabad.

Governor Tessori, responding humorously, invited the Prime Minister to visit Karachi and taste the city's renowned nihari together. During the meeting, the Governor congratulated the Prime Minister on his participation in the peace accord held in Egypt. The MQM-P delegation accompanying the Governor included Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Dr. Farooq Sattar, Aminul Haque, and other senior members.—RT/Agency

Central Punjab

Toba Tek Singh Goes Green with Plastic Ban and Smart Waste Management Plan

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The district administration has intensified efforts to protect the environment by banning plastic bags thinner than 75 microns and single-use plastics. So far, 1,236 inspections and 266 notices have been issued, with 6,116 kg of banned plastic confiscated. Under the Smart Waste Management Program, five-color dustbins will be placed in schools, which are registering as "Punjab Green Schools." Shopping malls will become "Shopper-Free Zones" to encourage eco-friendly bags.

Gujranwala Police Bust 'Boot Robber' Duo, Recover Cash and Weapons

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Jinnah Road police arrested two suspects linked to Ali Hamza, aka Boot Robber gang. Authorities recovered Rs 2.69 lakh in cash and illegal weapons from them. The arrests, led by SP Civil Line Imran Khan and SDPO Satellite Town Mahmuda Lahsan Rana, were made using modern technology and CCTV footage. The suspects admitted to multiple robberies across the district. City Police Officer Muhammad Ayaz Saleem emphasized strict action against criminals to protect citizens' life and property. Investigations continue.

Excellence Evening Coaching Toba Campus Marks Milestone Year with Grand Celebration

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Excellence Evening Coaching (Toba Tek Singh Campus) marked its first anniversary with a grand celebration attended by educators, parents, and students. Chief Guest Prof. Haq Nawaz Danish praised the institution's discipline and academic standards. Principal Shehzad Waria credited the milestone to students' commitment, teachers' dedication, and parental trust. Pre-9th classes are set to begin on October 20, continuing the institution's journey of academic excellence.

Toba Tek Singh Honors 92nd Birthday of Veteran Leader Chaudhary Muhammad Ashraf Jora

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: A heartfelt ceremony was held to celebrate the 92nd birthday of Chaudhary Muhammad Ashraf Jora, a respected public servant and former Chairman District Council. The event, organized by his grandsons, saw friends and family gather at his residence to offer congratulations, prayers, and best wishes for his health and longevity. The joyful celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony with his grandsons.

Tragedy in Gojra: Man Shot Dead, Son Injured in Feud Over Minor Dispute

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A man was shot dead and his son critically injured in Gojra's Mohalla Rasool Pura during a dispute over livestock passage. According to police, Umar Hayat and his son Haroon were attacked by rivals Zubair and Imran, who opened fire and fled the scene. Umar died at THQ Hospital, while Haroon remains in critical condition. Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend the suspects.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL



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

Saturday, October 18, 2025

A Storm of Mosquitoes: Sindh Must Act Fast Before Dengue and Malaria Turn Deadly

With Pakistan already battling economic, social, and climatic challenges, the rapid surge of malaria and dengue in Sindh is a ticking public health time bomb. Over 200,000 malaria cases and nearly 1,000 dengue infections have already been reported this year — alarming figures that demand immediate and sustained action. These are not just seasonal ailments anymore; they are evolving into potential epidemics that could cripple an already burdened healthcare system.

Sindh's Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho has rightly launched a province-wide anti-dengue and malaria drive, mobilizing district health offices, local governments, and Lady Health Workers to combat these vector-borne diseases. Yet, the gravity of the situation calls for much more — this fight must move beyond routine fogging and pamphlet distribution. What is needed now is a full-fledged emergency response, with rigorous fumigation campaigns, proper waste disposal, and a sweeping cleanliness drive across urban and rural Sindh alike.

The REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

Stagnant water, overflowing garbage, and blocked drains remain the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes, especially after floods and rains. Citizens too must realize that fighting dengue and malaria is not solely the government's responsibility. Every household must play its part — from covering water containers to keeping surroundings clean.

The government must intensify awareness through radio, television, and social media, ensuring preventive messages reach even the most remote corners of the province. Time is not on our side — as temperatures and humidity rise, so do the chances of another health catastrophe.

Sindh cannot afford complacency. The fight against these preventable diseases must be swift, coordinated, and relentless — before the hum of mosquitoes becomes the drumbeat of another avoidable disaster.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND









Kazi Asad and Kazi Ashhad Honor Karsaz Martyrs' Unmatched Sacrifice



HYDERABAD: On the 18th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders Kazi Asad Abid and Kazi Ashhad Abbasi paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs, calling their sacrifice the foundation of Pakistan's democracy.

Kazi Asad Abid, former MNA and Federal Council member, said the Bhutto family's legacy and the blood of devoted PPP workers continue to inspire the nation under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership. Kazi Ashhad Abbasi, Opposition Leader in the Hyderabad Cantonment Board, said the martyrs' courage remains eternal in Pakistan's democratic history. —RT

IG Sindh Commends Hyderabad Police for Bold Operation Against Armed Gangs

By Muqeem Keerio



HYDERABAD: Inspector General Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon awarded SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio, SHOs Naik Muhammad Khoso, Waheed Sheikh, Farooq Rahupoto, and their teams with certificates and cash rewards for their outstanding performance. The honor recognized their joint operation with Jamshoro Police following the October 10 murder of Adnan Magsi and vehicle snatching near the M-9 Motorway. Four armed dacoits were killed, and the stolen vehicle recovered. IG Memon praised the professionalism and coordination of Sindh Police, while SSP Chandio credited teamwork and dedication for the success, promising to strengthen public trust further.

Scholars and Followers Remember Mufti Muhammad Rahim Sikandari on His Soyem

By AQ Khilji



PIR JO GOTH: A special prayer ceremony was held on the soyem of the late renowned scholar Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Allama Mufti Muhammad Rahim Sikandari at Khanqah Piraan Pagaraan. Hundreds of students from Jamia Rashdia recited Quranic verses, Darood Sharif, and Qul Khwani to honor his soul. Allama Mufti Dost Ali Sikandari, Khatib of Khanqah Rashdia, led the prayers. Prominent scholars, political and social leaders, and community members attended in large numbers. Mufti Rahim Sikandari was praised for his religious services and simplicity, having taught thousands of students across Sindh. Condolences continue to pour in from local leaders including Faqir Muhammad Ikram and others.

Nawabshah Voter Education Committee Meets to Bolster Electoral Awareness

By Samad Ayaz Dahri



NAWABSHAH: A meeting of the District Voter Education Committee (DVEC) was held under District Election Commissioner Muhammad Yousif Majeedano to discuss voter awareness and registration drives. The committee emphasized increasing registration of women, youth, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. Majeedano highlighted voting as a national trust and urged all departments, social organizations, and media to support the Election Commission's efforts.

Twelve Hepatitis Cases Detected in Sanwan Khan Lund During Medical Camp



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Under the leadership of Dr. Waqar Ahmed Memon, a hepatitis B and C screening camp was organized in Sanwan Khan Lund village. The Tando Bago hospital team tested 110 villagers for hepatitis B and C. Results revealed 8 cases of hepatitis C and 4 cases of hepatitis B. Blood samples were sent to Hyderabad for PCR testing. Following reports, affected patients will receive proper treatment and others were vaccinated for prevention.

Court Hearing for GDA's Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi Deferred to October 30

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: GDA central leader and National People's Party chief Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi appeared before the First Additional & Sessions Judge in Larkana regarding cases registered at Dokri and Badah police stations. Due to the absence of the investigating officer, the hearing was adjourned to October 30. Speaking to media, Jatoi called the cases baseless and politically motivated. He also commented on visible rifts between PML-N and PPP, expressed sorrow over Agha Siraj Durrani's demise, and urged Afghan refugees to return as conditions in Afghanistan have improved.

