Price Rs. 10

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

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

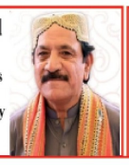
# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

Brad-less Jennifer Aniston Reveals Why She Skipped This Year's Met Gala — Fans Shocked

**Heartland**

Haji Ali Hassan Zardari Reaffirms Sindh's Spirit of Interfaith Harmony on Diwali



**Money**

-Zafar Moti is Happy!

PSE 100-index up by 1103.93 points to close at 167,346.83

**NATIONAL**

Punjab Rolls Out Game-Changing Mobile Police Station and Licensing Unit

**SPORTS**

Wolvaardt's 90 Powers South Africa to Crushing 150-Run Victory Over Pakistan!

Sharjeel Hails Federal Wheat Policy as Big Win for Farmers

HYDERABAD Edition Vol. XIV No 165 Regd. No. 117 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Wednesday, October 22, 2025, Rabi-us-Sani 27, 1447 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

## US Vice President Voices 'Great Optimism' Over Gaza Ceasefire's Longevity

US Vice President JD Vance expressed "great optimism" over the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, saying its implementation would require "constant monitoring and supervision".

"We are doing very well. We are in a very good place. We're going to have to keep working on it," Vance said during a press conference in Kiryat Gat, southern Israel, where a US-led mission is monitoring the Gaza ceasefire.

"I think that everybody should be proud of where we are today. It's going to require constant effort. It's going to require constant monitoring and supervision," he added.

Washington has not set a deadline for Hamas's disarmament: Vance

US Vice President JD Vance said that Washington had not set a deadline for the disarmament of Hamas set out in the US-brokered ceasefire deal in Gaza.

"We know that Hamas has to comply with the deal and if Hamas doesn't comply with the deal, very bad things are going to happen, but I'm not going to do what the President of the United States has thus far refused to do, which is put an explicit deadline on it because a lot of this stuff is difficult," Vance said during a press conference in Kiryat Gat, southern Israel.—RT/Agency

## Khawaja Asif Confirms Pakistan's Airstrikes Deep Inside Kabul

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has for the first time confirmed that Pakistan conducted airstrikes inside Afghanistan earlier this month, targeting Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists in Kabul and other cities.

"They [TTP] are housed over there — nobody can deny that," Asif told Arab News in an interview. "Their leadership is there, and that is why we went after them when there were strikes in Kabul last week and a couple of other cities."

His comments mark the first public acknowledgment by a senior Pakistani official of cross-border air operations against militant sanctuaries inside Afghanistan. Asif revealed that an understanding was reached in Doha, under which Türkiye and Qatar would serve as guarantors to ensure the TTP does not use Afghan soil for attacks in Pakistan. Both sides are expected to meet again in Istanbul on October 25 for follow-up discussions. "The mechanism of this arrangement will be decided there — how to monitor the activities of the TTP in Afghanistan," Asif added. The defense minister said that tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan had recently escalated to direct clashes, but both sides have now agreed that the immediate eradication of terrorism is essential for regional peace. Khawaja Asif said his Afghan counterpart acknowledged that terrorism is the main source of tension and assured that steps would be taken to address it.—RT/Agency

## India Quietly Reopens Embassy In Kabul, Signaling Diplomatic Reset

KABUL: India has "reopened" its embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul after four years, as diplomatic relations between both countries saw a significant expansion following Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's recent visit to New Delhi.

This development came after Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar announced earlier this month that New Delhi would reopen its embassy in Kabul.

India had closed its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power following the withdrawal of US-led Nato forces in 2021, but opened a small mission a year later to facilitate trade, medical support, and humanitarian aid.

In a statement, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said: "In keeping with the decision announced during the recent visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister to India, the government is restoring the status of the Technical Mission of India in Kabul to that of Embassy of India in Afghanistan with immediate effect."

"This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest."

"The Embassy of India in Kabul will further augment India's contribution to Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building initiatives, in keeping with the priorities and aspirations of Afghan society," it concluded.—RT/Agency

## Trump Warns Hamas Against Violating Gaza Deal As Vance Heads To Israel

US: US President Donald Trump threatened to "eradicate" Hamas if it breached its ceasefire deal with Israel, as Vice President JD Vance travelled to the region Tuesday to bolster the fragile Gaza truce.

The Trump administration has redoubled its efforts to cement the fragile Gaza peace agreement it helped to broker, after Israel accused Hamas of stalling the handover of hostages' bodies and deadly violence flared up in the territory over the weekend.

"We made a deal with Hamas that they're going to be very good, they're going to behave, they're going to be nice," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday.

"If they're not, we're going to go and we're going to eradicate them, if we have to. They'll be eradicated, and they know that."

Both sides have said they are committed to the US-backed truce despite the weekend's violence, and Israel confirmed that Hamas handed over the body of a hostage on Monday, taking the total to 13 of the 28 it had pledged to return.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement that Hamas had to make good on its commitment to return the remains of all the hostages in order to implement the ceasefire agreement.—RT/Agency

## COAS Declares Crackdown On Indian Proxies, Terror Networks In Balochistan

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Asim Munir, said on Tuesday that India-backed proxies, Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij, were propagating anti-people and anti-development agendas in Balochistan with malicious intent to perpetrate violence.

"All necessary actions are being taken to pursue these terrorists and rid the province of this menace," the field marshal said while interacting with participants of the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday.

During his address, COAS Munir said Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, endowed with vibrant, resilient and patriotic people who are its true wealth.

He highlighted the federal and provincial governments' development initiatives aimed at uplifting the province's socio-economic landscape through a people-centric approach, stressing the need to realise its immense economic potential.

Acknowledging the constructive role of civil society, particularly in engaging and empowering the youth, he underscored their pivotal role in ensuring sustainable development and countering vested political agendas for the long-term prosperity of Balochistan.

The field marshal reiterated that while Pakistan seeks regional peace and stability, any violation of its territorial integrity, direct or indirect, would be met with a firm and decisive response to safeguard the lives and well-being of its citizens.

The workshop concluded with a candid, interactive question and answer session between the army chief and the participants.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan — both of which share a porous border with neighbouring Afghanistan — faced the brunt of the terrorism incidents, accounting for more than 96% of the total violence across the country.

Balochistan, as per a report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), witnessed at least 25% of the total violence-linked fatalities (230) and incidents (85).

During his last visit to Balochistan, Field Marshal Munir stressed the significance of joint civil-military efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the people.—RT/Agency

## Gohar Reveals: Achakzai Made Opposition Leader On Party Founder's Orders

RAWALPINDI: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar on Tuesday said that Mahmood Achakzai has been named for the office of the leader of the opposition on the instructions of the PTI's founder.

Talking to media Barrister Gohar today said that an application with signatures from 74 MNAs has been submitted in the National Assembly.

He said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi's meeting with the founder is necessary. "If he wouldn't allow the meeting, the chief minister has his authority".

PTI Chairman said that Omar Ayub's wife will be the PTI's candidate for by election in NA-18-Haripur. "We will strongly contest in this by election," he said.

He said that according to the KP government, old and dysfunctional vehicles have been returned to federal government.

"Our meeting with PTI founder is necessary today. This practice should now be closed, there should be no prohibition of the jail visits," Gohar said.

He said when Nawaz Sharif was in jail meetings with him were used to be allowed.

"The territory of any country should not be used for terrorism in Pakistan," replying a question PTI leader said.—RT/Agency

## UN Warns: Sustaining Gaza Ceasefire Crucial To Save Lives, Deliver Aid

GENEVA: Maintaining the Gaza ceasefire is crucial to delivering life-saving humanitarian aid in the territory, the United Nations said Tuesday, repeating a call for all crossings to be opened.

"Sustaining the ceasefire is vital; really it's the only way we can save lives," Abeer Etefa, Middle East spokeswoman for the UN's World Food Programme, told a briefing in Geneva.

"We know it's a fragile ceasefire; the most important thing is that it lasts."

Etefa said that since the ceasefire came into force, 530 WFP trucks had crossed into Gaza, bringing in more than 6,700 tonnes of food, which she said was "enough for close to half a million people for two weeks".

"Convoys are pushing through, food is getting to the warehouses and distributions are happening in an organised and dignified manner," she said.

Etefa added that WFP had not seen looting of its convoys since the ceasefire.

The spokeswoman said WFP now had 26 food distribution points open in Gaza — up from five on Friday, but still far short of the 145 it hopes to run throughout the territory.—RT/Agency

## After Chaman, Torkham Border Next In Line For Reopening Trade With Afghanistan

After the reopening of the Chaman border crossing, Pakistan and Afghanistan are preparing to restore trade movement through the Torkham trade corridor, sources in the Customs Department confirmed on Tuesday.

According to officials, all preparations for reopening the Torkham border crossing have been completed, and the trade route could be operational anytime by tomorrow.

"Customs staff have been deployed at the Torkham terminal, and scanners have been installed for the clearance of cargo vehicles," a customs source said. Nine-day closure led to heavy congestion The Torkham border crossing — a major gateway for trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan — has remained closed for all types of traffic for the past nine days, causing severe disruption to bilateral and transit trade.—RT/Agency

## President Zardari, Faisal Vawda Hold Key One-On-One Meeting in Karachi

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari and Senator Faisal Vawda held an important one-on-one meeting at Bilawal House, Karachi, following Senator Vawda's return from an overseas visit. The two leaders discussed the prevailing national political situation in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. During the extended interaction, President Zardari also congratulated Senator Faisal Vawda on his birthday, expressing warm wishes for his continued success and contribution to national politics. The meeting was marked by mutual goodwill and a spirit of political understanding.-RT

## Netanyahu Draws 'Red Line,' Rejects Turkish, Qatari Mediation In Gaza Plan

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has strongly objected to any Turkish or Qatari presence in Gaza under the proposed postwar peace plan, calling it a "red line" that Israel will not cross, according to reports by Israel Hayom.

The move has raised concerns in Washington, where officials are working to ensure Israel does not derail the U.S.-backed deal with Hamas aimed at stabilizing Gaza once the ongoing conflict ends.

Dispute over humanitarian role

According to U.S. officials, the proposed role of Türkiye and Qatar would be strictly humanitarian and civilian, focusing on aid distribution, reconstruction, and civil administration support in coordination with international organizations.

However, Netanyahu and senior Israeli officials fear that Ankara and Doha's involvement could translate into political influence in Gaza, potentially strengthening Hamas-linked networks and undermining Israel's security interests.

"Jerusalem views any Turkish or Qatari presence as a direct threat to Israeli sovereignty and regional stability," an Israeli source told Israel Hayom, adding that Netanyahu had made his opposition clear during recent high-level discussions.

White House concerned over breakdown

The White House is reportedly worried that Netanyahu's firm stance could complicate ongoing negotiations and risk fracturing coordination between the U.S. and Israel.—RT/Agency

## Breaking Barriers: Takaichi Becomes Japan's First Woman Prime Minister

TOKYO: Japan got its first woman prime minister on Tuesday after Sanae Takaichi, a China hawk and social conservative, forged an 11th-hour coalition deal.

Japan's fifth premier in as many years will lead a minority government and has a full in-tray, not least a scheduled visit by US President Donald Trump next week.

Parliament appointed Takaichi, an admirer of Margaret Thatcher, as prime minister on Tuesday, after she unexpectedly won a majority in a first round of voting.

She will formally take office after meeting the emperor later.

The former heavy metal drummer became on October 4 head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has governed almost non-stop for decades but is losing support.

Six days later the Komeito party, uncomfortable about Takaichi's conservative views and an LDP slush fund scandal, quit their coalition.

This forced Takaichi to form an alliance with the reformist, right-leaning Japan Innovation Party (JIP), which was signed on Monday evening.

JIP wants to lower the consumption tax rate on food to zero, to abolish corporate and organisational donations and to reduce the number of MPs.

Takaichi pledged Monday to "make Japan's economy stronger, and reshape Japan as a country that can be responsible for future generations".

