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Heartland

MPA Muhammad Rashid Khan Sounds Alarm for Measles-Rubella Vaccines for Children



Money

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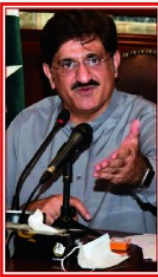
NATIONAL

President Zardari Calls Out Urgency of Protecting Children's Rights on Universal Children's Day



SPORTS

Zimbabwe Stun Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi Thriller, Seal Dominant 67-Run Statement Win



Sindh Showcases Post-Flood Recovery and Urban Reforms to National Security Delegation

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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Security Forces Eliminate 23 India-Backed Terrorists in Kurram Operations

KURRAM: Security forces have successfully neutralised 23 India-backed terrorists during a series of intelligence-based operations in the Kurram district, marking one of the most significant counterterrorism achievements in the region in recent months. According to security officials, the operations were launched after credible intelligence indicated the presence of a well-armed militant network allegedly receiving support, training, and equipment from Indian handlers across the border.



The operation, conducted over several days, targeted multiple hideouts located in remote and difficult mountainous terrain. Officials said the terrorists had entrenched themselves in a network of caves and fortified positions, using the rugged landscape to evade detection. Despite the challenging conditions,

security personnel, supported by army aviation and surveillance drones, were able to close in on the militants and eliminate the threat through precision strikes. Authorities confirmed that the militants killed were involved in several recent attacks on security convoys, civilian supply routes, and local peace committee members. The group is also believed to have been responsible for the planting of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in border villages, aimed at destabilising the area and disrupting ongoing development initiatives. Recoveries from the scene included a substantial cache of weapons, explosives, communication systems, and foreign-made ammunition, which officials say provide further evidence of external sponsorship. —RT/Agency

US Congress Report Confirms Pakistan's Victory Over India in May Conflict, Says PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that every speech by US President Donald Trump mentions "the downing of seven brand-new Indian aircraft by Pakistan", declaring it proof of the country's military strength and global recognition.



He made the remarks while addressing a foundation-laying ceremony for a Danish School in Bagh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). PM Shehbaz said that the latest report submitted to the US Congress "stamped" Pakistan's stance on events of the May conflict, asserting that "India had received a stinging slap from Pakistan's armed forces".

"Allah Almighty has honoured Pakistan through the bravery of our soldiers," he added. A report presented to the United States Congress acknowledged Pakistan's "military success over India" in the four-day war in May this year, stating that Pakistan used Chinese-made weapons to down Indian fighter jets, including French-made Rafales.

The prime minister claimed that the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and the army had forced India "to its knees within four days", arguing that Trump's repeated praise of Pakistan in his public speeches was further acknowledgement of that battlefield performance. "Trump praises Pakistan in every speech," he said.

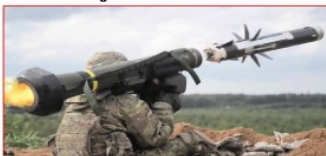
Turning to education, PM Shehbaz said Danish Schools were transforming opportunities for children across the country.

He noted that students at these institutions receive free education, accommodation, uniforms and support on merit, adding that the network, launched in Punjab, was now expanding nationwide. He announced that the Bagh campus would be inaugurated on March 23, 2026.

PM Shehbaz also indicated that a Danish School would be approved for Forward Kahuta, saying the dream of spreading such institutions to AJK was now close to fulfilment.

The Pakistan-India conflict was instigated by India after launching strikes inside Pakistan following a deadly attack that killed 26 people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgaon town. —RT/Agency

US Approves \$93m Sale of Javelin Anti-Tank Systems and Excalibur Projectiles to India



NEW DELHI: The US State Department has approved the sale of Javelin anti-tank missile system and Excalibur guided artillery munitions worth \$93 million to India, the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said.

The purchase of US defence equipment is India's first under Washington's foreign military sales programme since it soured in August after President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50% as punishment for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

It follows a re-order this month of fighter jet engines made by General Electric to power more of India's home-produced Tejas combat aircraft. "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions," the DSCA said in a statement. —RT/Agency

Trump Credits 350% Tariff Threat with Preventing Pakistan-India Nuclear Crisis



US: In a special address at the Saudi investment conference, US President Donald Trump once again claimed he stopped a nuclear war between Pakistan and India—a crisis he says could have killed "millions." Trump expressed these views with a familiar boast about being able to settle disputes, before drifting into an anecdote about how he handled what he described as an imminent armed clash in South Asia.

According to Trump, both countries were "going to go at it, nuclear weapons," and he said he had warned them that Washington would slap a massive tariff if they moved ahead. "I said that's okay, you can go at it, but I'm putting a 350% tariff on each country," he told the audience, adding that he refused to "have you guys shooting nuclear weapons at each other, killing millions of people, and having the nuclear dust floating over Los Angeles." —RT/Agency

IMF Flags Corruption as Pakistan's Biggest Hurdle, Urges SIFC to Release First Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that corruption remains a persistent challenge in Pakistan, urging the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to publish its first annual report.



IMF, in its Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCDA), stated that corruption poses serious risks to economic development and public trust. The Fund urged the government to enhance transparency, strengthen governance structures, and immediately begin implementing a comprehensive reform agenda.