Livestock Epidemic Ravages Chachro Villages, 16 Goats Reported Dead

By Muhammad Bachal

MITHI: A sudden outbreak of livestock disease has been reported in Chhachhro's surrounding villages, including Bhorelo Dilon Jo Tar, where 16 goats have already died, according to journalist Muhammad Khan Nohri. Locals suspect pneumonia may be the cause as symptoms spread rapidly. Nearby villages such as Khorbi Phalio are also reporting similar deaths. Residents have urged the Sindh government and Livestock Department to immediately send teams for investigation and provide vaccines to prevent further losses.

JSQM Protest in Daulatpur Demands Immediate Expulsion of Afghan Nationals

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Under the leadership of Nazir Dahri, members of JSQM held a protest rally from Court Road to the press club demanding the removal of Afghan nationals living in Sindh. Carrying placards and chanting "Go Afghani Go," speakers including Rashid Otho and Mohammad Ali Palli accused undocumented Afghans of burdening local resources and alleged involvement in arms and drug sales, claims they say justify expulsion. Protesters warned of mass demonstrations if the federal and provincial governments do not act; officials' response is pending.

Hyderabad Food Authority Launches Crackdown on Contaminated Food Vendors

By Javed Samejo



HYDERABAD: Deputy Director Food Authority Hyderabad, Dr. Asad Jahangir announced in a press conference that the Food Authority has conducted 44 operations against restaurants selling substandard food. Fines totaling Rs 2.6 million have been imposed. Surprise inspections at major hotels continue, targeting unhealthy food items. Dr. Jahangir warned hotel management to avoid selling low-quality food or face strict legal action. The authority has also confiscated 10 kg of banned Ajinomoto and plans further action against factories selling unsafe milk and flour, following Sindh government directives for strict enforcement.

World Food Day Seminar in Nawabshah Highlights Hunger, Nutrition, and Safety Gaps

By Samad Ayaz Dahri



NAWABSHAH: A seminar was organized at Govt Elementary Girls School Fatima Jinnah on World Food Day by Principal Madam Naziran Sandh. District Project Coordinator Ramsha, TEO Farzana Memon, DEO Humaira, and Deputy Director BISP Hamiduddin Rashdi attended as special guests. Students performed tableaus and speeches emphasizing healthy and balanced diets. Guests highlighted the importance of nutritious food for a strong body and mind and warned against fast food dangers. Certificates and shields were awarded to outstanding students. The event promoted health awareness among students and the community.

Sanghar Administration Gears Up for Diwali with Security and Civic Preparations

By Khuda Dino Kachhai



SANGHAR: Ahead of Diwali, Deputy Commissioner Sara Javed and SSP Abid Baloch chaired an important meeting at the DC Office Sanghar to review security, sanitation, and other arrangements. Hindu Panchayat representatives, and officers from police, municipal, health, WAPDA, and other departments attended. DC emphasized uninterrupted power, cleanliness, and effective security. Hindu leader Rajesh Kumar Harsadani appreciated support for minorities. A Diwali cake was also cut to promote harmony. Additional DC Abdul Majeed Zaharani and Assistant Commissioners were present.

SAFWCO Marks 39 Years of Service, Renews Pledge for Education and Employment Growth

By GM Chandio



HYDERABAD: Sindh Agriculture & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO) celebrated its 39th anniversary at its Hyderabad head office. Founder and Executive Director Dr. Suleman G Abro highlighted SAFWCO's journey from limited resources to impactful community work. He pledged to intensify efforts in women's employment, bio-product technology in agriculture, rural sanitation, and disaster-resilient housing. MD SAFWCO Microfinance Syed Sajjad Ali Shah honored the late Mrs. Abro's contributions. Deputy Executive Director Zeeshan Memon discussed global challenges' impact on social work. Speakers praised SAFWCO's role in socio-economic upliftment and reaffirmed commitment to its mission.

REGIONAL TIMES
SPORTS



Tsitsipas Admits Career Stalled by Major Mental and Physical Block



Stefanos Tsitsipas has revealed the key issue which is holding back his career as he has failed badly this year.

Tsitsipas, one of the players who agreed to participate in this year's Six Kings Slam, has not ended his 2025 campaign as expected.

The Greek player has won only one trophy, which was of Dubai Tennis Championships, but other than that, he has lost in the first round of the Australian Open, retired during Wimbledon due to a back injury, exited in the second round of the US Open and failed in the quarterfinal of the Six Kings Slam.

Speaking with the media, Tsitsipas opened up on the key issues, which are the biggest wall between him and success, saying he needs a healthy body to be back in the top five and to be at the top of his game again.—Agency

Pakistan's Hockey Team Battles Back to Draw 3-3 with Australia at Sultan of Johor Cup

Pakistan's junior men's hockey team fought back from a two-goal deficit to secure a 3-3 draw against Australia in their final round-robin match at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. Despite being out of the final race, the draw earned Pakistan fourth place with five points. They now face Great Britain in the third-place playoff after a dramatic comeback in the thrilling match.__RT

Ronaldo Tipped for Shock Manchester United Comeback — But in a New Role

Former Manchester United teammate Danny Simpson has backed Cristiano Ronaldo to come back to the club in a different role.

Ronaldo has represented United in two different spells. His first stint was from 2003 to 2009, which was full of achievements and helped him to become one of the best players in the world.

His second experience with United was not as memorable as he was part of the failed campaign and left the club on acrimonious terms.—Agency

Boxing Legacy Continues as Kevin Mitchell's Son Connor Signs Big Matchroom Deal



LONDON: Connor Mitchell, son of British boxing icon Kevin "Mighty" Mitchell, has signed a long-term promotional deal with Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Boxing, becoming the latest exciting addition to the promoter's elite global roster.

According to media reports, the 20-year-old national champion—who boasts two amateur victories—will soon make his professional debut.

The promising super bantamweight, managed by Conor Benn, coached by Lewis Passfield, and advised by Lee Emptage, has his sights firmly set on one day capturing a world title and surpassing his father's legacy.

Mitchell expressed his delight at signing with Matchroom, calling it the fulfilment of a lifelong dream.

"I'm buzzing. I've wanted to do this since I was a kid and sign with Matchroom Boxing, so I'm excited to start things off," said Mitchell. "I started boxing when I was 10 years old for about a year, but I couldn't deal with the pressure of being known as Kevin Mitchell's son.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Humayun Sheikh
About me: I'm a Passionate Gamer, Mastering the Art of Video Battles!
Location: Karachi

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

Kohli and Rohit Poised for Emotional Farewell ODI Series Down Under



MELBOURNE: Australian cricket fans may be witnessing the end of an era, as India's batting icons Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma could be playing their final One Day International (ODI) series when they tour Australia starting Sunday in Perth.

With nearly 600 ODIs between them, the 36-year-old Kohli and 38-year-old Rohit remain active only in the 50-over format, but their future beyond this three-match series remains uncertain.

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir avoided confirming whether the veteran duo would continue under new ODI captain Shubman Gill, who will lead the side for the first time in Australia.

Kohli and Rohit last featured for India during the Champions Trophy final in March, where India triumphed over New Zealand.

If this turns out to be their international swansong, they will bid farewell in front of packed crowds in Perth, Adelaide (October 23), and Sydney (October 25), all expected to be filled with fans from Australia's thriving Indian community.

On the Australian side, several Test regulars including Travis Head, Josh Hazlewood, and Mitchell Starc will use the ODI series to warm up for the upcoming Ashes.

It marks Starc's first international outing of the Australasian summer following his T20I retirement.

Marnus Labuschagne, drafted in as a replacement for the injured Cameron Green, will aim to carry his red-ball form into the limited-overs format to strengthen his case for an Ashes recall.

Labuschagne, dropped for the West Indies Test tour, has since struck back-to-back centuries in the Sheffield Shield for Queensland.

Cricket Australia confirmed on Friday that Green had been ruled out of the series due to "low-grade side soreness" sustained in training and will likely return via Shield cricket.

Regular skipper Pat Cummins also remains sidelined with a back issue, putting his participation in the early stages of the Ashes in doubt.