"She's a strong-minded person, regardless of being a woman," pensioner Toru Takahashi, 76, told AFP in Takaichi's hometown Nara.

"She's not like Trump. But she's clear about what's right and wrong."—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

## Badin Growers Unite in District-Wide Showdown Over Low Paddy Prices

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Nationalist, religious, political, and social organizations in District Badin have formed a joint alliance to protest against the inadequate prices of paddy and announced a district-wide movement.

A meeting of local growers was held at the residence of Badin Shehri Ittehad Convener, Khalifa Tariq Aziz Memon. Representatives from Sindh United Party (SUP), Qaumi Awami Tehreek, Zila Bachao Tehreek, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Jamaat-e-Islami, Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP), and other groups participated in the session. The alliance was unanimously named the Haari Abadgar Tehreek (Farmers and Growers Movement).

During the meeting, participants announced a protest rally on October 23 (Thursday) in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office. They warned that if the deductions on paddy prices were not stopped and fair rates were not ensured, they would block the main roads across the district.

## SSP Hyderabad Champions Interfaith Harmony at Diwali and Urs Festivities

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Hyderabad, Adeel Hussain Chandio, actively participated in a series of religious and cultural events, underscoring his commitment to peace, unity, and interfaith harmony in the city.

SSP Chandio attended the Diwali celebration at Sri Guru Nanak Trust, Bypass Hyderabad, where the event began with traditional festivities and a cake-cutting ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Diwali symbolizes happiness, love, and unity, promoting tolerance and brotherhood among all communities. The ceremony, chaired by Trust Chairman Gopal Das, was attended by members of the Minority Peace Committee, Inspector Manawar David, DIB In-charge Junaid Abbasi, and other guests. Ration bags were later distributed among the underprivileged, and prayers were offered for peace and prosperity.

He also visited the Darbar-e-Aliya Sakhi Wahab Shah Jilani (R.A.) shrine, where the annual Urs celebrations are being held from October 15 to 23. SSP Chandio offered Fateha and joined special prayers for the country's well-being.

## SBCA DG Muzzamil Halepoto Reviews Operations at Hyderabad Regional Office

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), Muzzamil Hussain Halepoto, visited the Hyderabad Regional Office on Wednesday, where he also inspected the CBA Office.

During the visit, People's Unity CBA Central Vice Chairman Guddu Qambrani, along with Mir Nadar Chandio, Raheem Kehar, Ghulam Shabir, Irfan Kaloi, and Javed Chandio, warmly welcomed DG Halepoto and Regional Director Muhammad Nawaz Samijo. As a mark of Sindhi tradition and hospitality, they presented Ajrak, Lungi, and Sindhi caps to the guests.CBA leaders, led by Vice Chairman Guddu Qambrani, assured the Director General of their full cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to work collectively, with dedication and enthusiasm, for the betterment and progress of the organization.

## Badin EPI Task Force Pushes for Full Child and Maternal Immunization Coverage

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Task Force was held in the Committee Room under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti.

Addressing the meeting, DC Yasir Bhatti highlighted that the EPI is a vital national program aimed at protecting children and pregnant women from various life-threatening diseases. He stated that the program provides free basic immunization, safeguarding children from deadly and disabling illnesses. By ensuring complete vaccination, he added, not only will children remain healthy and protected, but the infant mortality rate will also decline significantly.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to parents to ensure that their children under the age of two receive all recommended vaccines protecting them against 12 dangerous diseases.

## Journey of Knowledge and Hope: Over 50 Wheelchairs and Gifts Presented to Special Children in Ranipur

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA:A special ceremony titled "Annual Journey of Knowledge and Hope" was organized at Government Boys Elementary School, Bus Stand Ranipur, where more than 50 wheelchairs, school uniforms, and books were distributed among special (disabled) children.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sobhodero Shah Rukh Mangnehar, DEO Secondary Khairpur Abdul Sami Bhambhro, DEO Primary Khairpur Ayyaz Hussain Mahesar, T.O. Sobhodero Abdul Qayoom Jamro, Headmaster Ustad Arshad Mallah, Teacher Chhatal Mallah, Teacher Javed Rajpar, Monitoring Officer Saddam Hussain Wasan, T.O. Female Sobhodero Bakhtiar Ahmed Channa, T.O. Male Primary Abdul Qadir Bhatti, and PPP leader Sardar Nazir Jamro, along with a large number of students, teachers, parents, and journalists.Speaking at the event, the guests emphasized that education is the foundation of a prosperous Pakistan, and promoting literacy remains a top national priority. They said that supporting innocent children with special needs is a shared social responsibility and praised the school's efforts in fostering inclusivity and educational opportunity for all.

## Family Cries Foul in Thul, Alleges Police Abducted Their Youth and Demanded Rs. 500,000 Bribe

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Members of the Sirki community staged a protest and sit-in at Rahbar Chowk, Thul, against alleged police misconduct by the A-Section Police Station. The protesters raised slogans against the police, accusing them of abducting a young man, Muhammad Ali Sirki, from their village four days ago and demanding Rs. 500,000 for his release.

Speaking to the media, protesters including Muhar-ram Ali, Muhammad, Ehsan, Nisar, Farman, and Pappu Sirki alleged that the police threatened to "half-fry or full-fry" the youth if the ransom was not paid. They demanded that SSP Jacobabad take immediate notice of the incident and ensure action against those responsible.

## Dr. Nitesh Kumar Soni's Diwali Message: Spread Unity, Peace, and Light

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Prominent social figure of Umerkot District, Dr. Nitesh Kumar Soni, extended warm Diwali greetings to the people of Pakistan and the Hindu community across the country.

In his special message, Dr. Soni said that Diwali symbolizes light, hope, prosperity, and brotherhood, reminding everyone to eliminate hatred, ignorance, and darkness while spreading the light of love, knowledge, and humanity.

He prayed that this Diwali may bring peace, harmony, and prosperity not only to Pakistan but to the entire world. Dr. Soni further stated that the lands of Kapro and Umerkot have always stood as examples of interfaith harmony, love, and unity, where people of all religions and communities share in one another's joys and sorrows.

## Qasimabad Leaders Unite in Mourning of Molvi Abdul Haleem Pathan's Demise

By Javed Samijo

HYDERABAD: A large number of political, religious, and social figures visited New Wahdat Colony, Qasimabad, to offer condolences on the passing of Molvi Abdul Haleem Pathan, father of APCA leaders Abdul Wadood Pathan and Abdul Wahab Pathan.

Those who attended included APCA Sindh Provincial General Secretary Ashraf Bozai, Sindh Aman Group's Provincial General Secretary Shahid Soomro, religious leader Azam Jahangiri, Vice Chairman of Hussainabad Town Mehr Ali alias Poro Deshk, Chairman UC-127 Asif Mahmood Sheikh, social activists Iftikhar Ali Charan, Mir Jan Muhammad Daudani, Shaman Junejo, Agha Nadeem Pathan, and Councillor Shahid Junejo, among many others from various walks of life.

## DHO Larkana Launches Crackdown on Illegal Medical Stores in Naudero

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The District Health Officer (DHO) Larkana, Dr. Shoukat Abro, taking stern notice of public complaints, led an operation alongside Drug Inspector Sahib Khan Mirani in Naudero against illegal medical practices.During the raids, several medical stores were found selling expired, unregistered, and smuggled Indian medicines, operating without qualified staff, maintaining poor cold chain systems, and functioning in unhygienic conditions.The medical stores sealed during the operation included Maqeet Medical, Baba Medical, Ali Medical, Marvi Medical, Sarmad Medical, Mehdi Medical, New Sanwal Medical, Lal Medical, Al-Mansoor Medical, and Siraj Medical. Their licenses were canceled, fines were imposed, and several store owners fled upon learning about the crackdown.

## Skyrocketing Food Prices Crush Public in Hyderabad

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Prices of vegetables, fruits, sugar, and flour have surged sharply in Hyderabad, intensifying the financial strain on working-class families, salaried employees, and daily wage earners.

Profiteers continue to set prices at will, while the Price Control Authority remains ineffective. According to market surveys, tomatoes are being sold at Rs. 400 per kg, okra at Rs. 200, potatoes at Rs. 100, spinach at Rs. 150 per kg, flour between Rs. 70 and Rs. 120 per kg, and sugar between Rs. 200 and Rs. 230 per kg. Prices of other essential vegetables, including onions, turnips, carrots, and coriander, have also skyrocketed.

## Badin's Successful Anti-Polio Drive Reviewed Under DC Yasir Bhatti

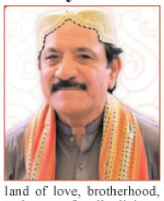
By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting was held in the Committee Room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, to review the performance of the recent anti-polio campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Yasir Bhatti stated that the recent polio campaign proved to be highly effective and successful, with vaccination teams across District Badin performing their duties with great dedication and responsibility. He informed that at the beginning of the campaign, 3,900 refusal cases were reported, but through joint efforts by the Health Department, Revenue staff, and other relevant institutions, the number was reduced to just 32 cases, which are expected to be fully resolved in the coming days.

## Haji Ali Hassan Zardari Reaffirms Sindh's Spirit of Interfaith Harmony on Diwali

By Khuda Bux Brohi



THATTA: Sindh Minister for Works & Services and Prisons, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, has extended warm greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan and abroad on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.In his message, Zardari said that Diwali is a festival of light, peace, and goodwill, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and promoting harmony among diverse communities. He noted that Sindh has always been a land of love, brotherhood, and respect for all religions, where people of different faiths share in one another's joys and sorrows.

He recalled that the Pakistan Peoples Party's founding leaders, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, took significant steps to safeguard minority rights and ensure their political, social, and religious freedoms.Reaffirming the Sindh government's commitment under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari, the minister said efforts continue to uphold equality and interfaith harmony across the province.

## Bloody Feud Between Chandio Clans Settled Through Tribal Mediation in Nawab Wali Muhammad

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A long-standing bloody dispute between members of the Chandio community, Muhammad Hashim Chandio and Hamza Khan Chandio, was peacefully settled under the mediation of Chief Haji Ali Nawaz Chandio.

The jirga (tribal council) was attended by MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Sardar Jam Changez Khan Anar, Syed Anwar Shah Lakiyari, Bahar Khan Mari, Kamal Khan Jatoi, Shabir Khan Chandio, Advocate Imtiaz Chandio, journalist Zafar Ali Chandio, and several other notables.

The council addressed the killing of young Pyaro Chandio, who was murdered five months ago. The party of Hashim Chandio, accused in the case, was fined Rs. 900,000 for violating the Holy Quran and the previous settlement.

## Kotri's 'Showpiece' Crackdown on Iranian Petrol Sparks Local Outcry for Inquiry

By Munwar Chandio

KOTRI, JAMSHORO: The Jamshoro District Administration's recent crackdown on illegal Iranian petrol units in Kotri has drawn sharp criticism from citizens and legal experts, who described the move as a superficial exercise that failed to address the roots of the illicit fuel trade.

The operation, launched on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Ghazanfar Ali Qadri and carried out by Assistant Commissioner Kotri Nadeem Khokhar, resulted in the sealing of several units. However, observers say no tangible results were achieved.

Sources revealed that no smuggled petrol was confiscated, no arrests were made, and no FIRs were registered against those involved. Analysts stressed that the operation should have included key institutions such as Pakistan Customs, the police, and OGRA to ensure accountability and legal action.

## Pithoro Police Recover Stolen Motorcycle Following Accused's Confession

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Pithoro Police have successfully recovered a motorcycle that was stolen from Gul Hassan Chhoro on Umerkot–Mirpurkhas Road within the limits of Shadi Palli Police Station a few days ago.According to SHO Pithoro Maqsood Ahmed Chana, the arrested suspect, Nauman alias Nomi, is a habitual criminal. He was earlier arrested for snatching a mobile phone and cash from Pithoro city. Following his arrest and interrogation, the police recovered the stolen motorcycle from the Shadi Palli area based on his identification. The case (FIR) had been registered at Shadi Palli Police Station on the complaint of the motorcycle owner, Gul Hassan Chhoro.SHO Chana further stated that the investigation is ongoing, and efforts are being made to apprehend the absconding accomplices of the accused to recover other stolen items and curb criminal activities in the region.