According to the report, the IMF has called on the SIFC to develop clear protocols for its operations and significantly improve transparency to ensure effective oversight and accountability. It further recommended that the SIFC must publish its first annual report, detailing all investment deals it has facilitated, including any tax, policy, regulatory, or legislative concessions granted—along with the full rationale and the monetary value of each concession. IMF Governance and

Corruption Assessment Findings The GCDA, which the IMF conducted to evaluate corruption risks across key state functions, is a requirement before the IMF Executive Board approves the upcoming \$1.2 billion disbursement next month. The Fund noted that corruption is entrenched across institutions and has "significant adverse implications for economic development." —RT/Agency

JF-17 Thunder Shines at Dubai Airshow 2025 as Pakistan Secures New Jet Deal

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan-made JF-17 Thunder Block-III became one of the biggest attractions at the Dubai Airshow 2025, drawing widespread attention from global defence officials and aviation enthusiasts. According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) released on Thursday, the advanced fighter jet emerged as a "major focal point" of the event, culminating in the signing of a significant memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a friendly nation for its procurement.



Held from November 17 to 21 at Al Maktoum International Airport, the biennial airshow showcased cutting-edge aviation technology from around the world. Yet the JF-17, jointly developed by Pakistan and China, stood out particularly due to its proven combat record. The fighter demonstrated its operational effectiveness during Pakistan's clashes with India in 2019 and again in 2025, reinforcing its reputation as a reliable, modern multirole aircraft. ISPR noted

that several other countries also expressed strong interest in the JF-17 Thunder, signalling growing confidence in Pakistan's expanding aviation and defence capabilities. The new MoU marks another milestone in Islamabad's defence partnerships, bolstering the country's footprint in the global military aviation market. —RT

UNSC Panel Warns Afghan-Backed TTP Poses Serious Threat to Pakistan's Security

US: The head of the UN Security Council's Dashed and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee has backed Pakistan's position that Afghan territory is being used to stage terrorist attacks in the country, warning that the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) poses a serious threat to the regional security.

Denmark's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Sandra Jensen Landi—in the capacity of the committee's chair—presented a report to the UNSC, stating that the terrorist group has conducted numerous high-profile attacks in Pakistan from Afghan soil, some of which incurred mass casualties. She said that the TTP, with its approximately 6,000 fighters, is a serious threat emanating from the region, receiving both logistical and substantial support from the "de facto" authorities. Landi made that statement as the 15-member Council was briefed by the heads of three of its subsidiary bodies—which relate to Dashed/Al-Qaeda, UN counterterrorism efforts and measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors—warning that the threat posed by terrorism continues to evolve, especially in Africa. —RT/Agency

ADB Greenlights \$330m Loan to Expand Pakistan's Clean Energy Transmission

WASHINGTON: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Thursday that it had approved loans totalling \$330 million to Pakistan for the country's Second Power Transmission Strengthening Project. The ADB press release said the project was one of the government's "top priority investments to expand the national transmission network and enable the evacuation of low-cost renewable and hydropower to major load centres." The bank said a new 500 kilovolt trans-



mission line of approximately 290 kilometres would be constructed under the project, in addition to upgrading "critical grid infrastructure" feeding Islamabad and Faisalabad. "These investments will address long-standing constraints in Pakistan's north-south power corridor, enabling the transfer of up to 3,200 megawatts of clean energy from hydropower plants in the north of the country." —RT/Agency

World Fisheries Day Hope for a Brighter Tomorrow

Let us acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of our fisherfolk on the occasion of World Fisheries Day

The Government of Sindh is committed to providing the fisheries industry with the best facilities, a clean environment, and complete protection. Our goal is to ensure that this industry continues to grow day and night, and that its benefits reach future generations.



- ◆ Modern facilities for fisherfolk
- ◆ Provision of a clean and safe environment
- ◆ Eco-friendly initiatives for sustainable fisheries
- ◆ Improved access to local and international markets

The Government of Sindh is committed to opening new avenues in the fisheries sector, thereby strengthening our economy and bringing prosperity to the lives of fisherfolk.

Strong fisherfolk, Prosperous Sindh, Prosperous Pakistan



Livestock & Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh



THE HEARTLAND



Three-Day Fisherfolk Festival Ends in Badin with a Burst of Literature and Music

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The three-day Fisherfolk Festival at Shaikh Karyo Bhandari Shrine in coastal Badin concluded with a literary seminar and musical evening, organized by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum in collaboration with Viva Welfare Foundation. Khadim Talpur, AJP Central Secretary General, praised the region's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, mentioning saints like Shaikh Karyo, poetess Markan Sheehan, and heroes such as Dodo Soomro. Presiding scholar Dr. Sharafuddin Talpur highlighted



poets and scholars including Muhammad Zaman Qadara and Haji Ahmed Mallah, who shaped the area's literary identity. Fisherfolk Forum's Umer Mallah acknowledged the support of writers, activists, and leaders in safeguarding fisherfolk rights, continuing the mission of founder Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, now led by Syed Mehran Ali Shah. The event ended with a musical performance by Ustad Faqeer Kareem Kachhi, attended by locals, fisherfolk, and notable literary figures.