Australia will additionally miss wicketkeeper Alex Carey and spinner Adam Zampa for the Perth opener, with Josh Philippe taking the gloves and left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann getting a rare ODI opportunity.—Agency

Cricket Icons Unite Behind Radical New 'Test Twenty' Format Shaking Up the Game



Cricket icons AB de Villiers, Sir Clive Lloyd, Matthew Hayden and Harbhajan Singh have thrown their support behind the sport's latest innovation, a fourth format called Test Twenty.

Set to launch next year, the hybrid format aims to bridge traditional and modern cricket styles, targeting youth players aged 13 to 19.

Matches will be played in traditional whites using a red ball, featuring four innings of 20 overs each, all completed in a single day. The format introduces several unique rules to ensure balance between bat and ball.

Each team will have a four-over PowerPlay, and the follow-on rule will apply if the side batting second trails by 75 runs or more after the first innings.

Teams can field a maximum of five bowlers, with each limited to eight overs across the match.

Interestingly, games can conclude in a win, loss, tie, or draw, offering young players the opportunity to experience multiple results within a one-day contest.

De Villiers, Lloyd, Hayden, and Harbhajan are part of the Test Twenty advisory board, which will guide the format's development.

De Villiers expressed excitement about the creative potential of the new setup.

"What excites me most is the real creative freedom that this format brings to the party," he said.

"It lets players completely express themselves but also think differently and take the kind of risks that make cricket so beautiful. Beyond that, it also teaches balance. You need to have the ability to survive across two innings," he added.

Sir Clive Lloyd lauded the blend of entertainment and endurance.

"T20 cricket is an exhibition, and Test cricket is an examination. You're now combining these two things into one. I'm sure it will be a success," said the legendary former West Indies captain.

Harbhajan Singh emphasised the need to engage fans. "It is the crowd that makes any game famous, whether it is cricket, hockey, or even football in Australia," Harbhajan said. "These games are big because crowds get behind them, they endorse them. The best thing we can do is simplify it so that people can understand and connect with it," he added.—Agency

Federal Government Orders High-Level Inquiry into Lifetime Ban on Coach Salman Butt



ISLAMABAD: The federal government has taken notice of the lifetime ban imposed on Olympian Arshad Nadeem's coach, Salman Iqbal Butt, and has ordered a high-level inquiry into the matter.

According to sources, the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has been directed to conduct an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the reasons and motives behind the Athletics Federation of Pakistan's (AFP) controversial decision.

The PSB has also been instructed to submit its findings to the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination upon completion of the inquiry.

The Athletics Federation had earlier imposed a lifetime ban on Salman Butt for allegedly violating the federation's constitution during the Punjab Athletics Association (PAA) elections.

Butt, however, dismissed the allegations as baseless and vindictive, vowing to continue guiding star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem.

The AFP's disciplinary action followed what it described as "wilful, deliberate, and repeated acts of misconduct" by the two officials, who oversaw the PAA elections on August 31 despite explicit instructions to abstain.

The federation stated that the elections were conducted unlawfully, with only a day's notice, violating constitutional requirements related to procedures and timelines.

An inquiry committee was subsequently formed to investigate the incident. Both Butt and Shah were asked to justify their actions but failed to respond within the given timeframe.

After reviewing the evidence, the AFP Executive Committee concluded that both individuals had committed gross violations of the federation's constitution and demonstrated wilful insubordination.

The committee declared the Punjab Athletics Association elections null and void and announced that fresh elections would be held under AFP supervision.

Furthermore, the federation directed all affiliated units and institutions to cease official interactions with the banned officials.—Agency

Eddie Howe Delivers Huge Boost for Newcastle Ahead of Brighton Showdown



Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe said Joelinton seems ready to play against Brighton after recovering from a slight injury, while Jacob Ramsey has overcome an ankle injury, and Yoane Wissa has also resumed training after a long-term knee issue.

Howe admitted that the club had been a 'little concerned' about the Joelinton who travelled with Brazil during an international break but confirmed the midfielder is expected to train today.

"We were a little concerned about Joelinton, but he seems to be okay. Hopefully, he will train today," Howe said.

Meanwhile, Wissa, who joined Newcastle this summer but has yet to make his debut, is now 'back on the grass' according to the coach.

"We have seen him back on the grass for the first time, which is great to see; it is now a case of stepping him up gradually, in terms of timelines– nothing has changed," he added.

Howe also provided an update on Ramsey, who has also returned from an ankle injury and has been having a couple of training sessions, and is expected to be in the squad.

"He had a couple of training sessions and trained well. I am pleased with where he is currently. I expect him to be with us in the squad," the 47-year-old said.

However, Lewis Hall remains sidelined with a hamstring issue, though a second scan revealed encouraging progress.—Agency

Arsenal Captain Martin Ødegaard Sidelined After Painful Knee Setback



LONDON: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta confirmed on Friday that midfielder Martin Odegaard will be sidelined for a few weeks due to a knee problem.

After the international break, the Premier League leaders return with a number of main players struggling with injuries and poor play.

After Gabriel Jesus, Kai Havertz, and Noni Madueke, Arsenal's captain Odegaard is now the team's fourth player out with a knee ailment. He missed two weeks of activity last month owing to a shoulder problem.

Arteta told reporters before Saturday's visit to Fulham that Odegaard will be out for a few weeks.

"He will be weeks. No definite date for his return. But he is evolving well. It's very unlucky what is happening with him," Arteta said.

"I think he will be back in a few weeks ... but we'll have to see how he is progressing, how his knee is feeling. It's too early to get an answer."

It is pertinent to mention that Martin Zubimendi and Ben White will join the team for Saturday's match, while their Ecuador centre-back Piero Hincapie may return to the matchday squad after missing a month with a groin injury.

Despite having the depth in their squad to handle injuries, Arsenal, who have the best defensive record in the league with three goals given up in seven games, still needs important players like Norway international Odegaard to return to action.

Reflecting on Odegaard's importance to the team, Arteta acknowledged that the captain plays a crucial role in improving their overall performance.

"He's very, very important for us and we haven't had him since the start of the season, like other players ... but we need him back as he makes us a better team," Arteta said.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
ENTERTAINMENT



Alanis Morissette Opens Up About Her Terrifying Las Vegas Residency Experience



Alanis Morissette just kicked off her Las Vegas Residency!

The You Oughta Know singer began her Alanis Morissette: Las Vegas 2025 show at Caesars Palace, diving straight into her hit track, Reckoning.

The seven-time Grammy winner admitted to being scared of the moment.

"I have to admit that I'm terrified. Even if I look calm and collected on the outside, [it's] pure agitation," Morissette told her fans.

"Even though I've been on stage most of my life, I've also been hiding a little bit. I've been hiding behind my guitars and my bandmates, the sound, the lights, the sweat. I've been hiding behind my hair," she added.

For more than two hours, Morissette discussed her life, things that made her happy such as her late songwriting partner and co-producer Tim Thorney, her three children.

She also talked about stuff that affected her negatively such as postpartum depression, her one-time affection for morning tequila and multiple r**es, which she allegedly spoke about in her 2021 documentary, Jagged.

Emilia Clarke Reveals the Film That Perfectly Mirrors Today's Troubled World



Emilia Clarke just declared that the Netflix adaptation of The Twits is a film that "speaks to the world we live in."

The 38-year-old actress voices narrator Pippa in the adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic and it is a story about a couple known for their cruel pranks that they play on one another and for their mean behavior.

Director Phil Johnston said the film, which is the first screen adaptation of The Twits, that the film is a "social satire" and "big dumb comedy about the world as I see it now."

Clarke told the PA news agency: "It was something we (her and Johnston) talked about a lot, and still remains one of the bigger reasons why I love this movie and Phil so very much."

"He's playing with ideas that we can all relate to as it speaks to the world we live in, but he's getting us to suspend our disbelief long enough to feel the absurdity without being completely at a loss for the state of the world we're living in. As Roald Dahl did, it's a warning more than a giving up," the Game of Thrones star further said.

The film also follows two brave children and a family of magical Muggle-Wumps as they try to save their city from The Twits as the foul couple rise to power.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce Lock in Ironclad Prenup Ahead of Lavish Wedding Plans



Taylor Swift is reportedly preparing to protect her billion-dollar assets through a prenuptial agreement ahead of getting married to fiancé Travis Kelce.