## VC Dr. Fateh Marri: Early Detection and Family Support Vital in Breast Cancer Battle

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Vice Chancellor of the University of Sindh, Professor Dr. Fateh Marri, has expressed deep concern over the rapidly increasing cases of breast cancer worldwide, stressing the importance of early diagnosis and strong family support for patients.

Addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness seminar at the University of Sindh, Thatta Campus, Dr. Marri urged women to seek medical advice promptly at the first sign of symptoms, highlighting that timely detection significantly improves treatment outcomes. He clarified that breast cancer is not a viral disease but a serious medical condition that can be effectively managed with early intervention, awareness, and compassion.Dr. Marri revealed that approximately 2.5 million women across the globe are currently affected by breast cancer, calling it a global health challenge that demands collective efforts from society, healthcare institutions, and families alike. He emphasized that emotional care and moral encouragement from families play a vital role in a patient's recovery and quality of life.

## SSP Zafar Siddique Orders Crackdown on Crime in Jamshoro

By Munwar Chandio

JAMSHORO:The District Police Jamshoro convened a key meeting to strengthen crime control and administrative performance, chaired by SSP Jamshoro, Zafar Siddique Chhanga. The session brought together all SHOs and In-charges of police posts from the Kotri Sub-Division.

During the meeting, SSP Chhanga issued clear directives for expediting investigations, improving area surveillance, and resolving public complaints without delay. He urged officers to take decisive action against drug trafficking, theft, and other serious crimes.Emphasizing the importance of community engagement, SSP Chhanga directed police officials to build public trust through effective community policing and timely reporting of criminal incidents.

# METRO KARACHI

## Dr. Nadeem Qamar Discusses Sindh's Health and Agriculture Future with PPP Chairman Bilawal

KARACHI: Prominent agriculturist and renowned cardiologist Dr. Syed Nadeem Qamar, hailing from the illustrious Shah family of Tando Mohammad Khan, met with Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to discuss key matters concerning health and agriculture in Sindh. The Central President of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture and former Executive Director of NICVD emphasized innovative strategies to boost agricultural productivity and improve healthcare access across the province, earning the PPP chairman's appreciation for his visionary insights.—RT

## Karachi Airport Runway to Shut Daily for 3 Hours Amid Major Upgrade

KARACHI: Karachi's Jinnah International Airport will close one of its main runways for three hours daily from November 5 to 24. Runway 7R/25L will be shut from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM to facilitate construction of a new taxiway. The move, part of an infrastructure upgrade, aims to improve aircraft movement at Pakistan's busiest airport. —RT

## Sindh's Controversial 'Surrender Policy' Offers Dacoits a Deal to Lay Down Arms

KARACHI: The Sindh government has approved a controversial "surrender policy" for dacoits operating in the Katcha areas. Under this plan, criminals who lay down their weapons at designated spots will face legal action but receive protection for their families and property. Approved by the Sindh cabinet on October 6, the policy requires biometric verification and the issuance of new ID cards for those without them.—RT

## Green Line Construction to Resume Soon, Confirms Federal Spokesperson Raja Khaliq Ansari

KARACHI : The federal government's spokesperson for Sindh, Raja Khaliq Ansari, announced that construction on Karachi's Green Line project will resume soon, dispelling confusion about the NOC.He said the NOC was approved in 2017 and remains valid. Ansari added that all pending matters have been reviewed, and incomplete work identified by the local government will be completed promptly.—RT/Agency

## Police Foil Robbery Near Ronjha Goth After Intense Gunfire Exchange

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Near Ronjha Goth on Malir Cantonment Road, SHO Memon Goth Javed Ahmed Abro and his team confronted armed robbers who were in the process of looting a citizen identified as Aftab Masih.According to SHO Abro, the robbers opened fire as soon as they saw the police. In retaliatory firing, one of the suspects was believed to have been injured, while the culprits abandoned their motorcycle and fled into nearby bushes and forested areas.

## Toxic Indian Fireworks Smoke Engulfs Pakistan, Raising Smog Fears

LAHORE: Experts warn that smoke from Indian fireworks has entered Pakistan, worsening air quality and threatening hazardous smog levels in Lahore. After Diwali, New Delhi's AQI soared to 821, making it the world's most polluted city. The smoke is expected to intensify pollution across neighboring cities.—RT

## Salaried Class Drives Tax Surge, Contributing Rs130 Billion in Just Three Months

ISLAMABAD: The salaried class has emerged as the top contributor to income tax in FY 2025-26's first quarter, with a record Rs130 billion paid—up Rs20 billion from last year. The increase highlights a significant rise in tax revenue, with the class's total contribution rising steadily.—RT

## 92-Year-Old Maulana Sherani Weds Again in Simple Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, the 92-year-old former Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, has remarried in a simple ceremony in Islamabad. His second marriage, attended by close family and religious scholars, follows the passing of his first wife. His bride hails from Gilgit-Baltistan, and the nikah was conducted per Islamic traditions.—RT

## Pakistan Launches Ambitious 'Sea to Steel' Maritime-Industrial Corridor

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's government plans to revive Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) with advanced technology and a new maritime-industrial partnership. Federal Minister Junaid Chaudhry unveiled a proposal to create a "Sea to Steel Green Maritime Industrial Corridor" at Port Qasim, aiming to integrate ship recycling, steel production, and sustainable practices.—RT

# REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

## Punjab Rolls Out Game-Changing Mobile Police Station and Licensing Unit

LAHORE: In a groundbreaking move, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the province's first-ever mobile police station and licensing unit on Tuesday. The mobile unit offers a variety of services, including on-site FIR registration for the first time. Additionally, it will provide facilities for issuing and renewing various types of driving licenses, including learner, regular, international, and women's licenses. This innovative initiative aims to bring essential police and licensing services directly to the public, improving convenience and accessibility across the province.—RT

## Pakistan Railways Deploys Signal Jammers to Shield Trains from Terror Attacks

ISLAMABAD: In response to growing terrorism threats, Pakistan Railways will equip all trains with signal jammers to block attacks on tracks and trains. Each train will have three jammers, with enhanced security patrols on sensitive routes. The move follows the October 7 blast on the Jaffar Express near Shikarpur, which derailed five carriages and injured six passengers. The decision, made by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, also includes strict actions against land encroachments on railway property.—RT

## Health Minister Kamal Updates PM on Key Health Reforms and Projects!

ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, briefing him on ongoing health sector reforms. Kamal highlighted progress on key ministry projects, including the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex, and discussed advancements in improving Pakistan's healthcare infrastructure.—RT

## Ogra Dismisses Fuel Shortage Fears, Says Situation Under Control

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has dismissed reports of a fuel shortage in Pakistan, assuring the public that the situation is "fully under control." Media claims of delays at ports and higher costs due to new Sindh government taxes were countered by Ogra, which rejected the shortage concerns.—RT

## Pakistan's Bear Population Plummets by 30% Amid Growing Threats

ISLAMABAD: Experts warn that Pakistan's bear population has declined by 20-30% in the past decade due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-animal conflict. While some areas still host healthy bear numbers, the overall trend is concerning, with environmental degradation playing a key role in the population's rapid decline.—RT

# GLOBAL

## Global Memon Leaders Unite in Mombasa for 2nd Leadership Conference

MOMBASA, KENYA: The 2nd Memon Leadership Conference began at PrideInn Paradise Resort, hosted by Mr. Rafique Suleman, Chairman, Memon Leadership Forum–Kenya Chapter. The two-day event (Oct 21–22, 2025) is led by Mr. Abdul Rahim Janoo, Global President; Sir Iqbal Sacranie, Senior Vice President; and Mr. Hamza Tabani, Secretary General of MLF. Distinguished guests include Senator Mohamed Faki Mwinyihaji, Hon. Mohamed Osman Ali, Hon. Kibwana Swaleh, Hon. Erick Gitonga, Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi, Mr. Asim Basharullah, Mr. Hasnain Noorani, and Mr. Mohammed Begha.-RT

## Canada's Mark Carney Cautions on U.S. Steel Deal, Keeps Expectations in Check

CANADA: Prime Minister Mark Carney downplayed reports of a possible trade deal on steel and aluminum with the U.S. following a Globe and Mail article. While sources suggest an agreement may be signed at the APEC summit in South Korea, Carney urged caution, warning not to overplay expectations amid ongoing tariff talks.—RT

# Central Punjab

## Federal Ombudsman Orders Overhaul at Islamabad Airport After Passenger Uproar

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has taken notice of growing complaints against Islamabad International Airport and dispatched an inspection team to review the situation. The team, led by Advisor Major General (R) Haroon Sikandar Pasha and comprising Commissioner for Complaints (Overseas Pakistanis) Dr. Inamul Haq Javed and Consultant Whiz Haleem Rajput, carried out a detailed inspection of all airport departments.The team visited national and international immigration counters, the luggage handling area, and the "Joint Facilitation Desk" established by the Federal Ombudsman. They recorded complaints from passengers traveling abroad about immigration delays and alleged mistreatment by FIA, ASF, ANF, and Customs officials.

## 165 Couples Tie the Knot Under CM Maryam's Dhee Rani Program in Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt attended a grand collective marriage ceremony in Gujranwala, organized under the Chief Minister Punjab's "Dhee Rani Program."

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, over 5,000 deserving couples will be married across Punjab this year. In the third phase of the program, 165 couples from District Gujranwala were united in marriage during a ceremony held at Eden Garden Banquet, Gakkhar. Each couple received a special gift package worth Rs. 200,000 in cash and a bridal dress from the Chief Minister as a gesture of love and support.

## Narowal Police Step Up Anti-Drug Drive, Arrest Dealers and Seize Narcotics

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: Under the directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Narowal, police have intensified their ongoing crackdown against anti-social elements, resulting in several arrests and significant drug recoveries.According to details, operations supervised by DSP Headquarters led to the arrest of two drug peddlers by SHO City Narowal. Police recovered 2.12 kg of hashish from Amees Butt and 5 liters of liquor from Ali Khan.Similarly, under the supervision of Incharge Police Post Domala, SHO Saddar Narowal apprehended Ali Raza and seized 1.32 kg of hashish.

## DPO Ibadat Nisar Holds Open Courts in Gojra to Hear Public Complaints

By Abid Mahmood Chaudhary

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the directives of Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and under the supervision of Regional Police Officer Faisalabad Region Zeeshan Asghar, District Police Officer (DPO) Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar, continued his efforts to strengthen public engagement and ensure swift resolution of citizens' issues.The DPO held a series of open courts (Khuli Katcheris) at various locations in Gojra Circle, including Union Council under Police Station Nawan Lahore, Canal Rest House Dhamma Bangla (Police Station Sadar Gojra), and TMA Hall (Police Station City Gojra).

## Tragedy at Petrol Pump: One Worker Electrocuted, Another Battles for Life

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A tragic incident occurred near the Gojra Road Bypass in Toba Tek Singh, where two laborers were electrocuted while working at an under-construction petrol pump. One worker lost his life, while the other sustained critical injuries.

According to reports, both men were cleaning the roof using a large iron ladder, which accidentally came into contact with 11kV high-voltage power lines running in front of the site. The electric current instantly struck both workers.

## Lawmakers, Officials Join Forces to Make Gujranwala a Drug-Free Division

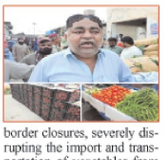
By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: As part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign, a significant awareness event was held at the Commissioner's Office, Gujranwala. The session was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Narcotics Punjab Shehryar Malik, Commissioner Gujranwala Division Syed Naveed Haider Shirazi, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed, DG Anti-Narcotics Muhammad Mazhar, Members of National and Provincial Assembly Mahmood Bashir Wark, Qaiser Iqbal Sidhu, Muhammad Nawaz Chauhan, and Adnan Afzal Chatta, along with Additional Commissioner Coordination Muhammad Shafiq and Deputy Commissioners from all districts through video link.