Khairpur Gears Up for Trailblazing First Hassan Afroz Women's Marathon



KHAIRPUR: The District Administration and Youth Affairs & Sports Department will organize the First Hassan Afroz Women's Marathon on 29 November 2025, starting from Hussainabad and ending at Scouts Ground Khairpur. A closing ceremony and musical program will be held at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Open-Air Theatre. Deputy Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Rahujo reviewed arrangements in a meeting at the DC Office, emphasizing security, medical camps, and full departmental coordination. ADC Iqbal Hussain Jandani briefed on route camps, media coverage, transport, and awards. Officers from sports, health, education, police, and other departments attended to ensure event success—RT

MPA Muhammad Rashid Khan Sounds Alarm for Measles-Rubella Vaccines for Children

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Member of Provincial Assembly Muhammad Rashid Khan urged full support for the ongoing national measles and rubella vaccination campaign, highlighting its importance in protecting children from infectious diseases. Addressing parents at a vaccination camp organized by the Health Department and Bhai Khan Welfare, he said all children aged 6 months to 5 years are receiving free



vaccination until November 29. BKW officials, including President Abdul Latif Shaikh and Founder Haji Muhammad Yasin Arain, emphasized

raising public awareness and encouraging parents, NGOs, and communities to cooperate fully to ensure the campaign's success.

Hyderabad Cracks Down Hard with Sweeping Inspections in Qasimabad and Latifabad

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: The district administration intensified its late-night enforcement activities across Qasimabad and Latifabad to ensure better civic management and compliance with regulations. In Taluka Qasimabad, Assistant Commissioner Hafiz Sial led a late-night anti-encroachment operation to clear illegal structures and restore public spaces, reaffirming the administration's commitment to maintaining law and order. Meanwhile, in Latifabad, the



Assistant Commissioner conducted a surprise late-night inspection of Shah Bhatti Hospital to evaluate facilities and services. Earlier, the AC also supervised an anti-encroachment drive on Autobahn Road, targeting

unauthorized setups. Additionally, the Al-Harm Banquet in Unit 11 was sealed for regulatory violations. Officials stated that strict actions will continue to improve civic discipline and public welfare.

Umerkot Marks World Children's Day with a Powerful My Day, My Rights Showcase

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Sami Foundation, BCI, and the Social Welfare Department Umerkot jointly organized a World Children's Day event titled "My Day, My Rights" at Muzamil Guest House, Umerkot. Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed-ur-Rehman Lark was the chief guest, while Deputy Director Social Welfare Noor Muhammad Shaikh, Deputy Director Population Welfare Saleman Rahmoon, CEO Sami Foundation Ghulam Mustafa Khoso, and representatives from schools, NGOs, WHO, and the com-



munity attended. DC Lark emphasized the importance of child rights, education, health, and protection, urging collective responsibility for a safe and healthy environment. Children presented tableaux and speeches highlighting education, health, and social responsibilities. Certificates and shields were distributed, and officials called for continued efforts for children's welfare and development in Umerkot.

New Badin Beauty Parlor Draws Crowds with Bold Services and Deep Discounts

By Khadim Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: With the support of SRSO, Marviz Spa & Beauty Parlor was inaugurated. During the program, Marviz Abida Samo said that Tahir Ani Shopping Center on Shahbaz Road, Badin, offers all kinds of services including makeup, hydra facial, mehndi facial, and special offers for brides at reasonable prices. She encouraged everyone to visit at least once, as experienced women work here to enhance your beauty. On the other hand, Sarso's District Manager Ahmed Khan Soomro said that anyone who wants to take



a beautician course can also get in touch. A 50% discount is available, and there are special facilities for underprivileged girls. The inauguration of the beauty parlor was attended by SRSO Badin's Manager Ahmed Khan Soomro as the chief guest, while

Marviz Abida Samo, Chairperson of Sami Foundation Adv Shumaila Memon, Muhammad Hassan Sarwar, Arisar, Shireen Mallah, Rubi ud-Hejo, Koonj Shaikh, Mehak Fatima Shaikh, gulnaz also participated.

Tensions Explode in Thul as Police Clash with Merhita Community Over Detained Woman

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A clash broke out between Thul police and members of the Merhita community near A-Section Thul when police attempted to take custody of a woman, Shabiran Merhita, who had allegedly been detained at home for seven months by her in-laws. During the scuffle, Muhammad Sharif Merhita, Shabiran's brother, was injured by an iron rod. The incident occurred after Sharif filed a complaint stating his sister had been confined despite filing for divorce. Police arrested one individual involved in the clash. A case has been registered against six accused under the relevant sections at the A-Section Thul following the complaint.

Hur Jamaat Mourns Influential Leader Sher Muhammad Jamali at 80

By Akhtar Mari

KHADRO: Sher Muhammad Jamali, a respected leader of the Hur Jamaat and a prominent figure of the Jamali community, passed away at the age of 80. His funeral prayers were attended by numerous political and social personalities, members of the Hur Jamaat, and a large gathering of the Jamali community. Condolences continue to pour in from local residents and neighboring areas, who



are visiting his village, Darhon Jamali, to pay their respects and express sympathy to the bereaved family.

LUMHS Pushes Students to the Forefront in High-Impact Education Seminar

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Quality Assurance Directorate of Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) organized a seminar titled "Students' Participation in Quality Education in Institutes" at the MRC Conference Hall. Prof. Imran Ali Shaikh, Director Quality Assurance, led the seminar, with Dr. Fasiha Shah as co-speaker. Around 80 students from 77 affiliated institutions partici-

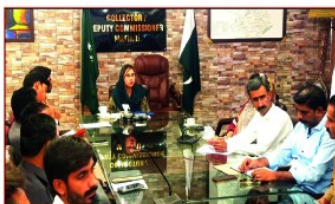


pated through posters and presentations, highlighting their role in enhancing academic standards. The seminar emphasized the importance of students' feedback in promoting continuous quality improvement, fostering an proactive learning environment, and strengthening education quality across LUMHS.