An insider told Radar Online that the 35-year-old singer and songwriter is "determined to protect her billions" as she is working on an "ironclad" prenuptial agreement before tying the knot with the NFL star whom she got engaged to in August this year after two years of dating.

Both stars have kept the details of their marriage under wraps but the source told the outlet that the lawyers on both sides have already started working to preserve the pop sensation's $1.6 billion fortune through a prenuptial agreement, which includes the ownership of her "master recordings and extensive property portfolio."

The insider stated, "Taylor's been upfront from day one with Travis that being in love doesn't mean being careless. She's poured decades of sweat into building her career and fortune, and she wants to make sure it's secure, no matter how head-over-heels they are. And Travis gets that completely – he admires how driven she is and believes it's important they both stay financially independent."

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND






Larkana Police Foil Major Drug Smuggling Attempt in Ratodero Operation

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Larkana Police arrested a suspect with 3432 grams of hashish, preventing a drug supply attempt in Ratodero. The accused, Mubeen, son of Gul Muhammad Abro, hails from Baqapur. Authorities are investigating his criminal background and continuing legal procedures. SSP Larkana, Ahmed Chaudhry (QPM, PSP), praised the successful operation and ordered commendation certificates for the police team. The action highlights ongoing efforts against drug trafficking.

Hybrid Seeds Seen as Key to Boosting Yields at Talhar Agricultural Seminar



TALHAR: A one-day seminar was organized by Sun Crop, a private agricultural company, in village Murid Halepoto, highlighting the benefits of hybrid seeds. Company officials GM Waqar Shamsi, RSM Ilyas Qureshi, and ASM Parvez Rajput stated that hybrid seeds can significantly boost crop production. They called on the Sindh government to introduce a proper policy for agricultural development. Guests were welcomed with traditional Sindhi Ajrak gifts by the local vilagers.--RT

Low Paddy Prices Ignite Farmers' Protest in Jacobabad

By Hashim Brohi



JACOBABAD: The Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party staged a protest and sit-in outside the press club in Jacobabad against low paddy prices and unjust deductions under the guise of moisture content. District President Majeed Sarki, Nizam Mastoi, Abdul Nabi Magsi, and others said farmers are already suffering, and paddy is being sold for as low as Rs. 2,000 per 40 kg, which doesn't cover production costs. They demanded the Sindh government fix the minimum price at Rs 4,000 and stop unfair deductions, warning of intensified protests otherwise.

Kunri Gears Up for Diwali Amid Mounting Safety Concerns Over Fireworks



KUNRI: Kunri's Hindu community is gearing up for the three-day Diwali celebrations starting October 20, with homes and temples beautifully decorated. Alongside sweets, numerous stalls selling explosive and flammable materials have appeared, attracting large crowds. Despite the festive spirit, residents are alarmed by the open sale of dangerous fireworks and explosives. Concerns about potential accidents are rising, yet local police have so far taken no action, raising fears over public safety during the celebrations.--RT

Thatta Police Nab Three in Rs 1.8 Million Medicine Company Heist

By Mohammad Khan Memon



THATTA: Thatta police have arrested three main suspects involved in the robbery of Rs1.8 million from Ghazanfar Ali Memon, owner of Noorani Medicos, who was also severely injured in the attack near Ojhri Mosque. Recovered items include Rs500,000, a motorcycle, and two pistols. Two accomplices remain at large as police continue raids to apprehend them. Investigation is ongoing under SSP Farooq Ahmed Bijarani's supervision.

Digri Residents Rally for Justice in Long-Standing Land Dispute

By Farooq Randhawa



DIGRI: Residents of village Ehsan Halipoto, including Suleman Miano, protested outside Digri Press Club against an attack by influential locals. They claimed that Yousuf Miano, Anwar Junejo, and 15 others violently attacked their homes on government land, injuring Suleman's wife, Zulikhan, and him. The victims demanded legal action and justice from IG Sindh, DIG Mirpurkhas, SSP Mirpurkhas, and other officials.

MPA Rana Hameer Singh Offers Condolences to Agha Siraj Durrani's Family

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: PPP MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho visited Garhi Yasin, near Shikarpur, to offer condolences on the demise of former Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani. He expressed deep sorrow and prayed for the departed soul. On this occasion, MPA Rais Sajid Ali Bhanbhro, Javed Ali Memon, Faqeer Imtiaz Lashari, and Personal Secretary Kanwal Mohan Lal Ratnani, among others, were also present.

Hyderabad Intensifies Crackdown on Illegally Residing Afghans



By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Under the special instructions of SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio, police conducted a search and combing operation in Shah Latif Colony and nearby areas targeting illegally residing Afghans and suspicious elements. Led by senior officers, around 50 individuals were checked and 12 taken for verification. Biometric checks were done via Talash App. SSP Chandio confirmed that such operations will persist to maintain law and order and ensure public safety.

PPP Leadership Mourns Death of Veteran Politician Agha Siraj Durrani



By Javed Laghari

DADU: Pakistan People's Party District President and MPA Barrister Pir Majeebul Haq visited Kot Durrani, Shikarpur to offer condolences to the family of senior politician and former Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Khan Durrani. Pir Majeebul prayed for his soul's peace. PPP leaders including former MNA Talat Mahesar, Chairman Wajid Ali Mahesar, Raees Ghulam Hyder Khoso, Shahmir Khan Chehwan, Vice Chairman Khalid Hussain Mirani, and others were present.

Deputy Commissioner Urges Tight Coordination to Curb Afghan Illegal Rentals

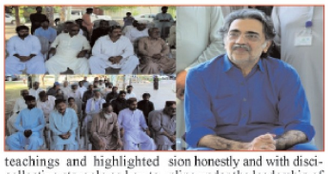
By Afaque Khanzada



TANDO ALLAHYAR: A District Coordination Committee meeting was held under Deputy Commissioner Noor Mustafa Laghari at the DC Office conference hall. Officials from various departments including police, NADRA, health, education, and social welfare attended. DC emphasized inter-departmental coordination to curb child labor, drug trade, and illegal Afghan residency. He directed enhanced patrolling, awareness sessions by all departments, and action against unlawful activities, ensuring better public service delivery across the district.

Sarwari Jamaat Chairman in Jamshoro Calls for Unity, Humility, and Public Service

By Javed Samejo



HYDERABAD: Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif," Chairman of Sarwari Jamaat, held a significant meeting in Jamshoro with office-bearers and devotees from across Sindh. He emphasized spirituality, service, unity, and sincerity as the organization's core values. Atif urged members to spread Sarwari teachings and highlighted collective struggle as key to progress. He encouraged workers to promote the mission honestly and with discipline under the leadership of Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman.

Stolen Motorcycle Recovered in Shikarpur, Returned to Grateful Owner

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: The Karan police successfully recovered a stolen motorcycle belonging to citizen Dost Muhammad Kharos and returned it to its rightful owner. The operation was conducted under the guidance of SSP Shikarpur Shahzaib Chachar, led by DSP City Pars Bikhrani and SHO Abdul Majeed Gopang. The owner expressed gratitude to the police team.

Jamshoro Court Orders Fresh Inquiry into High-Profile Danish Shaikh Kidnapping Case

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Jamshoro court has directed DIG Hyderabad to appoint a new DSP-level officer to reinvestigate the alleged kidnapping of 17-year-old Danish Shaikh, who went missing from Kotri on August 10 and was later found in Jhirk. The court ordered a detailed inquiry against five named suspects, citing serious lapses in the initial probe and threats to complainant Gul Zaman and key witnesses.

Badin Launches Week-Long Polio Drive with Heightened Security Measures

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A seven-day polio vaccination campaign is underway across Badin district, accompanied by strict security arrangements. On the fourth day, SSP Qamar Raza Jaskani, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti, and District Health Officer Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Abbasi inspected vaccination points in Badin city and other areas. They reviewed the vaccination process, met polio teams, and ensured safety measures. Travelers and their children were also vaccinated. Police at tehsil and police station levels are actively supporting the campaign, emphasizing collective responsibility in the fight against polio.