# BALOCHISTAN HEARTLAND

## Terror and Floods Disrupt Supply Chains; Tomato and Vegetable Prices Soar — Arz Muhammad Gola

By Inayatullah Hur



JAFFARABAD: President of the Dera Allah Yar Vegetable Market, Arz Muhammad Gola, while commenting on the recent surge in tomato and vegetable prices, stated that ongoing terrorist incidents in border regions, allegedly instigated by anti-state elements, have led to border closures, severely disrupting the import and transportation of vegetables from abroad.He further added that devastating floods in Punjab have destroyed crops, resulting in a severe shortage of vegetables across the country. Gola said that the current crisis and abnormal price hike of tomatoes and other vegetables are due to the failure of both the government and local administration to manage the situation effectively.

REGIONAL TIMES

# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

## "Let Them Eat Ketchup!" — The Government's Marie Antoinette Moment as Tomato Prices Hit the Sky

As tomato prices touch an unthinkable Rs700 per kilogram, Pakistan's ruling elite appear dangerously out of touch — their behavior echoing Marie Antoinette's infamous obliviousness to her starving subjects. "Let them eat cake," she allegedly quipped. In today's Pakistan, one might imagine ministers shrugging, "Let them eat ketchup."

The crisis of affordability has reached a grotesque level where the nation's most basic kitchen ingredient now costs more than chicken. From Karachi to Faisalabad and Peshawar, tomatoes have vanished from the tables of ordinary Pakistanis, replaced by frustration and despair. In some cities, even peas and onions have soared beyond Rs400 per kilogram, signaling a full-blown food inflation catastrophe.

While the stock market inches upward and government officials boast of economic recovery, the reality on the streets tells a very different story. People are going hungry, inflation is devouring paychecks, and yet policymakers appear content to drown in their own self-praise. The disconnect is staggering.

This crisis cannot be brushed aside as a mere supply issue or import delay. It reflects a deeper rot — administrative paralysis, absence of price control, and a cruel lack of empathy. When regulators like Ogra rush to deny fuel shortages but remain silent on the food crisis, it exposes where priorities truly lie.

The time for hollow assurances is over. The government must act decisively — control profiteering, streamline supply chains, and provide genuine relief. Otherwise, history may remember today's rulers just as it remembers Marie Antoinette — detached, dismissive, and disastrously out of touch with the people's pain.

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND

## Matiari Seminar Raises Awareness on Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: An awareness seminar on breast and cervical cancer was organized at Matiari Health Services Hospital to educate women about the growing risks of these diseases, their early detection, and preventive measures.The event was attended by Director Matiari Health Services Hospital Syed Taimoor Shah Jamot, Chief Operating Officer Syed Nadeem Shah, General Surgeon Dr. Ayesha Bhatti, Dr. Shireen Memon, Hospital Principal Yasmeen, and other medical experts.

Speaking on the occasion, the experts highlighted that breast and cervical cancer are among the rapidly increasing diseases among women, but timely diagnosis and treatment can save lives. They emphasized that every woman should undergo a medical check-up at least once a year.Health professionals provided detailed information on the early symptoms of cancer, available treatment methods, and preventive measures. A large number of female students from various schools and colleges attended the seminar and received awareness material.

## Kot Ghulam Muhammad Villagers Protest Land Grabbing, Harassment by Influentials

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: Residents of village Manhain Jo Tar, Deh Horengo, taluka Umerkot, led by Muhammad Hashim Chhachhar and his son Qadir Bux Chhachhar, held a protest outside the Kot Ghulam Muhammad Press Club against alleged atrocities committed by influential persons.

Speaking to journalists, the protesters accused serving Tapedar Muhammad Moosa Chhachhar, junior clerk Asghar Ali Shahnawaz, and their associates of attacking their ancestral rain-fed land—under cultivation since 1970—armed with weapons. They allegedly destroyed water tanks, damaged standing crops, set fire to the villagers' guest house (Otaq), and then fled the scene.

The villagers further stated that despite filing a report with the police, no action was taken. When they approached the court, both parties were summoned, after which Moosa Chhachhar allegedly began threatening them with dire consequences.

## Gharo Seminar Urges Women to Step Forward in Elections

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The District Election Commissioner, Thatta, organized an awareness seminar on the Importance and Value of Vote at Government Girls High School, Gharo, to promote voter education and civic participation—particularly among women.

Regional Election Commissioner Thatta, Muhammad Sajjad Khattak, attended the event as the chief guest.

Addressing the participants, Mr. Khattak stressed that every woman's vote is not only her constitutional right but also a vital element in strengthening democracy. He urged women to take an active role in the electoral process and encourage others to cast their votes responsibly.

He further stated that it is the duty of every citizen to value their vote, as it determines the country's democratic future

## Six Fake Teachers Unmasked in Tando Allahyar Education Scam

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Massive irregularities have surfaced in the Education Department of Tando Allahyar, where six fake teachers were allegedly recruited through fraudulent means. Reports reveal that biometric records have gone missing, leaving genuine candidates stranded and without appointments.

According to sources, these bogus appointments were made in Tando Allahyar, Chambar, and Jhando Mari talukas with the alleged collusion of the District Officer (Primary Education), Taluka Education Officers (TEOs), and the former Chief Municipal Officer (CMO). The Secretary of Education reportedly failed to verify the District Recruitment Committee (DRC) documents.

An audit by the Accountant General's (AG) office uncovered the scam, exposing six fake teachers among 43 who were transferred from the NCHD to the Education Department.

## Chairman Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar Orders Speedy Hari Card and Subsidy Processing

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Chairman of Town Committee Khanpur Mahar, Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar, took notice of public complaints and held a meeting with Additional Director Agriculture Asif Ali Siddiqui and Deputy Director Agriculture Khanpur Mahar, Ahmad Ali Mahar.

During the meeting, he directed the officers to ensure that the Hari Card and subsidy forms are processed and completed at the earliest. Chairman Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar, while addressing the officials, said that farmers should be able to fully benefit from the relief provided by the Sindh government.

## PPP MPA Rais Sajid Ali Bhanbhro Opens Drainage, Paver Projects in Thari Mirwah

By Muhammad Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH:Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Rais Sajid Ali Bhanbhro inaugurated the drainage system and paver block projects at the Town Committee Thari Mirwah, where he was warmly welcomed by local residents.

Later, he attended a reception hosted by Sardar Liaquat Ali Khaskheli and also met with various community members in Thari City to offer condolences.

Chairman Town Committee Dr. Rehan Ahmed Jogie, Assistant Commissioner Mirwah Faqir Imtiaz Lashari, Mir Chanesar, Zulfiqar Ali Jogie, Mazhar Hussain Islami, Bashir Ahmed Awan, Younis Awan, Khadim Ajan, Ismail Khaskheli, Ali Khan Shar, Manzoor Dasti, Gulmeer Khaskheli, and other notable figures accompanied him on the occasion.

## Sakrand Press Club Welcomes Dr. Anees Abdullah Magsi After Return From Holy Pilgrimage

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A delegation of the Sakrand Press Club, led by its President Mir Muhammad Keerio, visited Dr. Anees Abdullah Magsi at his residence to warmly welcome him upon his return from the sacred cities of Makkah and Madinah after performing Umrah and Ziyarat.The delegation congratulated Dr. Anees by presenting garlands of flowers, currency notes, and traditional bangles, expressing joy over his spiritual journey and the honor of visiting the holy places.

## Roshan Tara High School Honors Top Achievers at Awards Ceremony

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: An award ceremony was held at Roshan Tara High School Mehar to honour students who secured first, second, and third positions in the first-term examinations. The event was attended by President of the Mehar branch, Badruddin Palh, Chairman Engineer Muhammad Aslam Chandio, Principal Abdul Karim Chandio, and teachers Ashfaq Ahmed Soomro and Asad Ali Panhwar.

Speaking on the occasion, President Badruddin Palh praised the teachers for their dedication and performance, saying that their hard work had enabled students to achieve success through knowledge. He added that education is the true goal of life.Chairman Engineer Muhammad Aslam Chandio stated that the purpose of education is to equip students with quality learning so that they can gain recognition among nations. He emphasized that to face modern challenges, teachers, students, and parents must work together to achieve success in every field.

## Tando Allahyar Seminar Highlights Profitable Sugarcane Cultivation

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR :A seminar titled "Profitable Sugarcane Cultivation" was organized at Roshan Hall, Tando Allahyar, by Fatima Fertilizers, Mehran Sugar Mills, and the Agriculture Extension Department, Tando Allahyar.

The event was hosted by Development Manager Sindh & Balochistan Abdul Samad Abro, Technical Services Officer Mirpurkhas Ayaz Mahmood Wark, District Sales Manager Tando Allahyar Farooq Ahmed Ansari, DGM Cane Mehran Sugar Mills Muhammad Pannu, and R&D Head Mehran Sugar Mills Dr. Muhammad Mudasar.

A large number of farmers from Tando Allahyar and nearby cities attended the seminar. Addressing the participants, agricultural experts noted that sugarcane yield in these areas remains relatively low. They shared practical guidance and modern farming techniques to help growers increase productivity and profitability.

## HESCO Chief Promotes Interfaith Unity at Sakhi Wahab Shah Jillani Urs and Diwali

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) Chief Executive Officer Faizullah Dahri exemplified interfaith harmony by participating in two major religious events on the same day — the annual Urs of Darbar-e-Aaliya Sakhi Wahab Shah Jillani (RA) and Diwali celebrations at Durga Shiv Mandir.

According to a HESCO spokesperson, CEO Dahri attended the Urs ceremonies, offered Fateha at the shrine of the revered Sufi saint, and assured uninterrupted power supply during the event. Later, he visited the Durga Shiv Mandir, where he extended Diwali greetings to the Hindu community and reiterated HESCO's commitment to ensuring a reliable electricity supply during their festivities.

## Empowering Minority Youth: Interactive Session on CSS Aspirants Organized in Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad hosted an interactive session under the National Outreach Program for CSS aspirants, particularly from minority communities, organized by the Civil Services Academy (CSA). Chaired by DG CSA Mr. Farhan Khuwaja, the event focused on encouraging youth to pursue Central Superior Services (CSS) and Provincial Civil Services (PCS). Speakers emphasized the importance of civil servants, shared insights on overcoming common challenges, and motivated aspirants to persevere. The event also featured inspiring discussions from local officials, including Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad and Commissioner Hyderabad Division, fostering community engagement and empowerment.

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

# SPORTS

## Pakistan To Launch Esports Federation, Drafts National Gaming Policy

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme in Pakistan, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, announced Tuesday that the country is establishing the Esports Federation and developing a policy to 'support' game developers and digital innovators.

Mashhood made the announcement while addressing a ceremony here, recognising the sector as a fast-growing and multibillion-dollar global industry. He further shared that around sixty million Pakistanis are involved in Esports, and that the new policy would help them grow.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistani gamers are recognised globally due to their monumental achievements at the international stage, with Arslan Ash leading the charge as he has clinched seven Evolution Championship Series (EVO) titles in Tekken.

The 30-year-old lifted his seventh title at the France 2025 Tekken 8 World Championship, where he defeated South Korea's JeonDDing in a tightly contested final.

Earlier this year, in August, the EVO 2025 Championship in Las Vegas saw two Pakistani gamers – Ash and Atif Butt – in the final.

Representing Twisted Minds, Ash defeated his compatriot to clinch his seventh title.

Ash hails from Lahore and has won international Tekken competitions after learning to play as an eight-year-old in gaming arcades in the country.

During his interaction with journalists, Ash said, "We both work so hard, we have to face each other."