Matiari DC Rallies Humanitarian Partners in Crucial Coordination Meeting

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Under the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousif Shaikh, a General Coordination Meeting was held at Lateef Hall, DC Office Matiari, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Iqra Jannat. The meeting brought together district officers from Health, Social Welfare, Forest, and other departments along with NGOs,



aiming to ensure effective planning, coordination, and timely resolution of humanitarian projects, activities, and development challenges within Matiari.

STP Honors Shaheed Altaf Jiskani's Legacy on Emotional Fifth Anniversary

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) held a ceremony in Tando Allahyar on Nasarpur Road to mark the 5th death anniversary of Shaheed Altaf Jiskani, presided over by party Chairman Dr. Qadir Magasi. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Magasi demanded justice for Jiskani, whose killers remain free, and criticized the government's policies, constitutional amendments, and while recalling STP's historic role in land reforms and defending



commitment to protect Sindh's unity. Several local rights, and opposing divisive agendas, while recalling STP's historic role in land reforms and defending

Dadu Shines Spotlight on Children's Education and Safety Gaps on World Children's Day



By Javed Laghari

DADU: On November 20, Child Rights Committee Dadu organized an event at Ustad Bukhari Government Degree College Hall marking World Children's Day, with children voicing their concerns. Regional Director Mohtasib

Syed Imdad Ali Shah, DEO Primary Liaquat Ali Naich, TEO Niaz Ilahi Abro, Prof. Muhammad Irfan Kalhoro, PTI leader Inayat Ali Jamali, and other social leaders attended. Speakers highlighted critical issues: over 200,000 children out of school, child labor, lack of func-

tional Child Protection Authority units, and rising cases of child sexual abuse, including murders. Activists demanded strict enforcement of child protection laws, proper funding, and district-level operational units to safeguard children and ensure access to education.

Matiari Father Battles Mouth Cancer, Family Appeals for Urgent Help

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Ali Sher Turk, a resident of Baqilpota Mohalla, Mateyari, father of one daughter and two sons, is critically ill with advanced mouth cancer. Bedridden and unable to eat, he has exhausted local medical treatments, and poverty prevents further care. As the family's sole provider, his illness has plunged them into se-



vere financial hardship. Ali Sher's children appeal to local representatives and philanthropists for urgent assistance to continue his treatment,

hoping he can recover and once again support his family. Any timely help could save his life and restore hope for his children.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL



President Zardari Calls Out Urgency of Protecting Children's Rights on Universal Children's Day

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined that Pakistan's Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of children, calling their protection both a legal and moral duty. In his message on Universal Children's Day, he said the day is observed globally to promote the welfare and rights of children.

The President highlighted Pakistan's commitment to the United Nations Convention



on the Rights of the Child, stressing that preventing child exploitation is a shared responsibility of both the state and society. He noted that the government has enacted strong laws and estab-

lished institutions to safeguard children, including functional Child Protection Units and Service Delivery Centers.

President Zardari also urged civil society, media, and parents to work together to secure a safe and bright future for the nation's children, emphasizing that collective efforts are essential to ensure their well-being and development.—RT/Agency

NA Committee Pressures Govt to Fast-Track Karachi's Long-Stalled Lyari Freight Corridor



ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, urged the Ministry of Communications and KPT to revive the long-delayed Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor by placing it in the PSDP for reliable funding. Members highlighted its critical role in

easing Karachi's freight congestion. The Committee raised alarms over soaring taxes hurting industry, demanded clearer debt definitions during the IMF review, and sought equitable provincial representation in foreign training programs after reviewing disparities in selection data.—RT

BISE Gujranwala Releases SSC Second Annual 2025 Examination Results

By Dr. Mirza MB Qar

GUJRANWALA: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Gujranwala announced the Secondary School Certificate (Second Annual) 2025 results in a press conference led by Chairman Syed Naveed Hyder Sheerazi, Controller Dr. Muhammad Ehtsham John Butt, and Secretary Prof. Rashid Ahmed Bhatti. Out of 36,521 candidates,



16,152 passed, giving an overall success rate of 44.23%. Science boys achieved 34.84%, science girls 53.21%, humanities boys 38.35%, and humanities girls 58.21%. Chairman Sheerazi emphasized strict adherence to rules, transparency, and impartiality. For the first time, biometric attendance was used to prevent impersonation. Automated systems managed admissions, roll numbers, and center allocation, ensuring fairness and authentic evaluation.

Man Murders Daughter for Choosing Her Own Marriage in Chilling Honour Crime

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In the area of Police Station Sadar in Gojra, a father shot and killed his own daughter and fled the scene. According to reports, a few days ago, the 23-year-old daughter of Muhammad Majid Iqbal

of Chak No. 418 JB, named Um-ul-Baneen for marrying on her own parents' consent. Her father was deeply distressed over the matter. Yesterday, he shot his daughter Um-ul-Baneen multiple times in the name of "honour," killing her on the spot, and then fled the scene.

Senate Committee Confronts Banks Over Controversial Women's Dress Code Issue

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Finance has decided to summon banks over a controversy related to women's dress codes. The decision was made during a meeting chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwala, attended by Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kiani.

During the session, Senator Dr. Zarqa raised questions

regarding dress codes, emphasizing that Pakistani women's attire is already modest. Following her remarks, the committee chairman announced that banks would be called to the Senate committee for clarification.

Committee member Senator Farooq Naik commented that forcing women to wear the abaya is equivalent to compelling men to grow beards, questioning

how the State Bank could endorse such measures. Minister Bilal Azhar Kiani expressed agreement with the committee members' perspective and stated that he would take action and discuss the matter with the State Bank.