Badin Police Celebrate Diwali with Minority Officers in Gesture of Solidarity

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the occasion of the Hindu festival Diwali, DSP Complaint Cell Badin, Saleem Raza Parhiyar, organized a special ceremony at his office. Minority employees of the police department were invited, presented with sweets and cash gifts, and offered Diwali greetings. DSP Parhiyar emphasized religious harmony, stating that standing with minorities in joy and sorrow is a part of Islamic teachings.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DEV) PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION KAMBER SHAHDADKOT @ KAMBER

Phone No: 074-4210302 Fax No: 074-4210302 kamberphed@gmail.com

No.TC/PHED/1198 / of 2025 Kamber Dated: 16/10/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Sealed tenders under Single Stage-Two Envelopes Procedure are hereby invited from all the contractors/ firms who are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant and appropriate category viz: **CE09, CE10, ME-06 & EE11 (Solar Energy)** in separate sealed envelopes in accordance with SPPRA Rules 2010 (amended upto date).

S#	Description	Estimated Cost(M)	Bid Security 5%	Tender Fees	Completion Period
	LGD Schemes Under Sustainable Development Goals-2025-26				
1	Construction of Drainage and Paver Block in various Muhalla /Wards Kamber City (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1072).	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months
2	Construction of Drains and Paver Blocks in UCs of Taluka Kamber (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1073)	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months
3	Construction of Water Supply Scheme in Various Villages of Kohistan Taluka Kamber and Warah (Under i. Construction of Water Supply Scheme in Various Villages of Kohistan Taluka Kamber and Warah, i. Construction of Drains and Paver Blocks Various Villages of UC Noor Abad and UC Lalu Rounk Taluka Warah (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1074).	98.000	4.900	5000/-	24 Months
4	Development of Playground Ali Khan Muhalla Kamber City (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 364172025-26) (Ref # 1071).	59.000	2.950	5000/-	24 Months
5	Construction of Drainage & Paver Blocks in Various Wards of Taluka Warah (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1038).	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months
6	i. Construction of Drainage & Paver Blocks in Various Wards of Taluka Nasirabad. (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1038).	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months
7	Construction of Drains & Paver Blocks in Various UCs of Taluka Warah (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP 3641/2025-26) (Ref # 1039)	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months
8	Construction of Drains & Paver Blocks in Various UCs of Taluka Nasirabad (LGD) (Under Sustainable Development Goals-ADP # 3641/2025-26)(Ref # 1039)	69.000	3.450	5000/-	24 Months

Terms and Conditions:

1. The blank tender forms / proposal documents for above stated works can be obtained from office of the Executive Engineer (Dev) Public Health Engineering Division Kamber Shahdadkot on any working day from the date of hosting on SPPRA website or publication of NIT in Newspaper upto 30/10/2025 on submission of written request and payment in shape of pay order of prescribed Tender fee (Non-refundable) for Rs.5000/- office of the Executive Engineer (Dev) Public Health Engineering Division Kamber Shahdadkot @ Kamber.
2. Tender comprising of Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes with clear marking of **TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" AND "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL"** both of proposals to be put in one envelope and will be received back upto **14/11/2025** at **10.00 AM** at office of Executive Engineer (Dev), Public Health Engineering Division Kamber Shahdadkot @ Kamber. **Technical proposals** of the participating firms will be opened on **14/11/2025** at **3.00 PM** by the Procurement Committee in presence of participating contractors/ firms or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.
3. The **TECHNICAL PROPOSALS** shall be evaluated for technical qualification of the firms. Financial bids / proposals of the technically qualified firms 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 bids / proposals of technically un-qualified contractors shall be returned to them un-opened.
4. Tenders shall be carefully and neatly filled and sighed by the bidders. Each bid must accompany the bid security as mentioned against each bid in shape of Call Deposit showing the name of agency in favour of Executive Engineer (Dev) Public Health Engineering Division Kamber Shahdadkot @ Kamber. Bid Security shall be submitted with technical proposals. Incomplete tender, overwritten or conditional tender shall not be entertained.
5. Blank bids will be issued to Government Contractors having valid registration with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for the year 2025, in the appropriate category corresponding to the estimated cost (above Rs. 4.000 million), if applicable.
6. Registration with Income Tax Department (NTN Copy) and Sindh Revenue Board (Sales Tax Registration) and copy of CNIC of owners /proprietors.
7. **TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**:-Technical Proposal must encompass company profile with following information.

a. List of completed, sewerage/ similar nature works having corresponding value in respect of works applied for (at least 3 Nos.) with documentary evidence along with satisfactory work completion certificates of last three years.
b. List of ongoing water, sewerage/ similar nature works having corresponding value in respect of works applied for (at least 3 Nos.) with copies of award letters of last three years alongwith satisfactory certificate of concerned Executive Engineer to the effect that work is not abandoned.
c. Detail of available machinery and equipment with documentary evidence.
d. Qualification and experience of Technical Personnel and key site management staff.
e. Bank statement of last three (3) years showing the turnover to ascertain the financial worth of bidder. Atleast 10% balance be available, such certificate be issued from concerned bank, that the bidder will not withdraw amount of 10% till opening of financial bid, **Annual Audit Report of last three years must be verified by Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) or any other registered firm.**
f. The instructions to bidders, bidding data, conditions of contract, contract data mentioned in Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) are applicable.
g. Affidavit that the firm is not involved in litigations and has not abandoned the works.
h. Affidavit that the firm is not blacklisted by any procuring agency.
i. Affidavit that the given information, documents and data is absolutely true and correct.
j. Affidavit that the firm shall be responsible for defect liability in respect of work for period of one year from the date of completion of work.
k. Due to force measure on submission / opening date and time or if Government declares Holiday or any person, member is out of headquarter, the bids shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Conditional bids will not be entertained.
l. The undersigned and other competent authority reserve the right to reject any one or all the Bids as per provision of SPPRA Rules 25.
m. Experience in similar nature of work (s) executed during the last five years.
n. i. At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost of 80% of the estimate cost of the work or
ii. At least two similar nature of work each having minimum cost 50% of the estimated cost.

8. **FINANCIAL**

8.1 Average annual financial turnover not less than equivalent cost of the scheme/ period during last five years. 2nd Attempt:

9. If the undersigned is out of Headquarter or tenders found un-responded, the next date of issuance and receiving back will be upto **01/12/2025** at **10.00 AM** and will be opened on same date at **03.00 PM.**

Executive Engineer (Dev)
Public Health Engg: Division
Kamber Shahdadkot @ Kamber

INF-KRY No:3297/25

"Our Faith, Corruption Free Pakistan"

METRO KARACHI



October 18: Blood on the Road to Democracy – Sharjeel Inam Memon



KARACHI: October 18, 2007, marked a peaceful revolution as millions welcomed Shaheed Benazir Bhutto back to Pakistan. But as her convoy crawled through a sea of supporters in Karachi, terrorists struck near Karsaz, killing hundreds and shattering hopes. Benazir survived the blasts but was later martyred. Her return aimed to restore democracy and fight terrorism. Her book Reconciliation revealed the links between dictatorships, terrorism, and global powers. October 18 remains a symbol of sacrifice, resistance, and an unfinished democratic mission that still calls for action today.—RT

Governor Sindh Kicks Off Thrilling Pakistan Tape Ball Premier League Amid Huge Enthusiasm



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the Pakistan Tape Ball Premier League (PTPL), calling it an innovative platform for youth engagement and national unity. Speaking at the soft launch ceremony in Karachi, he praised PTPL Chairman Zohaib Naseer for turning a popular street sport into a symbol of Pakistan's identity.

The Governor appreciated Prince Sheikh Mansour bin Al Saud's interest in the league and termed the new partnership a milestone in promoting sports diplomacy. He announced plans to send a Pakistani team to Saudi Arabia and host a Saudi team in Pakistan.