"That's the thing, I don't want to face him. I know he's so strong. We play each other every day and know each other's weaknesses. We can't hide from each other. It's 50/50," Ash added.—Agency

## England Rugby Icon Emily Scarratt Bows Out at 35

England's legendary rugby star Emily Scarratt, the nation's all-time top point scorer and a key figure in two Rugby World Cup victories, has announced her retirement at the age of 35, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) confirmed on Tuesday.

Playing as a centre, Scarratt made her England debut in 2008 and went on to earn 119 caps, scoring 754 points through 54 tries, 158 conversions, and 56 penalties.

This year, she made history by becoming the first English player—male or female—to compete in five World Cup tournaments, finishing with England's triumph on home soil.

Reflecting on her career, Scarratt expressed gratitude for her time in rugby and pride in her achievements.

"It's been the greatest privilege to wear the England shirt and represent my country for so many years. Rugby has given me everything—amazing teammates, unforgettable memories and experiences I'll carry with me forever," Scarratt said.

"I still love the game, but the time feels right to step away. You don't always get the chance in sport to make that decision for yourself, and I feel lucky to do so on my own terms, proud of everything I've been part of."

Scarratt has already begun a coaching role with Loughborough Lightning and will also take on a specialist coaching and mentorship position with the RFU, the governing body confirmed.

England head coach John Mitchell praised Scarratt as a "once-in-a-generation" player who led by example.

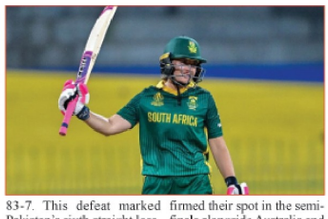
"She's had a huge impact on the Red Roses and on women's rugby globally, and we're thrilled she'll continue to share that experience through a different role," Mitchell said.—Agency

## Kids' Corner

**Names: Abdul Salam, Zeeshan and Ayesha Pirzado**
**Location: Badah**
**About us: We love our Sindh Dharti**

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

## Wolvaardt's 90 Powers South Africa to Crushing 150-Run Victory Over Pakistan!



In a rain-impacted Women's World Cup match on Tuesday, Laura Wolvaardt led from the front with a powerful 90 as South Africa crushed Pakistan by 150 runs in Colombo. Wolvaardt's attacking knock helped South Africa post a mammoth total of 312-9 in their reduced 40 overs. The match was plagued by heavy rain in Sri Lanka, which has caused four matches to be abandoned in the past two weeks.

Pakistan, chasing a revised target of 234 in 20 overs, never stood a chance and was bowled out for just 83-7. This defeat marked Pakistan's sixth straight loss, ensuring they would not advance to the semi-finals. South Africa's win, their fifth consecutive victory, confirmed their spot in the semi-finals alongside Australia and England.

South Africa's innings began with a rain delay, leaving them 6-1 after two overs. However, Wolvaardt and Sune Luus (61) steadied the ship with a 118-run partnership. Despite Wolvaardt falling short of a century, Marizanne Kapp (68*) and Nadine de Klerk (41 off 16 balls) pushed the total past 300, with boundaries flowing in the final overs. Pakistan's chase was hindered by continuous rain delays, ultimately falling short. With Pakistan's exit, the remaining semi-finals and final will be played in India on November 2.—Agency

## Second Pakistan–South Africa Test on a Knife's Edge After Asif's Twin Breakthroughs

RAWALPINDI: The second and final Test between Pakistan and South Africa remains finely poised after Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs scored fifties, but debutant Asif Afridi's late strike with the ball ended day two at 185-4 in 65 overs, with the Proteas trailing by 148 runs at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Resuming their innings after bowling out Pakistan for 333, South Africa's openers Ryan Rickelton and captain Aiden Markram aimed to provide a solid start.

Runs flowed steadily, but the partnership was broken when Shaheen Afridi dismissed Rickelton for 14 off 26 balls, leaving the visitors at 22-1 in 8.2 overs.

Markram took charge after Rickelton's dismissal, striking boundaries and keeping the scoreboard ticking, helping South Africa reach the 50-run mark in the 20th over.

However, Sajid Khan dismissed Markram for 32 off 62 balls, ending a 32-run stand with Tristan Stubbs.

Tony de Zorzi then steadied the innings alongside Stubbs, adding 32 runs for the third wicket as tea approached.

In the final session, the duo grew in confidence, putting Pakistan's bowlers under pressure and regularly finding the boundary.

Both Stubbs and de Zorzi went on to score fifties, compiling a 100-run partnership for the third wicket, with South Africa reaching 166-2 in 57 overs.Pakistan found relief when Asif Afridi broke the 113-run stand by dismissing Tony de Zorzi, who scored 55 off 93 deliveries with one four and two sixes.

In the 60th over, Asif struck again, removing Dewald Brevis for a four-ball duck, leaving South Africa at 171-4 in 59.3 overs.

The Proteas will resume day three with Tristan Stubbs unbeaten on 68 and Kyle Verreynne on 10 at the crease.Batting first, Pakistan got off to a steady start as openers Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique put on 35 runs for the first wicket before Imam was bowled by Simon Harmer for 17 off 35 balls.Abdullah Shafique continued with composure, combining aggression with patience to counter South Africa's bowling.Skipper Shan Masood joined him and displayed positive intent, hitting two towering sixes as Pakistan reached 65-1 after 20 overs.—Agency

## Athapaththu's Heroics Stun Bangladesh as Sri Lanka Pull Off a Miracle Win

NAVI MUMBAI: Sri Lanka snatched victory from the jaws of defeat to record their first win of the Women's Cricket World Cup, edging out Bangladesh by seven runs in a nerve jangling finish in Navi Mumbai on Monday.

With Bangladesh cruising and only nine needed off the final over with five wickets in hand, having mustered just three runs off the penultimate over, skipper Chamari Athapaththu took the ball herself and turned the game on its head.

Four wickets tumbled in four balls as Bangladesh collapsed, losing five wickets for just two runs.

Athapaththu, calm amid the storm, finished with career-best figures of 4-42.

The drama began with Rabeya Khan trapped leg-before off the first ball, followed by a run-out next delivery.

Then, Bangladesh's hopes sank when their captain Nigar Sultana danced down the track only to find long-off lurking.

When Marufa Akter was adjudged lbw next ball, Athapaththu had conjured the unthinkable, defending nine with a single run conceded in the over.

"We handled the pressure well. We knew that if we took the game deep, teams could crumble," Athapaththu said. "It wasn't perfect, batting collapses and dropped catches hurt us, but luck smiled at us today."

For once, fortune favoured Sri Lanka, whose campaign had been marred by rain, missed chances and misfiring batters.

Hasini Perera, who struck her maiden ODI half-century, made 85 off 99 balls, peppered with 13 fours and a six.

She was the backbone of Sri Lanka's 202 all out as she reached the milestone of 1,000 runs in ODIs.

A 74-run partnership with Nilakshika de Silva gave Sri Lanka a solid launch pad, before another collapse saw six wickets fall for 28 run.

Even so, the Sri Lankans held their nerve in the death overs to seal the win and climb to sixth in the standings.

With four points, they are level with New Zealand and India, although will need results to go in their favour to grab the last semi-final spot.

Australia, South Africa and England have already booked their places in the last four.—Agency

## Naqvi Floats Idea Of Ceremony To Hand Asia Cup Trophy To India

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reportedly proposed holding a ceremony to present the Asia Cup 2025 trophy to India, which clinched the title last month.

The Indian team, acting on instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), refused to accept the trophy from Naqvi, following their victory over Pakistan in the final on September 29.

The BCCI has since written a formal letter to the ACC chairman, requesting that the trophy be handed over to them.

In his response, the ACC chairman reportedly asked the BCCI to send an Indian player to attend a ceremony and collect the trophy from him.

The sources said that Naqvi remained firm on his stance that he would present the silverware during the ceremony.The ACC has also proposed holding the ceremony on November 10 in Dubai, they added.

The development comes a month after the Indian team received backlash for consistently making political statements during last month's Asia Cup.

Pundits slammed Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav for refusing the customary handshake with Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha at the toss for their game on September 14.

In the following two games, including the final, the two sides skipped handshakes and also stayed in separate huddles during the post-match ceremonies.—Agency

## QEAT Thrillers: FATA, Sialkot, Multan, Abbottabad Shine In Third-Round Wins

The third round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2025-26 concluded across four venues in three cities, with FATA, Sialkot, Multan and Abbottabad winning their respective matches.

At the Imran Khan Cricket Stadium in Peshawar, Karachi Blues suffered a humbling 184-run defeat at the hands of FATA on the final day of their third-round fixtures as the leaders were bowled out for a meagre 111 while chasing 296.

Resuming their pursuit from 67/4, Karachi Blues could add 44 more to their overnight score for the loss of the remaining six wickets.

Number eight batter Mohammad Usman Rahim remained the top-scorer with a 39-ball 23, while Haroon Arshad (20), skipper Rameez Aziz (18) and Saad Baig (17) were the other to amass double figures.

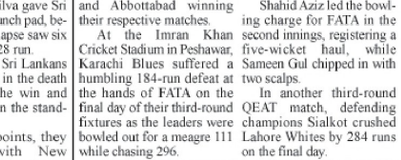
Shahid Aziz led the bowling charge for FATA in the second innings, registering a five-wicket haul, while Sameen Gul chipped in with two scalps.

In another third-round QEAT match, defending champions Sialkot crushed Lahore Whites by 284 runs on the final day.

At the start of the final day's play, Lahore Whites resumed their 390-run pursuit from 18/1 and could add 87 more to their overnight score to ultimately get bowled out for a modest 105 in 35.5 overs.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Cougar Jessica Simpson Branded 'Self-Obsessed' Amid New Love Hunt

Jessica Simpson's self-love may be making it harder for her to find someone new.

Since her split from Eric Johnson, the With You singer has been searching for a new relationship, but according to RadarOnline.com, potential suitors are keeping their distance.A source told the outlet that the men she has met are not too keen because "she's self-obsessed and can't carry on a conversation that isn't about her."At this point, Jessica, once famously described as "s****l napalm" by ex-boyfriend John Mayer, "would love a roll in the hay," the insider said.

Simpson shares three children, Maxwell Drew, Ace Knute, and Birdie Mae, with her ex-husband Eric Johnson, from whom she separated earlier this year.

"But she keeps getting knocked back, and that's making her even more hot and bothered," they said.

Despite her romantic dry spell, Simpson has been channelling her focus into her career and personal growth.Earlier this year, the Nashville Canyon artist released her first music project in 15 years and launched a new fragrance, Mystic Canyon.

## Brad-less Jennifer Aniston Reveals Why She Skipped This Year's Met Gala — Fans Shocked

Jennifer Aniston has finally opened up about staying away from the Met Gala's red carpet.

According to Radar Online, the 56-year-old American actress's decision to not illuminate the famous red carpet of the Met Gala has upset fashion doyenne Anna Wintour, and she might be banned from attending fashion's biggest night.

Reflecting on her decision, Aniston said, "It's the getting ready, the putting on the dress. I'm a 'jeans and flip-flops and tank top' kind of girl. I love dressing up too, but for me it's a mental game of…'Let's get dressed up, put on a fancy dress, makeup, get your hair all 'purdy' and go sit in a big room with your peers.' (And yes,) everyone's there to celebrate each other and have some fun, but I get nervous."

The Friends star went on to take a jab at critics by quipping, "Some people find it like a sport where they build you up and then they love to tear you down. What's the reason why people do it? Who knows? But I just try as best I can (to tune it out) because it doesn't do you any good."

An insider told Vogue that Aniston might be removed from the Met Gala's guest list because "once you insult Anna, it can stick."

## Kim Kardashian Flooded with Birthday Wishes from A-List Celebrities

Kim Kardashian is 45 now. Many notables wished her well on her birthday, as well as celebrity A-listers.