The committee's decision highlights growing scrutiny of policies affecting women in the banking sector.—RT/Agency

Federal Health Minister Champions Prevention, Unveils New Emergency Facility at PIMS

ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal has stressed the importance of disease prevention, saying, "Avoiding illness is better than treatment. The government cannot do everything alone; in developed societies, people

actively take measures to prevent diseases. This is not just my idea but the consensus of health experts."

Speaking to the media at the inauguration of the new emergency department at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences—RT/Agency

Punjab Highway Patrol Cracks Down With 56 New Cases, Recovers Stolen Vehicles

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Gujranwala region registered 56 cases in the last 24 hours. Officers checked 12,530 people and 22,892 vehicles using a modern police app, arresting a fugitive and a wanted criminal.



PHP recovered 2 stolen cars, 12 motorcycles, 2 pistols with bullets, and 5 liters of liquor from illegal holders. Assistance was provided to 460 passengers. Additionally, 12 cases were registered for illegal LPG use, and 4,133 vehicles were challaned for traffic violations. PHP emphasized citizen safety and selfless service as its core mission.

METRO KARACHI

Karachi Police Arrest Prime Suspect in 12-Year-Old's Murder Case

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Karachi Sachal Police have arrested Muhammad Yaseen, the main suspect in the

killing of 12-year-old Hussain, who was shot 18 days ago while resisting a robbery at Sachal Moh. SHO Muhammad Amin Khoso stated that Yaseen

was caught near Sher Khan Village, Madina Colony, and a pistol used in the crime was recovered. Further investigation is underway.

Over 20 Arrested in Madina Colony Crackdown on Afghan Criminal Networks

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Over 20 individuals were arrested on suspicion during an operation against Afghans in Madina Colony, under the jurisdiction of Sachal Police Station. The operation was led by SP

Suhrah Goth Division Abdul Baqi Rind, with participation from police personnel of multiple stations. Speaking to journalists, SP Abdul Baqi Rind stated that operations against illegally residing Afghans have been intensified. He emphasized

that no leniency will be shown towards those staying illegally or criminal drug peddlers. The officer assured that more effective operations will continue to maintain law and order and curb criminal activities in the area.

International Children's Day Celebrated at Secondary School Ghaghar

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Secondary School Ghaghar celebrated International Children's Day with the inauguration of a computer and science lab by FFC. Students delivered speeches and tableaux, while MPA Muhammad Sajid Johio pledged Rs 250,000 and Brigadier (Retd.) Imran Sheerazi Rs 100,000 for school repairs. Guests



highlighted the importance of education, praised students' dedication, and called for additional classrooms and a green and educational college. The Headmaster

noted the school serves over 400 students. The event concluded with planting of trees, creating a green and educational environment.

Governor Sindh Calls for Stronger Protection of Children's Rights on World Children's Day

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, in his special message on World Children's Day, emphasized that children are the nation's brightest future and its most valuable asset. He said that ensuring children's rights,

safety, and education is a shared responsibility of both the state and society.

This year's global theme, "My Day, My Rights," highlights the importance of creating an environment where every child can grow without

fear, discrimination, or exploitation. Governor Tessori noted that a secure and supportive atmosphere is essential for the healthy development of children and their full participation in society.—RT/Agency

Murder at Mazar-e-Quaid's VIP Gate Shocks Karachi

KARACHI: Karachi was rocked as Shabbir, 60, son of Qasim Ali, was shot dead by unknown assailants at the Mazar-e-

Quaid's VIP Gate. His body has been shifted to Civil Hospital for legal formalities. Police in Jamshed Quarters have

launched an investigation, but the identity and motive of the killers remain unknown, sparking fear in the area.—RT

FPCCI Praises Sindh Police and Sukkur Range for Successful Gang Crackdown

Karachi: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and President ECO-CCI & VP CACCI, have extended profound appreciation to the Sindh Police—particularly the Sukkur Range Police—and the Sindh Rangers for

successfully neutralizing a highly dangerous criminal gang in a joint operation last week.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh said the entire business community applauds the bravery, professionalism, and dedication of the law enforcement agencies whose swift and ef-

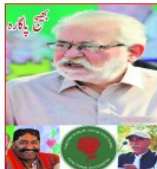
fective action has eliminated a major threat to peace and security in the province. He noted that such operations demonstrate the unwavering commitment of police and Rangers to protect citizens and businesses, often by putting their own lives at risk.—RT

BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Chief Khalifa Faqir Kalimullah Wassan Launches Door-to-Door Outreach Under Pir Sahab Pagara's Directives

By Inayatullah Hur

JAFFARABAD: Under the directives of Pir Sahib Pagara Syed Sibghatullah Shah Rashidi, Chief Khalifa Faqir Kalimullah Wassan of the Hur Jamaat is visiting members and workers of Hur Jamaat and Pakistan Muslim League Functional (PML-F) across households. Mir Musharraf Ali Khan Khosa, PML-F Balochistan provincial president, termed the initiative a positive and effective step, enhancing organizational discipline and motivating party workers. He added



that Faqir Wassan's direct engagement with the community addresses administrative challenges, strengthens coordination, and is expected to bolster the unity and operational efficiency of Hur Jamaat and PML-F.