Expressing full support for the initiative, Governor Tessori said, "Though I am in Islamabad, my heart is with PTPL." The ceremony was attended by Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Javed Miandad, Tauseef Ahmed, and other dignitaries from political, social, and sporting circles.—RT/Agency

Bloody Weekend on Karachi Roads Leaves Two Dead and Several Fighting for Life

KARACHI: At least two people, including a woman, were killed and several others sustained minor injuries in separate traffic accidents across Karachi on Thursday.

According to rescue officials, a 24-year-old rickshaw driver died after his vehicle overturned in Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block 18. In another incident, a 52-year-old woman lost her life when a speeding car hit the motorcycle she was riding with her husband near Askari 5 in Malir Cantt. Police said the woman's husband received minor injuries in the accident.

Separately, near Gate No. 19 of Manghopir Ijtima Gah Road, a car went out of control and mounted the footpath, slightly injuring the driver. Another accident occurred in the Mominabad area near Frontier Mor, where a speeding minibus collided with an electric pole and overturned, leaving several passengers with minor scratches.

Police have urged motorists to observe traffic rules and avoid speeding to prevent such incidents.—RT/Agency

Court Receives Report on Long-Awaited Safe Transfer of Karachi Zoo's Caged Bear, Rano



KARACHI: The Senior Director of Karachi Zoo has submitted a detailed report to the court regarding the safe transfer of female bear Rano to a sanctuary, in compliance with court orders.

According to the report, the zoo administration has contacted the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, the international organization FOUR PAWS, and PIA to coordinate the transfer process. PIA has issued necessary guidelines for the air transport of the animal, while discussions are ongoing regarding the preparation of a secure travel cage, Civil Aviation clearance, and other required protocols.

The report further stated that FOUR PAWS has proposed carrying out Rano's relocation after November 15, once all logistical and safety measures are finalized. Until the transfer is completed, Rano will remain under the joint supervision of the Karachi Zoo and the Sindh Wildlife Department Conservator to ensure her well-being.—RT/Agency

Top Girl Scholars of Jamshed Town Shine at Academic Excellence Award Ceremony

KARACHI: The Academic Excellence Award ceremony, organized and hosted by Madam Hira Shabbir, TEO ES&HS Jamshed Town (Female), District East Karachi, was held at GGSS Idara-e-Sharqia to celebrate the outstanding matriculation students who secured A+ grades in their board examinations.

A total of 46 brilliant students from nine schools were awarded cash prizes, while their Principals, Incharges, and Head Mistresses received shields of appreciation for their leadership and dedication to quality education.

Distinguished guests included Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Qureshi (DEO District East), Mr. Zakir Hussain Bhurgari (Deputy DEO District East), Dr. Saima Khalil (TEO Gulshan Town, Female), and Dr. Tehmina Fiaz (Assistant Education Officer), who were warmly welcomed with bouquets by Madam Hira Shabbir.—RT/Agency

Mid-Air Scare as PIA Flight Forced to Return to Karachi After Technical Malfunction

KARACHI: A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight from Karachi to Muscat was forced to return mid-air after developing a technical malfunction during the journey.

According to a report by Jang News, the aircraft safely landed back at Karachi Airport without any incident. Airline authorities confirmed that all passengers and crew remained safe, and standard safety procedures were followed throughout the flight.

Investigations are currently underway to determine the cause of the technical fault, and maintenance teams have begun inspecting the aircraft. The airline assured that passenger safety remains its top priority.—RT/Agency

Sindh Mobilizes in Full Force with Province-Wide Emergency Drive Against Dengue and Malaria



KARACHI: On the directives of Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho, an emergency campaign to prevent dengue and malaria has been launched across Karachi and other districts of the province.

According to the Health Department, all District Health Officers (DHOs) and relevant departments have been instructed to intensify fogging, spraying, awareness sessions, and public outreach activities on an urgent basis.

Dr. Pechuho stated that the Sindh government's entire health machinery has been mobilized to combat these vector-borne diseases. She emphasized that with public cooperation, the spread of dengue and malaria can be controlled swiftly.—RT/Agency

Governor Sindh Extends Warm Congratulations to KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori congratulated newly elected Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi during a telephonic conversation. Governor Tessori extended his best wishes, expressing confidence that Afridi would work tirelessly for the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the welfare of its people.

He lauded Afridi's leadership qualities and said his appointment would help strengthen national unity and cooperation between provinces. Governor Tessori emphasized that interprovincial harmony was vital for the progress and stability of Pakistan.

Both leaders expressed mutual commitment to advancing public welfare initiatives and enhancing collaboration in areas of common interest.—RT/Agency

Cylinder Blast Tragedy in New Karachi: Balcony Collapse Kills One, Injures Three

KARACHI: One person was killed and three others were injured after a gas cylinder explosion caused a balcony collapse on the second floor of a building near Saba Cinema in New Karachi.

According to police officials, the powerful blast occurred on the upper floor of the residential building, leading to the partial collapse of the structure. Rescue teams and police immediately reached the site and pulled the injured victims from the debris.

All four victims were rushed to a nearby hospital, where one succumbed to injuries during treatment. Authorities have cordoned off the area while rescue and bomb disposal teams continue to inspect the site.

Police said initial investigations suggest the explosion was caused by a gas leak, though a detailed inquiry is underway to confirm the cause. Residents were urged to exercise caution when handling gas cylinders in residential buildings.—RT/Agency

Hashim Digital Library Opens in Saddar Town, Igniting New Hopes for Education Revival



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Mansoor Ahmed Shaikh, Chairman Saddar Town, inaugurated Hashim Digital Library in Guddarabad, Ranchhod Line, aiming to promote reading and research among youth and citizens. The event was attended by provincial assembly members and local officials. Shaikh announced air conditioning for the library and handed over the usage rights to Jagroti Foundation. The foundation promised to provide digital resources and organize educational activities for the community's benefit.

Municipal Commissioner Inspects Polio Drive in Gadap Town, Orders Stricter Oversight

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Municipal Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz Mahar visited UC Gadap and UC Shah Meeri during the ongoing polio vaccination campaign in Gadap Town. He supervised the administration of polio drops to children under five and praised the health teams for their efforts. Officials, Lady Health Workers, and volunteers participated actively. Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch urged parents to vaccinate their children to make Gadap polio-free, emphasizing the campaign as a national responsibility.

Glowing Tribute to Shaheed Hakeem Muhammad Saeed at Hamdard University Ceremony



By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: A memorial ceremony was held at Hamdard University to mark the 27th death anniversary of Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakeem Muhammad Saeed. Experts, educators, students, and dignitaries attended in large numbers. Renowned journalist Ghazi Salahuddin praised Saeed's simplicity, integrity, and visionary leadership. Former Vice Chancellor Dr. Hakeem Abdul Hanan highlighted Hakeem Saeed's efforts to promote education through Madinat al-Hikmah, benefiting thousands of students from Sindh and Balochistan. Vice Chancellor Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan urged students to emulate his dedication. The event also featured speeches by registrar Kaleem Ahmed Ghiyas, director Malaht Kaleem Sherwani, and others, with prayers offered at Hakeem Saeed's mausoleum.

MQM's Taha Ahmed Khan Sounds Alarm Over Karachi's Toxic Air Crisis

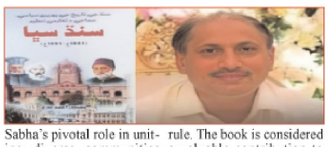
KARACHI: Deputy Parliamentary Leader of the Sindh Assembly, Taha Ahmed Khan of MQM-Pakistan, has urged the Sindh Government to take immediate and effective measures to tackle Karachi's worsening air pollution, which he warned has reached dangerously high levels and poses a serious threat to public health.

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Khan highlighted that the city's PM2.5 concentration often exceeds 150 micrograms per cubic meter—six times higher than the World Health Organization's safe limit of 25 micrograms.He called on the provincial government to formulate a comprehensive Clean Air and Electric Vehicle Policy.