The reality star shared their wishes on her Instagram Stories. For the first, Victoria Beckham, a well-known fashion designer and wife of David Beckham, posted a picture with her on social media.

Kim Kardashian gets wishes from top celebs on birthday

The two-time Academy nominee Naomi Watts also shared the photo with the aspiring lawyer.

Kim Kardashian gets wishes from top celebs on birthday

Amy Schumer, known for her comedy movies, likewise posted a hilarious image of a red carpet with Kim.

Kim Kardashian gets wishes from top celebs on birthday

It is worth noting the mom-of-four often goes to the Caribbean for her birthday bashes, but it's unclear where she will go this time.

In other news, Skims' latest undies, the Faux Hair Micro String Thong, sold quickly, leaving the fashion mogul surprised.

"I had no idea that it would have quite the reaction and that it would sell out in a few minutes," she tells Variety. "That was just a fun idea that I had."

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is offering Fateha condolences to Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani over the demise of his Father former Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Ahmed Khan Durrani at his residence Kot Durani Garhi Yaseen.—RT

# Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro Celebrates Top Educators at Best Teachers Awards Ceremony

By Muqeem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Mayor of Hyderabad, Kashif Ali Shoro, attended the Best Teacher Award Ceremony 2025 organized by the Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association (PPSCA), Hyderabad Division, as the Chief Guest at Bin Ibrahim Banquet.

The event celebrated the dedication and exceptional performance of teachers from private educational institutions. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh for Relief Department also attended as Guest of Honor.

Addressing the ceremony, Mayor Shoro praised teachers as the true architects of the nation, acknowledging their vital role in shaping future generations through hard work and commitment to quality education.

# Woman and Two Children Missing in Kot Ghulam Muhammad; Family Decries Police Inaction and Apathy

By Zohaib Ali Baloch

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: A woman identified as Nageena Sheikh, a resident of Kot Ghulam Muhammad, has reportedly been missing along with her two children for the past five days and has not yet been recovered.

Her husband, Ashraf Khaskheli, along with her mother and brother, staged a protest outside the Kot Ghulam Muhammad Press Club against the alleged non-cooperation of the police.

Speaking to the media, the protesters said they had provided the name and address of the suspected kidnapper to the police, yet no action had been taken. Instead, they alleged that the police were intimidating and threatening them rather than pursuing the case.

They appealed to the Inspector General of Sindh Police and the SSP Mirpurkhas to take immediate notice of the matter and ensure the safe recovery of Nageena Sheikh and her children.

# Bachalpur Police Seal Illegal Clinics, Move Against Quacks

By Yousuf Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In Bachalpur city near Nawab Wali Muhammad, police for the first time took action against unlicensed quack doctors running illegal clinics, shutting them down.

The head clerk of Bachalpur Police Station, Arif Anar, informed the media that they had received instructions from senior officials to take strict legal action against those running clinics without valid licenses in Bachalpur and nearby rural areas. Acting upon these orders, the police sealed several illegal clinics operating in the region.

He further stated that all unauthorized clinics within the jurisdiction of Bachalpur Police Station will be closed down. Quack doctors running such setups are not only providing illegal treatment but also endangering public health. In rural areas, the same syringes are often reused on multiple patients, posing serious risks of spreading life-threatening diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and hepatitis.

# Horror in Khairpur: Woman Allegedly Kills Husband, Four Children, Then Herself

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A heartbreaking tragedy struck Khairpur as six members of the same family lost their lives in a shocking incident. The deceased have been identified as Naveed Arain, his wife Aqsa Idrees, and their four children — Ahmed Ali (8), Ali Sher (8), Musa (6), and little Masoora.

According to initial reports, Aqsa Idrees, allegedly suffering from severe mental distress, is believed to have shot her husband and children before turning the gun on herself.

The gruesome incident has left the local community in deep sorrow and disbelief. Police have shifted the bodies to a hospital for postmortem examination and initiated a formal investigation.

Sources revealed that after killing her family, Aqsa reportedly informed her husband's relatives about the incident and then took her own life. Police stated that the exact cause behind the tragic act will be determined upon completion of the investigation.

# Traders Mourn Tragic Deaths of Naveed Arain and Family in Khairpur

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: President of Anjuman-e-Tajiran Khairpur, Aashiq Hussain Abbasi, has expressed profound grief over the tragic deaths of Chaudhry Basheer Arain's family, calling it a heartbreaking incident that has deeply shocked the entire city.

He said that Naveed Arain was an active, honest, and respected leader of the trader community, and his brutal murder along with his innocent children has left all traders of Khairpur in deep sorrow.Abbasi added that Anjuman-e-Tajiran Khairpur stands in complete solidarity with Chaudhry Basheer Arain and his family during this difficult time, praying that Allah Almighty grant the departed souls a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give strength and patience to the bereaved family.

# Veteran PPP Leader Noor Muhammad Junejo Passes Away in Karachi at 71

By Hakeem Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Prominent personality and senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Noor Muhammad alias Noorol Junejo passed away in Karachi at the age of 71 after suffering a heart attack.

The late Junejo was the father of PPP General Secretary Jehangir Junejo and Alamgir Junejo, brother of Muhammad Khan Junejo, and uncle of PPP MNA Salahuddin Junejo.

His funeral prayers were offered in his ancestral village, Sanjar Junejo, where he was laid to rest in the family graveyard amid tears and grief of hundreds of mourners. Those who attended the funeral included MNA Salahuddin Junejo, former MNA Muhammad Khan Junejo, former Senator Fida Hussain Dero, MPA Ali Hassan Hingorjo, Imdad Pitafi, Javed Nayab Laghari, Municipal Chairman Ghulam Murtaza Junejo, Asghar Junejo, Lala Muhammad Ayub, Nawab Jam Nafees Ali Khan, Jam Tariq Ali Khan, and Syed Gul Hassan, among others.

# Diwali Celebrations Illuminate Historic Durga Shiv Temple in Hyderabad

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: On the joyous occasion of Diwali, the Hindu community celebrated the festival with great enthusiasm at Sindh's ancient and historic Durga Shiv Temple, located near Circuit House in Hyderabad. The event featured colorful celebrations, special prayers for the Pakistan Army, and a cake-cutting ceremony.

Thousands of men, women, and children from Hyderabad's Hindu community attended the vibrant event, expressing their devotion and joy on this auspicious festival. The Diwali celebration was organized by Bhagat Karam Chand, while Maharaj Hamesh, the head priest and president of the Durga Shiv Temple Management Committee, oversaw the arrangements.

# Hingorja Seminar Spotlights Dangers of Drug Abuse

HINGORJA: A seminar on drug prevention was held at Government Boys Lower Secondary School Malharani Solangi, attended by a large number of teachers, students, and parents, along with District Education Officer (DEO) Secondary Education Khairpur, Abdul Sami Bhambhro.Addressing the seminar, DEO Abdul Sami Bhambhro said that drug addiction is a curse that destroys not only the youth's future but also the happiness and wellbeing of families and society. He urged students to stay away from such evils, focus on education, and live up to the expectations of their parents and teachers.He emphasized that everyone must play their role in eradicating drugs from society. Headmaster Muhammad Shakeel, teacher Aslam Jogie, and focal person Waqar Hattar also addressed the gathering, describing drug abuse as a growing social menace that requires collective action by parents, teachers, and social institutions. They encouraged students to dedicate their time to learning, sports, and constructive activities to become responsible citizens.—RT

# MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Extends Diwali Greetings, Applauds Sindh's Religious Harmony

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Leader and Member of the National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah extended warm greetings to the Hindu community on the joyous occasion of Diwali, describing it as a festival that brings light, hope, and happiness while promoting peace, brotherhood, and mutual respect.

In her message, Dr. Nafisa Shah said, "From the depths of my heart, I pray that this Diwali brings you happiness, progress, and success. May your lives always be filled with light, love, and harmony."

She emphasized that the Pakistan People's Party has always believed in religious tolerance, interfaith harmony, and the protection of minority rights.

Dr. Shah reaffirmed that such festivals strengthen the spirit of unity, patience, and mutual respect, fostering an environment of peace, love, and brotherhood across Pakistan.

# Sehwan Police Nab Notorious Car Lifter, Recover Corolla and Rs 1 Million Cash

By Qaimuddin Memet

SEHWAN: Sehwan Police have arrested a notorious car lifter involved in multiple vehicle thefts and recovered a stolen Toyota Corolla along with Rs. 1 million in cash from his possession.

According to details, the accused, Amjad Shah, a resident of Khairpur Mirs, was apprehended during a successful operation conducted by Sehwan Police. The arrested suspect was allegedly involved in the theft of three cars from Sehwan city. Following the arrest, the recovered Corolla was returned to its rightful owner.

Speaking at a press conference, DSP Sehwan Faraz Ali Maitlo revealed that on the directions of SSP Jamshoro, a police team carried out the operation near Karam Pur village based on secret information. The operation led to the recovery of the stolen car and cash belonging to victims including Ustad Taj Muhammad Panhwar, Riaz Solangi, and Jeejal Sario, whose vehicles had been stolen a few months ago.

# Tando Allahyar Police Arrest 17 in Widening Anti-Drug Crackdown

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In compliance with the directives of IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon and under the supervision of DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, SSP Tando Allahyar Syed Saleem Shah and his team have continued their ongoing crackdown against drug dealers, habitual offenders, illegal liquor manufacturers, gutka and mainpuri sellers, as well as absconders and proclaimed offenders.

During the recent operations, police seized 380 liters of homemade liquor, 435 packets of mainpuri, 986 packets of gutka, and one illegal weapon with three rounds. A total of 17 accused were arrested, and 17 cases were registered against them in various police stations.

In a separate action led by SHO "B" Section Police Station, two suspects involved in liquor trade and criminal activities were arrested. The police recovered 100 liters of homemade liquor and one illegal weapon with three rounds from their possession.

# Young Life Lost in Hingorja Road Crash; Family Devastated

HINGORJA: A young man was killed in a tragic road accident near Hingorja on the National Highway when a speeding van collided with his motorcycle near a U-tum.

According to details, Naveed Ahmed Sehto, son of Fatah Ali Sehto, a resident of village Rakarani Sehta, sustained severe injuries in the accident. He was first taken to Hingorja Hospital and later shifted to GIMS Gambat in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The tragic news plunged his home and village into mourning. Hingorja Police have taken the van into custody; however, no formal case had been registered till the filing of this report. The deceased was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard.—RT

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
Camp Office # 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department K.M.C Muslimabad Karachi.

No. CPC/ED/KMC/2025-26/15Karachi Dated: 21-10-2025

CORRIGENDUM

Reference No. NIT No: CC/ED/KMC/2025-26/01/Karachi Dated: 03-10-2025

With reference to the advertisement of the above-mentioned tenders uploaded on the SPPRA website and published in Daily leading Newspapers i.e Sindhi, Urdu & English with opening fate of 24-10-2025 the following corrections/changes are hereby made:

3. All tenders will be opened on the next date i.e. 10-11-2025.

4. Joint Venture (JV) will not be allowed.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Chairman Procurement Committee
Engineering Department
Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

INF/MM/84/2025

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
Camp Office # 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department K.M.C Muslimabad Karachi.