SOUTH PUNJAB

Historic Relief Drive in Uch Sharif Delivers Lifesaving Aid to 300 Flood-Stricken Families



By M Siddique Khan

BAHAWALPUR: A major humanitarian milestone was achieved in Uch Sharif as IOM, under the directives of CEO Subtain Akbar Khan Jiskani, and the tireless efforts of Sheikh Nasir Saleem, completed a transparent and well-organized relief operation led by Director Adnan Saadati. More than 300 flood-affected families received high-quality ration packages and durable tents worth over Rs. 30 million. Each family was provided nearly Rs. 100,000 worth of essentials,

including food items, medicines, baby supplies, clean drinking water, and household necessities. Local residents praised Shaikh Nasir Saleem's dedication and transparency, while the presence of Umer Khurshid Sehman and Makhdoom Yawar Abbas enhanced the operation's efficiency. IOM announced a second phase of relief for additional families still awaiting rehabilitation. The initiative has set a new benchmark for welfare efforts in Uch Sharif.

Measles-Rubella Vaccination Blitz Intensifies Across UC Chenab Rasulpur



By M Siddique Khan

BAHAWALPUR: Under CO Health Bahawalpur Dr. Amir Bashir's directives, a vigorous measles-rubella vaccination campaign is underway in UC Chenab Rasulpur. DHO Preventive Services Dr. Rana Muhammad Arshad and Deputy DHO Dr. Azhar Shakrani are supervising door-to-door vaccination, ensuring all children under five

are immunized. Special camps have been set up in schools, madrassas, and rural health centers. Parents, teachers, religious leaders, and local communities are actively supporting the campaign. Officials stressed that full participation is crucial to eradicate measles and rubella and safeguard children's health and the nation's well-being.

Open Katchery Held in Gojra to Tackle Public Grievances Head-On

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the leadership of Punjab Ombudsman Ayesha Hamid, an open court (Khuli Kachehri) was held at the Municipal Committee Gojra, chaired by Advisor Abdullah Shahid, to address public grievances. Citizens directly presented complaints while officials from government



departments ensured prompt resolution. During the session, 90 pending cases were reviewed, and immediate action was taken on 40 new complaints. The Advisor urged citizens to actively participate in such open courts to promote transparency and efficiency in resolving public issues, improving government performance, and addressing citizens' concerns effectively.

Gujranwala Rolls Out Pink Van Initiative to Boost Women's Safety and Mobility

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Chief Traffic Officer Gujranwala, Ayesha Butt, praised the introduction of the Pink Van, a mobile police station and licensing unit, as a significant facility for women in Gujranwala, initiated under the in-

structions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The van allows women to lodge complaints, file FIRs, and access all licensing services, including learner, regular, international, and duplicate licenses. Deployed with an all-women crew, it visits universities, colleges, and markets daily. Students, teachers, and university administration at Gift University availed themselves of the van's services and appreciated the Punjab Government's initiative for women's safety and convenience.

Public Open Katchery in Ikhlaspur Takes on Citizens' Complaints With Direct Action

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: A public open katchery was organized at Government High School, Ikhlaspur, Tehsil Shakargah, under the direction of the Provincial Ombudsman Punjab. Advisor Nadeem Sarwar listened to over 40 com-

plaints from citizens regarding various government departments. Assistant Commissioner Adnan Atif, Coordinator Saber Kabir, CEO Education Arif Shehzad, DSP Rana Sajid, and other officials attended. Immediate instructions were issued for resolution, and citizens were informed that complaints can be submitted free on paper with a 30-day resolution period. Plans include expanding complaint cells and launching mobile van services at the union council level.

State-of-the-Art Model Daycare Center Opens at Government Graduate College for Women in Baddomalhi

By Rana Mudassar

NAROWAL: The Government Graduate College for Women, Baddomalhi, inaugurated the district's model daycare center to provide early education, psychological development, and a safe environment for children of college faculty. Deputy Director Colleges Prof. Asim Atiq, Principal Mrs. Noreen Fatima, and Vice Principal Mrs. Nosheen Akhtar highlighted the importance of early childhood



development for personal growth, creativity, and social skills. Faculty can now work confidently, trained staff. Guests knowing their children are cared for in a secure, nurturing environment.

Gojra Revenge Attack Leaves Two Dead and One Injured in Brutal Shooting

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In Gojra, two men were shot dead and one injured near the Hockey Stadium on Jhang Road in a revenge attack. Victims 55-year-old

Tauseef Ahmed and 30-year-old Hassan, both quarters Hospital. Potravelling to court, were lice collected evidence targeted by Rafi and launched a search for the suspects. Following a previous murder involving their family, the attackers fled the scene. Injured immediate arrest of the passerby Gulzar was attackers.

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, November 21, 2025

Extortion Reigns While the State Sleeps

Karachi is once again under siege—and not by foreign enemies or natural disasters, but by the very criminal networks that the government repeatedly claims to be dismantling. The latest horrifying incident, where a marble trader in Manghopir received a Rs10-crore extortion demand followed by a parcel containing two 9mm bullets, is yet another reminder of how deeply the cancer of extortion has metastasized in Pakistan's economic heart.

How can a government that is oblivious to the daily terror faced by its own citizens dream of attracting foreign investment? What credibility can officials claim when local investors—the backbone of Karachi's economy—are forced to operate under threats, intimidation, and sheer panic? The trader's ordeal, involving calls from international numbers and threats from gang-war

elements, exposes not only the reach of organized crime but also the hollowness of the state's security claims.



And if criminal extortionists weren't enough, Karachi's business community is routinely strong-armed by the very government departments tasked with facilitating them. From licensing to inspections to routine paperwork, harassment has become institutionalized. Many businessmen privately admit that the "official extortion" they face from within the system often matches, or even exceeds, what the criminal underworld demands. This dual assault—one from gang-

sters, the other from state actors—has turned Karachi into a battlefield where entrepreneurs must choose between compliance, silence, or flight. Another recent attack on a car showroom, carried out after the owner refused to pay Rs5 million in extortion, underscores the collapse of deterrence. When bullets become a language of negotiation, society is no longer governed—it is merely surviving.