The proposed policy should include zoning restrictions for high-emission vehicles and industrial areas, expansion of electric public transport, promotion of renewable energy, and large-scale restoration of trees and mangroves.—RT/Agency

Mukhtiar Ahmed Mallah Unveils Landmark Book on Historic Sindh Sabha Movement

By Fida Hussain Panhwar



KARACHI: Renowned writer and researcher Mukhtiar Ahmed Mallah's latest book, "Sindh Sabha: The First Political, Social, and Educational Organization in the History of Sindh," has been released. Scholars praised the book for highlighting Sindh Sabha's pivotal role in uniting diverse communities and achieving administrative reforms under British rule. The book is considered a valuable contribution to Sindh's intellectual and political history.

PSF Malir Leads Green Revolution with Tree Plantation Drive at Govt Degree College Razzaqabad

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: Under the leadership of Majid Asghar, General Secretary of PSF Malir, a tree plantation drive was launched at Government Degree College Razzaqabad. Students, teachers, and staff actively participated to welcome winter and promote environmental awareness. Majid Asghar emphasized supporting the "Green Pakistan" and "Sindh Green" initiatives to combat climate change. He highlighted the vital role of students and faculty in making Sindh greener and praised PPP's commitment to public welfare and prosperity.

Prominent Social Figures Mourn the Passing of Safdar Ali

By Fida Hussain Panhwar



KARACHI: Prominent social leader Iqbal Hussain Channa and other political figures expressed condolences over Safdar Ali's death at Ghazi Abdullah Shah Village. Channa emphasized the need to address poverty, create employment opportunities for youth, and combat drug addiction.

Three Revenue Officials Suspended for Dereliction of Duty During Anti-Polio Campaign

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: The Sindh Revenue Department has suspended three officers for being absent during the National Immunization Day (NID) polio campaign. The suspended officers include Mukhtiyarkar Agro Mal (BS-16), Sub-Registrar Abdul Ghani Malkani (Korangi Karachi), and Sub-Registrar Zaib Nazar (Malir Karachi). Disciplinary action will be taken against them. Their headquarters have been shifted to the Board of Revenue Sindh, Hyderabad, during suspension. Salaries and benefits will continue as per rules.

Deadly Blast Rocks Ayub Goth: One Killed, Five Injured Including Young Child

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: A strong explosion occurred near Aslam Plaza in Ayub Goth, within the jurisdiction of Sohrab Goth Police Station. One person was killed and five others, including a seven-year-old child, were injured. The blast caused extensive damage to nearby buildings and shops, shattering windows and creating panic in the area. Police and rescue teams sealed off the site. Initial investigations suggest a gas pressure machine explosion, with final cause pending bomb disposal squad report. Cleanup and further inquiries are ongoing.

KWSC Officer Tasked as Model Colony Clean-Up Hero

KARACHI: Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation's Executive Engineer, Muhammad Dilawar, has been given additional charge of Model Colony Town's sewerage system. Wasting no time, Dilawar launched immediate cleanup efforts—ordering blocked manholes cleared and stagnant sewage drained. Despite limited resources, he warned staff against negligence and stressed public service. Known for resolving a major sewage issue during his past posting—laying a vital 48-inch pipeline—Dilawar now vows zero tolerance for sewage woes in his jurisdiction. His mission: a cleaner, clog-free Model Colony!—RT

Karsaz Carnage Remembered: The Blood-Soaked Turning Point in Pakistan's Democratic Struggle – Dr. Sham Sundar Advani



KARACHI: PPP leader Dr. Sham Sundar K. Advani called the October 18, 2007 Karsaz tragedy a defining moment in Pakistan's political history. As Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto returned from exile, a deadly suicide attack killed dozens of loyal workers and injured hundreds. Yet, Benazir stood firm, refusing to abandon her democratic mission. Dr. Advani hailed her as a fearless, visionary leader. He affirmed that the martyrs' sacrifices live on, as the PPP remains committed to Benazir's legacy and the fight for true democracy.—RT

Dream big, work hard, succeed.
—Unknown

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 18 2025

PM Declares Pakistan Can No Longer Shoulder Afghan Refugee Burden Amid Escalating Tensions



ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan is witnessing heightened border tensions with Afghanistan amid rising terror attacks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said Pakistan could no longer bear the burden of hosting Afghan refugees indefinitely, directing authorities to ensure their immediate repatriation.

Chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad on the repatriation of Afghan refugees, the premier reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, regretting that the country had paid a heavy price for decades of instability in Afghanistan.

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, federal ministers, the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, chief ministers of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and a representative of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister, along with senior federal and provincial officials.

"Pakistan had suffered thousands of lives lost and billions in economic damages during the war against terrorism," he said, expressing concern over the recent cross-border attacks from Afghan soil.

PM Shehbaz said that despite repeated diplomatic engagements, including multiple visits to Kabul by the deputy prime minister, and defence minister, Afghan authorities had failed to prevent the use of their territory for attacks on Pakistan.

The prime minister paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces for repelling recent attacks from Afghanistan, praising Field Marshal Asim Munir's leadership and the army's professional capability in defending the nation.

He added that the Pakistani people who sacrificed in the war on terror were now asking when the government would end the burden of hosting Afghan refugees.

The forum was briefed that the repatriation of Afghan nationals had begun in phases, with 1,477,592 individuals returned to Afghanistan as of October 16.

Officials said no further extension would be granted, and only those holding valid Pakistani visas would be permitted to stay. The meeting was informed that exit points were being increased to facilitate speedy repatriation.—RT/Agency

Security Forces Eliminate 108 Terrorists In Four Days Of Relentless Operations



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan armed forces have killed at least 108 Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists over the past four days, the security sources said on Friday.

The heavy losses suffered by Afghan Taliban proxy terrorists follow intensified counter-terrorism operations by security forces.

Earlier today, the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Sultan Khel area of District Lakki Marwat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing eight terrorists.

Pakistan forces have eliminated as many as 108 Afghan Taliban-backed terrorists in the last four days as forces remain dedicated to eradicate terrorism.

Security forces have conducted multiple IBOs in several areas of Balochistan and KP in the last four days.

Around 50 Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists were killed in a single operation a day earlier as Pakistan forces foiled an infiltration attempt in KP amid border tensions with Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been demanding the Afghan Taliban regime to prevent its soil from being used to attack Pakistan.

The Taliban regime — instead of addressing Pakistan's concerns over cross-border terrorism — deployed a large number of terrorists in their aggression against Pakistan earlier this month.

Taliban forces, in collaboration with their affiliated terror groups, launched an unprovoked attack on several Pakistan army posts on October 11.—RT/Agency

CM Afridi Approaches Supreme Court Seeking Permission To Meet Imprisoned PTI Founder



KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi approached the Supreme Court, seeking a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) jailed founder Imran Khan.

In a letter written to Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi, the chief minister maintained that he is "under constitutional and moral obligation" to consult with the PTI founder, who is also the party's patron-in-chief, at Adiala jail for seeking instructions on the provincial cabinet formation.

CM Afridi, who was recently elected to the top office, maintained that he had already approached the federal interior secretary, as well as the Punjab home secretary, for arranging a meeting with Imran, adding that despite repeated communications and follow-ups, the request was not fulfilled.

Afridi — who replaced Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief minister this week — added that he needs to meet Imran to discuss matters relating to law and order, critical economic challenges, and policy matters regarding the people of the province.

"There is a pressing need to seek direction from the Founder Chairman/ Patron in Chief Mr Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi, regarding the above matters and others, including relations regarding certain important matters with the Federation and other provinces," the letter read.

"The seeking of direction is extremely essential, even presently the province of Punjab has stopped the inter-provincial trade of wheat," CM Afridi said.

Afridi — a young PTI leader — hails from Bara tehsil of Khyber district and held the portfolio of provincial minister for higher education before becoming the CM.—RT/Agency

Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf Wraps Up Strategic Visit To United States



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf undertook an official visit to the United States, where he held important meetings with senior American naval and civil leadership to discuss matters of mutual interest.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), discussions focused on professional affairs, regional security, training collaborations, and maritime cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

During the visit, Admiral Ashraf also addressed U.S. scholars and think tank experts, sharing insights on regional maritime security and Pakistan Navy's role in ensuring safe and open seas. He further visited the U.S. National Defense University, where he met with its President, Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin.ISPR stated that the visit will further enhance Pakistan–U.S. maritime security collaboration and defense cooperation, strengthening the long-standing strategic partnership between the two nations' naval forces.—RT/Agency

Govt and IMF Weigh Plan To Raise GST, Withholding Taxes On Solar And Internet Services



ISLAMABAD: Following the rejection of proposals to increase tax rates on fertiliser and pesticides, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are considering alternative options — raising taxes on rooftop solar panels, internet services and other sectors — as contingency measures in case of a revenue shortfall.