No. CPC/ED/KMC/2025-26/16Karachi Dated: 21-10-2025

CORRIGENDUM

Reference No. NIT No: CC/ED/KMC/2025-26/03/Karachi Dated: 03-10-2025

With reference to the advertisement of the above-mentioned tenders uploaded on the SPPRA website and published in Daily leading Newspapers i.e Sindhi, Urdu & English with opening fate of 27-10-2025 the following corrections/changes are hereby made:

3. All tenders will be opened on the next date i.e. 11-11-2025.

4. Joint Venture (JV) will not be allowed.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Chairman Procurement Committee
Engineering Department
Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

INF/MM/83/2025

# METRO KARACHI

## Saeed Ghani Vows Swift Action on Issues Facing Karachi's 800,000 Gilgit-Baltistan Residents

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani met with the Gilgit-Baltistan Coordination Committee on October 21, 2025, to discuss the challenges faced by over 800,000 GB residents in Karachi. Issues highlighted included difficulties with domicile certificates, health, education, employment, and basic amenities. Ghani assured that steps would be taken to address these concerns, including appointing representatives in each district. He also emphasized the PPP's commitment to supporting the GB community and improving their access to essential services.—RT

## FIA Enhances Transparency, Appoints Focal Person for KATI: Mujahid Akbar Khan

KARACHI: FIA Additional Director General (South) Mujahid Akbar Khan announced the transfer of notice-issuing authority to Deputy Directors to enhance transparency, with notices now featuring trackable barcodes. During a meeting with KATI industrialists, he also revealed plans to appoint a focal person at KATI for faster issue resolution. KATI President Ikram Rajput stressed that curbing corruption and money laundering is crucial for a stable investment climate. Khan assured the FIA's commitment to tackling economic crime and improving coordination with the business community.—RT

## TDAP-German Delegation B2B Session Opens New Trade Horizons

KARACHI: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) hosted a successful B2B networking session with a German multi-sector delegation, led by Florian Walther from the German Chamber of Commerce. The session, focusing on sectors like textiles, IT, and engineering, highlighted emerging opportunities for joint ventures and technology partnerships. Pakistani and German companies engaged in discussions aimed at strengthening trade ties, improving supply chains, and exploring sustainable industrial practices, signaling a bright future for bilateral cooperation.—RT

## Sharjeel Breaks Silence on Karachi's Afghan Basti

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Sharjeel Memon has addressed the question of why Sindhi families have not settled in Karachi's Afghan Basti, an area evacuated due to security concerns. Memon explained that the land, though vacated, was not deemed suitable for resettlement, as it lacked proper infrastructure and basic amenities. He further emphasized that the government has focused on providing relief and proper rehabilitation options to those displaced. The minister also pointed out that efforts are ongoing to develop safer, more livable spaces for residents, ensuring that displaced families are not left without support or viable housing options.—RT

## Sindh Memon Union Meets Jaggu Memon, Congratulates on Release and Honors Late Haji Abdul Razzaq Memon

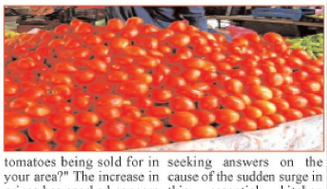
By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: After the release of Jaggu Memon, son of the late Haji Abdul Razzaq Memon — the founding chairman of the Sindh Memon Union — a delegation from the Union visited his residence to congratulate him on his release from jail.

The delegation included Zamir Hussain Memon, Chief Organizer of Sindh Memon Union Karachi; Advocate Asadullah Memon, Chief Organizer of the Lawyers Forum Karachi; Advocate Jamila Memon, Deputy Organizer of the Lawyers Forum; Zahir Ahmed Memon, Organizer Karachi; Asadullah Memon, President District Malir; and Khalid Hussain Memon.

During the visit, the members paid rich tribute to the late Haji Abdul Razzaq Memon, acknowledging his lifelong commitment to community service and unity among the Memon fraternity.

## Tomato Prices Skyrocket Like Gold in Karachi



KARACHI: According to the rate list issued by the Karachi Commissioner, the official price of first-grade tomatoes in local markets today is Rs. 345 per kilo, while second-grade tomatoes are priced at Rs. 311 per kilo. This sharp rise in tomato prices has left many consumers questioning the sudden hike. Amidst the soaring prices, residents are being asked, "How much are tomatoes being sold for in your area?" The increase in prices has sparked concern among buyers, with many seeking answers on the cause of the sudden surge in this essential kitchen staple.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Tragedy: Six-Year-Old Girl Crushed by Bus After Falling from Rickshaw

KARACHI: A tragic accident in Karachi's Baldia Town, near Gulshan Mazdoor, resulted in the death of a 6-year-old girl, identified as Sidra. According to rescue officials, the incident occurred when Sidra, traveling in a rickshaw from Sakarani to Karachi's Baldia Daud Goth, suddenly fell out onto the road. A passenger bus coming from behind ran over her. The body was transferred to Civil Hospital for further examination. The police have seized the bus and taken the driver into custody, while an investigation into the accident is underway. This heartbreaking incident has left the local community in shock.—RT/Agency

## Sindh Cabinet Sub-Committee Moves to Fast-Track Development, Enforce Fiscal Discipline

KARACHI: The Sindh Cabinet Committee on Finance Sub-Committee, led by Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, reviewed the progress of development projects and departmental performance Shah emphasized transparency, public welfare, and fiscal discipline, stressing that delays in projects would not be tolerated. The committee also discussed improving the welfare of the labor class, enhancing law and order, and strengthening public-private partnerships for sustainable development. Ministers pledged to ensure efficient and transparent use of development funds for the province's growth.—RT

## Fuel Crisis Looms as Cargo Bottlenecks Choking Karachi Ports: Malik Khuda Bakhsh

KARACHI: Malik Khuda Bakhsh, FPCCI Energy Committee Convener, warned of an impending fuel shortage as multiple petroleum shipments are stuck at Karachi's ports due to the Sindh government's reinstatement of a 100% bank guarantee under the Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC). With at least five major vessels, including those from PSO and HPL, awaiting clearance, Bakhsh cautioned that the country's fuel supply chain is on the brink of collapse. He urged immediate action to prevent a crisis, particularly during the crucial agricultural season.—RT

## KCCI President Extends Support to PCDMA on EFS, E-Invoicing, and Customs Issues

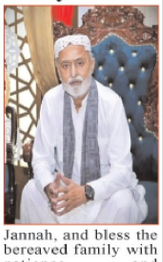
KARACHI: KCCI President Muhammad Rehan Hanif met with the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) delegation, led by Chairman Salim Valimuhammad, to discuss key concerns, including EFS, E-Invoicing, and customs valuation issues. Hanif reassured the delegation that resolving traders' problems is a top priority for the Chamber. He encouraged PCDMA to provide detailed concerns for effective action with relevant authorities, promising full cooperation to address challenges faced by commercial importers.—RT

## Sardar Manzoor Kakar Slams Khawaja Asif's 'Ignorant' Remarks, Highlights Glorious Kakar Legacy

KARACHI: President of Kakar Tribal Federation and Secretary General of Balochistan Youth Front, Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar, strongly condemned Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's statement, calling it ignorant of history. He said the Kakar tribe has produced legendary figures including Field Marshal Ayub Khan, General Abdul Waheed Kakar, Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, and others who played key roles in Pakistan's formation and progress.–RT

## Father of Safora Town Municipal Commissioner Alamgir Junejo Passes Away

By Dildar Sailro



KARACHI: The father of Safora Town Municipal Commissioner, Alamgir Junejo, Mr. Noorul Khan Junejo, has passed away — Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un.

Chairman Safora Town Rashid Khaskheli, Vice Chairman Abdul Haq Baloch, members of the Town Council, and municipal officers expressed their heartfelt condolences to Commissioner Alamgir Junejo on the sad demise of his father. They prayed that Almighty Allah grant the departed soul complete forgiveness, elevate his ranks in Jannah, and bless the bereaved family with patience and strength.The funeral prayer of Noorul Khan Junejo was offered in his ancestral village, Sanjar Junejo, Tando Adam, where he was later laid to rest in the family graveyard.—RT

## Sharjeel Hails Federal Wheat Policy as Big Win for Farmers

KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon praised the federal government's new wheat procurement policy, crediting the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for its effective efforts in securing it. He highlighted the restoration of the wheat support price this year, a key demand from the PPP. Memon emphasized that this move benefits farmers, boosts production, and strengthens the economy. He also announced the postponement of the Agricultural Income Tax, further supporting farmers and encouraging investment in agriculture.—RT

## Jam Ikram Reaffirms PPP's Commitment to Public Service and Development

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo met with people from his constituency at his camp office, issuing directives to resolve their issues. Later, during a busy day at the Sindh Secretariat, he met various delegations and reiterated that his doors remain open for the public, stressing that serving the people is Pakistan Peoples Party's top mission.-RT

## Dr. Anosh Ahmed Honors His Late Father with Meal Distribution at Jinnah Hospital

KARACHI: Dr. Anosh Ahmed organized a free meal distribution at Jinnah Hospital Karachi to honor his late father, Nadeem Muhammad Ahmed, offering Eesal-e-Sawab. Focusing on the Children's ICU, where families endure emotional and financial strain, the Anosh Foundation provided 300 meal boxes, including biryani and water. The initiative aimed to alleviate the burdens of families with critically ill children. Dr. Ahmed expressed that the gesture was inspired by his father's values of compassion, providing comfort in a time of need—RT

## Karachi Transport Ittehad Rejects Govt Notification, Warns of Citywide Chaos

KARACHI: In an emergency meeting in, Karachi Transport Ittehad, led by President Haji Muhammad Tawab Khan, rejected the Sindh Government's September 23, 2025, notification. The transporters criticized the impractical directives, particularly the new 35-year vehicle age limit, which they say would force most buses, minibuses, and trucks off the roads. They highlighted worsening road conditions, rising fuel costs, and part shortages, warning that enforcing the rules would paralyze Karachi's transport system unless the government revises the restrictions.—RT

## Kashif Nizami Urges Citizens to Stay Alert, Form Neighborhood Committees

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Chairman Neighborhood Committee Landhi Area 36E/5B, Kashif Nizami, has urged citizens to remain alert and monitor the movement of Afghan nationals, expressing concern over possible Indian interference through Afghanistan.He said that while one Afghan settlement has been cleared, many areas, including Korangi 51C and Ilyas Goth, still house large numbers of foreigners, posing security risks.Nizami warned that unknown elements are again disturbing Karachi's peace, with citizens increasingly targeted in public places. He called for unity and formation of neighborhood committees to assist national institutions in maintaining law and order, stressing that Pakistan's survival and citizens' security must remain the top priority.

## Anti-Encroachment Drive Resumes to Reclaim Afghan Basti Land Near Northern Bypass

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Authorities have resumed an anti-encroachment operation to clear government land in the Afghan Basti area near Karachi's Northern Bypass and demolish abandoned structures.According to an official letter issued by the Deputy Commissioner West, the operation will continue until October 23 and will be supervised by the Assistant Commissioner Manghopir. Strict security measures have been directed to ensure smooth execution.

## Manghopir Chairman's Sewerage Overhaul Transforms Fazal Town

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Under Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi's leadership, the massive sewerage project in Fazal Town is progressing swiftly. The plan includes new pipelines, manhole repairs, and drainage upgrades, with work ongoing day and night. Brohi personally oversees the project, ensuring top-quality materials and strict adherence to modern standards. Local residents have praised his commitment to resolving long-standing issues of stagnant water and foul odors.

Dream big, work hard, succeed.
—Unknown

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh
Uniting People Every Day

READERS
If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newspaper Agency at (0300-2118454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 2025

# Justice Mazhar Cites Indian Judiciary's Courage In 26th Amendment Hearing

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has cited an example of Indian judiciary as the top judges debated the powers vested in Constitutional Bench and the apex court.

During a hearing of the petitions challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment, lawyer Shabbar Raza Rizvi contended before the bench that India was the only country where there is Constitutional Bench, while other countries have a Constitutional Court.

Justice Mazhar responded by saying: "In India too, the Constitutional Bench has special powers".

"India is the only country where there is a Constitutional Bench, other countries have a Constitutional Court," responded lawyer Rizvi, adding that in the neighbouring country, only the chief justice can form the bench.

"In India, the CJ has been declared Master of Roster [whereas] in Pakistan two committees have been formed and the CJP is not the Master of the Roster," remarked Justice Mazhar while drawing a comparison between the judicial structure of Islamabad and New Delhi.