Karachi cannot prosper under fear. Its citizens cannot thrive under threats. And its investors—local or foreign—will not commit capital to a city where bullets arrive by courier and officials look the other way. The government must decide: will it finally protect Pakistan's largest economic engine, or continue watching from the sidelines as extortionists tighten their grip on Karachi's future?

THE HEARTLAND



SSP Hyderabad Steps Into Sarafa Bazar to Tackle Traders' Mounting Concerns

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: SSP Hyderabad Adeel Hussain Chandio visited the Sarafa Bazar Union office, welcomed by President Chundriger Faeed Rajput and Patron Mehmood Rajput. General Secretary Muhammad Yahya Polani and other office-bearers were present. The visit focused on traders' issues, including market security, traffic management, and crime



control. SSP Chandio emphasized police-trader cooperation to maintain law and order and assured support in resolving traders' concerns effectively.

Thana Bula Khan AC Storms Markets, Warns Traders Over Soaring Prices



By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: Following citizens' complaints, Assistant Commissioner Thana Bula Khan, Muhammad Asif Soomro, conducted a market inspection of daily-use food items including chicken, fish, meat, vegetables, and ration shops. Shopkeepers charging above the government-approved rates were warned, and instructed to display price lists at their outlets. While the official rate for chicken is Rs 515 per kg, some were selling at Rs 600. AC Soomro emphasized that overcharging will not be tolerated, strict legal action will be taken against violators, and follow-up inspections will be conducted to ensure compliance and protect consumers.

SMBBMU Larkana Pushes Back Against Rising C-Sections at Key Awareness Seminar

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) Larkana organized an important academic seminar titled "Lower Segment Caesarean Section (LSCS), How to Prevent the First Caesarean Section" at Chandka Medical College (CMC) under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah. The seminar featured international expert Dr. Martin Verblom from Sweden and eminent gynecologist Dr. Shersh Syed,



highlighting maternal health challenges in Pakistan, where 27 women die daily due to childbirth complications. Experts stressed regular antenatal care, evidence-based delivery decisions, and trained birth attendants to reduce maternal mortality. The event was attended by faculty, students, LHWs, and health officials, with cultural souvenirs presented to the speakers.

Tando Allahyar Crackdown Silences Firecracker Markets Overnight

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar Noor Mustafa Laghari, a joint team of SHO A Section and SHO B Section Tando Allahyar conducted raids on firecracker shops and warehouses across the district. Acting on a secret tip-off, the team seized hundreds of bags of explosive materials, preventing potential accidents. Several



suspects were arrested during the operation, and FIRs have been registered against them at A Section and B Section police stations. The operation highlights the administration's commitment to public safety ahead of festive celebrations.

Mirpurkhas Lights Up International Children's Day with Vibrant Festivities



By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: International Children's Day was celebrated in Mirpurkhas under the Awaz Program II by the Farmers Welfare Association. Additional Deputy Commissioner II Faisal Ali Soomro said children are innocent like flowers and emphasized that 65% of Pakistan's population is youth, who can play a key role in national development. He urged children to actively participate in education and community development. The event featured tableaux presented by children. Project Manager Asif Khaskheli, social leaders, officers, and large numbers of children attended the celebration.

Mirpurkhas Spurs Climate Action with Workshop on Sindh's 2022 Climate Policy

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: The Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a consultative workshop on Sindh Climate Change Policy 2022 at a local hotel. Special Secretary Environ-

ment Ayhan Mustafa Bhutto, ADC II Faisal Ali Soomro, Additional Commissioner Subhash Chandler, UNICEF's Manahil Fatima, and other officials briefed participants on the policy. They highlighted Sindh's vulnerability to heatwaves, drought, water scarcity, sea-level rise, and climate hazards. The policy focuses on adaptation strategies, climate finance, nature-based solutions, public awareness, and social inclusion for women and vulnerable groups, aiming to build climate resilience across agriculture, health, infrastructure, and disaster management in Sindh.

APCA Sindh Peace Group Slams Director Over Harsh Action Against Senior Clerk

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: The APCA Sindh Peace Group raised concerns over Senior Clerk Muhammad Ikram Rajput, who is recovering from a bypass surgery at NICVD. Despite being registered, he was marked absent by Director Colleges Region Hyderabad Mustafa Kamal during a visit by the Secretary of College



Education Sindh. The group warned of filing an FIR under Section 302 against responsible officials, including Regional Director Khalil Ahmed Soomro, and urged immediate corrective action while praying for Rajput's speedy recovery.

Badin Man Shot Dead in Alleged Police Fire as Officers Brand Him a Gutka Supplier

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A resident of Walhari village near Kadhan in Badin, Muhammad Ramzan Khoso, was killed after alleged firing by Diplo Police. According to details, Ramzan Khoso was traveling toward Diplo when SHO Diplo, along with policemen, reportedly opened fire on his vehicle, causing it to overturn and fall off the road. He died on the spot. The victim's

brother, Jani Khoso, told journalists at Badin Press Club that SHO Diplo Hussain Bux Rajar and officer Shoukat Rahmon were responsible for the brutal killing. He demanded SSP Tharparkar register a murder case and provide justice. Ramzan Khoso's body has been shifted from Diplo to Mithi, while no FIR has been registered yet. It is worth noting that the Badin police have announced that in a

Influential Political Voice Haji Abdul Haq Arisar Passes Away in Pithoro

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Haji Abdul Haq Arisar, a prominent political and social leader, Vice President of PPP Umerkot, and Patron-in-Chief of Arisar Ittehad Sindh Pakistan, passed away at the age of 75 in a private hospital in Hyderabad after a period of illness. Known for his fearless and principled political decisions, his sudden demise has cast a shadow of grief over the region. Shops and businesses remain closed as political, social, and business communities express condolences. His funeral prayer will be held tonight at 8 PM in his ancestral village Arisar, Pithoro, followed by burial at the local cemetery.