The identified contingency measures are expected to be part of the IMF's second review report, to be released after the approval of a $1 billion tranche under the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The tax measures would only be triggered under two conditions i.e., if the revenue shortfall for the first half (July-December) of the fiscal year exceeds projections, and if the Finance Ministry is unable to reduce its expenditures.

As per the contingency taxation measures identified by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and shared with the IMF, one proposal is to increase the General Sales Tax (GST) on imported solar panels from 10% to 18%, effective from January 2026, if needed.

Another proposal under consideration is to raise the withholding tax on internet services from the current 15% to 18% or 20%.

The government's push to discourage solar panel adoption stems from its reduced reliance on grid electricity, which has led to "capacity payments" estimated to hover around Rs1.7 trillion this fiscal year — a major concern for policymakers.

FBR estimates suggest that imported solar panels could generate 25,000 to 30,000 MW of electricity in the coming years. Currently, rooftop solar installations are producing 6,000 MW, a figure that could double at any time.

The IMF has agreed to lower the FBR's overall tax collection target after revising the GDP growth projection down from 4.2% to between 3.25% and 3.5%.—RT/Agency

Punjab On Edge As TLP Ban Summary Sent To Centre Ahead Of Fresh Protest Call



LAHORE: The Punjab government has sent a summary to the Centre seeking a ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in the wake of a fresh protest call by the religious party, days after violent demonstrations in the province left many dead and scores injured.

The move is aimed at restoring public order and reinforcing the writ of the state and rule of law after last week's clashes between TLP supporters and law enforcement agencies in Muridke and other cities.

The unrest began when police dismantled a TLP protest camp in Muridke, prompting confrontations that led to the death of a police station house officer (SHO), three others — including a passerby.

According to Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari, at least 1,648 police personnel were also injured, some of whom were struck by gunfire, while dozens of public and private vehicles were also torched, and commercial properties damaged.

In view of a new protest call for today, the police across the province have been put on high alert to deal with any untoward situation. Authorities assert that no individual or group would be permitted to take the law into their own hands.

Inspector General of Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar reaffirmed that police were fully committed to upholding peace and the rule of law. "Strict and indiscriminate action will be taken against anyone who violates the law," he said in a statement posted on X, adding that Section 144 — which bans gatherings of four or more people — would be implemented in full force across the province to protect lives and property.—RT/Agency

Defence Minister Reveals 3,844 Martyred In Pakistan Since Taliban Takeover In Afghanistan



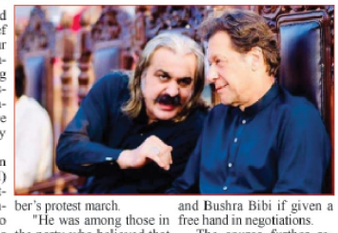
ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif posted on X (formerly Twitter) that, since the Taliban takeover in 2021, 3,844 soldiers and civilians have been martyred and 10,347 incidents of terrorism have occurred.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Asif gave a detailed review of government efforts in Afghanistan since 2021, saying, "The foreign minister visited Kabul four times; the defence minister and the DG ISI made two visits each; the special representative for Afghanistan and the foreign secretary made five visits each; and the national security adviser made one visit. The joint committee met eight times."

The defence minister said that the Pak–Afghan relations included 225 Pak–Afghan flag meetings and the handing over of 836 protest letters. Afghan diplomats were summoned 13 times over border violations.

Asif said there has been no positive response from Kabul despite five years of efforts and sacrifices. He accused Kabul of becoming a proxy of India and claimed the war against Pakistan had been imposed by India, Afghanistan and the TTP together.—RT/Agency

Sources Claim Imran Urged Agitation While Gandapur Pushed For Dialogue To Avoid Bloodshed



ISLAMABAD: The ousted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur had been advocating for dialogue instead of launching another protest march on Islamabad, arguing that agitation could lead to more bloodshed among party workers.

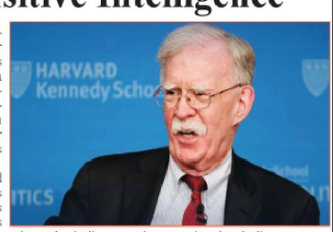
However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan reportedly rejected the advice, insisting on agitation to achieve his political goals and to secure his release from jail.

According to PTI insiders, Gandapur was reluctant to push for another confrontation after witnessing violence in the last November's protest march.

"He was among those in the party who believed that agitational politics had not delivered and that dialogue should be given a fair chance," said a senior party source, adding that Gandapur was even sure that he could secure the release of Imran and Bushra Bibi if given a free hand in negotiations.

The source further revealed that Murad Saeed had conveyed to the imprisoned PTI founder via Bushra Bibi's family the name of Sohail Afridi as Gandapur's replacement as chief minister.—RT/Agency

Former Trump Adviser John Bolton Indicted Over Leak Of Sensitive Intelligence



US: John Bolton, US President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, was charged on Thursday in a sweeping indictment that accuses him of sharing sensitive government information with two of his relatives for possible use in a book he was writing.

The indictment marked the third time in recent weeks the Justice Department has secured criminal charges against one of Trump's critics.

The indictment says the notes Bolton shared with his two relatives in electronic messages included information he gleaned from meetings with senior government officials, discussions with foreign leaders, and intelligence briefings.

In some of the chats, Bolton and his relatives - whom the indictment does not identify - discussed using some of the material for a book. Bolton referred to the two people with whom he shared his daily notes as his "editors," the indictment said.

"Talking with [book publisher] because they have a right of first refusal!" Bolton wrote in one message, according to the indictment.

The two relatives referred to in the indictment are Bolton's wife and daughter, two people familiar with the matter said.

In a statement, Bolton said, "I look forward to the fight to defend my lawful conduct and to expose his abuse of power."

Bolton's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, said Bolton did not unlawfully share or store any information.—RT/Agency

Saudi Arabia Negotiating Defence Pact With United States, Reports Suggest



Saudi Arabia is discussing a defence deal with the United States which it hopes to seal when Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visits the White House next month, the Financial Times reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

A senior Trump administration official told the Financial Times there were "discussions about signing something when the crown prince comes, but the details are in flux."

The FT said the deal in discussion was similar to the recent US-Qatar pact that pledged to treat any armed attack on Qatar as a threat to the United States. The US deal with Qatar came after Israel last month attempted to kill leaders of Hamas with an air strike on Doha.

The US State Department told the FT that defence cooperation with the kingdom was a "strong bedrock of our regional strategy," but declined to comment on details of the potential deal.

The US State Department, the White House and the Saudi government did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on the FT report.—RT/Agency

Attaullah Tarar Slams KP CM Afridi For Boycotting Crucial Afghan Refugee Meeting



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has strongly criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for not attending a crucial meeting on the repatriation of Afghan refugees, terming it an act of political point-scoring.

Speaking to the media, Tarar said that the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, included representation from all relevant institutions and provinces. However, among all chief ministers, only Sohail Afridi was absent. His position was represented by Muzzammil Aslam.

Tarar emphasized that the presence of the KP Chief Minister was important given the province's sensitive law and order situation and its proximity to Afghanistan. He stated that key decisions regarding the return of Afghan refugees were made during the session.

The minister further remarked that the KP CM does not believe in dialogue or institutional coordination. On foreign policy, he added that Pakistan has consistently raised its voice for Gaza and the Palestinian cause, crediting the government's efforts for a successful foreign policy trajectory.

Tarar also said that after the Operations, the green passport is being taken more seriously worldwide due to the government's diplomatic efforts.He concluded by saying that the public has rejected the protest calls by TLP and PTI, adding that these aimless calls have had no effect, and daily life continues normally across the country.—RT/Agency

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