The remarks came during the hearing of multiple pleas filed against the 26th Amendment, by an eight-member bench led by Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan.The bench also includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Around three dozen petitioners, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore Bar Association, Karachi Bar Association as well as the former seven presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and various individuals in personal capacity, had challenged the validity of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.Presenting his arguments today, counsel Rizvi said that under the amendment, the SC retained its constitutional powers under a proviso."The 26th Amendment has transferred the power of constitutional interpretation to the SC to the Constitutional Bench," Justice Mazhar replied.

Justice Hilali said that the Constitution had already been amended and a CB had been formed accordingly and asked, "Are you [Rizvi] asking that we will have to suspend the 26th Constitutional Amendment first?""How will we bypass Article 191-A?" the judge questioned, to which the lawyer replied that the said article must be read in conjunction with other provisions of the Constitution, as "it could not be read alone".—RT/Agency

# PM Shehbaz Unveils Pakistan's First Semiconductor Program 'INSPIRE'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched INSPIRE — Pakistan's Initiative to Nurture Semiconductor Professionals for Industry, Research & Education, marking a significant step toward the country's transition to a knowledge-based digital economy and entry into the $600 billion global semiconductor ecosystem.

The initiative, led by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and executed by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), aims to position Pakistan as a competitive player in the global semiconductor industry, which is projected to surpass $1 trillion by 2030.

In this address, Prime Minister Shehbaz said Allah Almighty had bestowed Pakistan with abundance of natural resources and benefiting from these resources was the core responsibility of the government.

He said the Planning Ministry, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), had allocated Rs4.5 billion for the programme, adding that funding would not be an obstacle to its success.

In her remarks, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja reaffirmed the government's commitment to developing a digitally empowered Pakistan.

Chairman of the National Semiconductor Task Force Dr. Naveed Sherwani briefed the audience on the strategic roadmap and underlined Pakistan's opportunity to build a world-class semiconductor ecosystem.—RT/Agency

# Russia Says No Date Yet For Much-Anticipated Trump–Putin Summit

MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday said there was "no precise timeframe" for a summit between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump on Ukraine and doused hopes for a swift preparatory meeting to finalise the talks.

Following a phone call last week, the Russian and US leaders Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump announced they would meet in Budapest for talks on resolving the war in Ukraine, triggered by Moscow's February 2022 all-out offensive.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US counterpart Marco Rubio spoke on Monday to discuss preparations for the summit, and are expected to meet in person to finalise details.

Trump said the meeting with Putin could take place within two weeks, though that timeline appears to be slipping away as Moscow now said laying the groundwork for the meeting "could take time".

"No precise timeframe was initially set here," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, including from AFP, at a briefing on Tuesday.

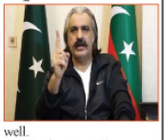
Asked if the summit could be postponed, Peskov said: "You can't postpone something that hasn't been set in stone … Preparation is needed, serious preparation."

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said earlier on Tuesday it was "premature" to talk about details of a preparatory meeting between Lavrov and Rubio.

"Neither before the phone call nor during yesterday's call was the meeting specifically raised," Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Russian state news agencies.

Trump, who previously claimed he could settle the Ukraine war in a matter of hours, has shown frustration with both Moscow and Kyiv over the failure to broker peace.A previous summit between Putin and Trump in Alaska ended early with no breakthrough towards a peace deal.Ukraine says a meeting between Putin and Zelensky is needed to make progress, but the Kremlin has ruled out talks with the Ukrainian leader until a peace deal is practically agreed.—RT/Agency

# Ex-KP CM Faces Non-Bailable Warrant In Arms And Liquor Case



ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in the federal capital on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrant against former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur in arms and liquor recovery case.

The warrant was issued in light of Gandapur's continuous absence from the court hearings. Judicial Magistrate Mubashir Hassan ordered the police to arrest the former KP CM and produce him before the court.

The development pertains to a case registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader at the Bara Kahu Police Station in the federal capital. The next hearing of the case will take place on October 28.

The arrest warrant adds to the legal woes of the firebrand PTI leader, who was recently ousted from KP's CM post, as the same court and magistrate issued his arrest warrant in the said case in the previous month as well.

The former ruling party, ever since May 9 riots in 2023, has been engulfed in legal woes and political challenges with its founder Imran Khan as well as senior leadership, including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Yasmin Rashid and others, are behind bars over their alleged involvement in various incidents.

A day earlier, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi ordered police to arrest PTI founder's sister Aleema Khan and produce her before the court on October 22 in connection with cases related to the protest staged by the party on November 26 last year.—RT/Agency

# Asif Urges 'Hard State' Stance, Hints At Possible Ban On TLP

ISLAMABAD: Pointing towards violent protests of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Tuesday that the country should act as a "hard state" to curb extremism, as religious extremist groups formed in the name of religion are unacceptable in any state.

His statement came days after the Punjab government sent a summary to the Centre seeking a ban on TLP after violent demonstrations in the province left many dead and scores injured.

Although the group was not named in official statements, the provincial government had vowed that individuals involved in spreading violence, inciting hatred, or causing public harm would be arrested and prosecuted under anti-terrorism laws.

"We have to become a hard state," said Asif, adding that such religious extremist groups, which resort to violence and cause damage to property, cannot be tolerated in Pakistan.He said that it was too late as such groups had been formed and encouraged for decades, adding: "Everyone knows who created them and for what purpose."—RT/Agency

# IMF Cautions: Floods To Hit Pakistan's Growth, Spark Inflation Surge

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that the recent floods in Pakistan could have a negative impact on the country's economy, potentially slowing growth, worsening inflation, and straining the current account balance.

In its latest Middle East and Central Asia Regional Economic Outlook report, the IMF said that Pakistan's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal year may drop to 3.6 percent, below the target of 4.2 percent, due to the economic disruption caused by the floods.

Economic indicators likely to worsen

According to the IMF report, the widespread flooding during the third quarter of 2025 is expected to weigh heavily on agriculture, infrastructure, and household incomes, contributing to inflationary pressures and a widening current account deficit.

"Economic growth, inflation, and the current account balance may deteriorate due to the floods," the report stated, noting that the magnitude of these adverse effects remains uncertain.

The IMF highlighted that while flood recovery efforts are underway, the macroeconomic outlook remains fragile, with rising prices posing a renewed challenge to monetary stability.

Inflation fears resurfaceThe Fund cautioned that inflation could rise again this year, citing multiple contributing factors.—RT/Agency

# PML-N Bows Out Of AJK Coalition, Calls It 'Unnatural Alliance'

AJK: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) announced on Tuesday its decision to part ways with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government, saying the party would not support any 'unnatural' process of government formation.

According to details, the announcement came from the PML-N AJK chapter president, Shah Ghulam Qadir, who made it clear that the PML-N would now sit in opposition. He said that if the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) moved a vote of no confidence, it would be within its democratic right.

However, he reaffirmed that the PML-N would not support any move that went against its principles.

Qadir warned that any member who defied the party policy would face disciplinary action, adding that a stable government in AJK could only emerge through transparent general elections. He also emphasised that the PML-N remained active for the welfare of refugees and overseas Kashmiris.

He termed the PML-N AJK as an organised and popular political force and vowed that the party would continue to play a constructive role in resolving the constitutional and political crisis.

Qadir maintained that the PML-N would run a vigorous election campaign under the leadership of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.—RT/Agency

# Russia Welcomes Pakistan–Afghanistan Ceasefire As Major Diplomatic Win

MOSCOW: Russia has welcomed the ceasefire agreement reached between Pakistan and Afghanistan following recent deadly border clashes, commending both countries for opting for dialogue and diplomacy over confrontation.

The truce, brokered by Qatar and Türkiye during talks in Doha on Sunday, has been hailed as a key step toward regional stability.

Moscow hails ceasefire

In a statement on Tuesday, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova expressed Moscow's strong support for the ceasefire, describing it as a "mutual agreement along the Afghan-Pakistani border" achieved through the mediation of Qatari and Turkish authorities.

"We welcome the agreement on a mutual ceasefire along the Afghan-Pakistani border, achieved between Kabul and Islamabad with the mediation of the Qatari and Turkish authorities," Zakharova said.

She further emphasized that the decision by both sides to engage in dialogue and resolve their disputes peacefully "forms the basis for maintaining peace between the two countries, which are friendly to us, and serves as an important factor in ensuring regional security."—RT/Agency

# SC Judges Sound Alarm: New SJC Code Threatens Judicial Independence

ISLAMABAD: Two members of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Akhtar, have raised strong objections to the recent approval of amendments to the judges' code of conduct by a majority of the council's members.

In a detailed letter addressed to the SJC, the two judges questioned the process through which the amendments were approved and expressed concern over the inclusion of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar in the council, noting that his transfer to the IHC is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court.

The development came after the SJC meeting revised the code of conduct for judges, prohibiting them from speaking to the media or taking part in any public debate on political issues.

Chief Justice of Pakistan and SJC Chairman Justice Yahya Afridi chaired the meeting at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on October 18.

The meeting was virtually attended by Justice Shah and Justice Akhtar through video link, while Justice Aalia Neelum, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court and Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court, attended in-person.

According to an amended code of conduct, "[Judges] shall not have any interaction with the media, especially in relation to issues which may give rise to public debate or adversely affect institutional collegiality and discipline," read the statement issued last week.—RT/Agency

# Joy In D.I. Khan: Birth Of First Test Tube Baby Marks Medical Milestone

DIK: Dera Ismail Khan has made history with the first successful birth of a test tube baby (IVF), a groundbreaking achievement that marks a new chapter of hope for childless couples in the region. The milestone was made possible by the expert medical team at Abida Infertility ICSI and Maternity Home Services (AIIMS), in collaboration with Rehmania Hospital.

The initiative, led by renowned doctors Dr. Anila Rehman and Dr. Sobia Rehman, brought cutting-edge reproductive technology to Dera Ismail Khan, allowing couples who previously struggled with infertility to explore the option of IVF.

The success of the procedure offers new possibilities to many families facing challenges in conceiving naturally.

Dr. Anila Rehman, speaking to journalists, expressed her satisfaction with the results, emphasizing that the IVF procedure met national standards for quality and safety. She praised the hard work and dedication of the medical team, highlighting their commitment to providing the best possible care and support to the patients.

This success marks a major advancement in the region's healthcare capabilities, offering hope to couples who have faced years of infertility struggles. With such innovative treatments now available locally, Dera Ismail Khan has become a beacon of possibility for those wishing to start a family.—RT/Agency

# Iran Pulls Out Of IAEA Deal After UN Sanctions Reimposed

TEHRAN: Iran has formally scrapped its nuclear inspection agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), just weeks after the reinstatement of UN sanctions, state media reported on Tuesday.

The announcement marks a new low in Tehran's strained relations with Western powers and the UN watchdog.

The decision, made public by Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani, comes less than a month after the UN sanctions were reimposed on Iran. The move effectively ends the limited cooperation framework signed between Tehran and the IAEA in September, which had allowed inspectors to return to Iranian nuclear sites after months of tension.

"The agreement has been cancelled," Larijani said during a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart in Tehran. However, he added that Iran remained open to reviewing any new proposals from the agency, saying, "If the agency has a proposal, we will review it in the secretariat."—RT/Agency

# Trump Unveils Plans For Massive Ballroom At White House

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has revealed plans to build a massive new ballroom at the White House, marking one of the biggest changes to the presidential residence in more than a century.

Construction crews have already started tearing down part of the East Wing to make way for the grand project, which the US president says will be "big, beautiful, and built to last for generations."A mechanical excavator had ripped through the façade of the East Wing, leaving a tangle of broken masonry, rubble and steel wires, AFP journalists at the scene saw.Republican Trump said, as he hosted college baseball players at the White House on Monday, that "right on the other side you have a lot of construction that you might hear occasionally."The 79-year-old billionaire later officially announced that work had started on the ballroom, the biggest addition to the US presidential mansion in more than a century."I am pleased to announce that ground has been broken on the White House grounds to build the new, big, beautiful White House Ballroom," Trump said on his Truth Social network.—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