DC Dadu Sweeps Through Mehar on High-Alert Inspection of Public Assets

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Syed Ali Murtaza Shah, visited Mehar and held a meeting at the Assistant Commissioner's office with AC Ghulam Fatima Mahal, Mukhtiar Kar Muhammad Aslam Magsi, revenue officers, and other officials. He inspected Mehar Sub-Jail, reviewing facilities for prisoners under jail manual guidelines, and also visited the AC meeting hall and city park. During the visit, the DC received briefings on en-



croachments and illegal occupation of government properties. He instructed authorities to compile records of government plots and announced action against illegal LPG shops, firework manufacturing, and unauthorized encroachments as per Hyderabad Commissioner's directives. CMO Mehar and other officials were present during the visit.

Mirpurkhas Struggles Through Harsh Winter Gas Cuts as Prices Surge

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: With the onset of winter, long hours of gas load shedding have begun across the city. Despite Sui Southern Gas Company's schedule, residents report gas supply

cuts an hour before the announced times, with pressure often too low to use stoves. Citizens complained that morning and evening gas supply is inconsistent, making cooking difficult, while LPG prices have increased. Residents demand a transparent load-shedding schedule with strict compliance. Gas company officials stated the disruptions are due to high demand and low pressure, and efforts are underway to improve supply.

REGIONAL TIMES

SPORTS



Zimbabwe Stun Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi Thriller, Seal Dominant 67-Run Statement Win



Zimbabwe delivered a ruthless, near-perfect performance to dismantle Sri Lanka by 67 runs in the Pakistan-hosted T20I tri-series clash at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. The Chevrans, showing intent from the very first ball, defended 162 with ferocity and precision as Sri Lanka collapsed spectacularly for just 95 runs — a stunningly one-sided start to their campaign.

Chasing a competitive but gettable target of 163, Sri Lanka never found rhythm. Their innings unravelled almost immediately under relentless pressure. Only captain Dasun Shanaka fought back with a gritty 34 off 25 balls, striking four boundaries and two sixes to momentarily resist Zimbabwe's charge. Apart from him, only Bhanuka Rajapaksa managed to reach double digits with 11; the rest of the batting lineup crumbled in the face of disciplined bowling.

Zimbabwe's attack was spearheaded by the brilliant Brad Evans, who produced a match-turning spell of 3 for 9 in four overs — the standout performance of the match. —Agency

PCB Slams Rumors Claiming Finalized Names for Two New PSL Franchises



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has denied reports claiming that the names of two new PSL teams have been finalized.

According to the PCB, as per procedure, successful bidders will have the right to finalize the name of their new team themselves. PCB stated that the two new PSL teams may be named after Hyderabad, Sialkot, Muzaffarabad, or Gilgit.

The PCB expressed satisfaction over the increasing interest in acquiring team franchise rights. The public advertisement for team franchise rights was published on 15 November 2025, the PCB said.

Parties from around the world interested in obtaining team franchise rights have been invited to submit their bids, the PCB added. The deadline for submitting technical proposals is 15 December 2025 at 11am, as per the PCB —Agency

Ashes 2025 Sparks Frenzy as Full Australia-England XI Finally Unveiled



Australia and England have announced their playing XI for the first Ashes Test against England, set to begin on Friday in Perth.

The squad includes two debutants, Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett, while Marcus Labuschagne returns to the side.

Australia will field two new faces in the Ashes opener. Jake Weatherald is set to open alongside Usman Khawaja, bringing his aggressive style from first-class cricket where he has scored over 5,300 runs at an average of 37.47.

Brendan Doggett joins the bowling attack, replacing injured seamer Pat Cummins and fellow pacer Josh Hazlewood. Doggett has taken 190 wickets at 26.46 in 50 first-class matches, earning his reward for consistent performances in the Sheffield Shield.

Marnus Labuschagne has been recalled to bat at No. 3, prompting Cameron Green to move to the middle order. Stand-in captain Steve Smith will lead the team, with Travis Head, Alex Carey (wk), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, and Scott Boland completing the squad.

Australia's XI for first test: Usman Khawaja, Jake Weatherald, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith (c), Travis Head, Cameron Green, Alex Carey (wk), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland, Brendan Doggett —Agency

Gill Ruled Out of Guwahati Test, Pant Poised to Take Captaincy Helm



Shubman Gill is set to miss India's second Test against South Africa starting on Saturday after failing to recover sufficiently from the neck injury he suffered last week. Vice captain Rishabh Pant will stand in as captain in Guwahati.

It is understood that, according to medical advice, Gill is at risk of further neck spasms if he plays so soon. He has been advised more rest. The development could also impact his selection in the ODI squad for the three matches against South Africa starting on November 30. The squad for that series is expected to be picked on November 23.

With Gill set to miss out, India may have to choose one of B Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal and Nitish Kumar Reddy as his replacement.

Gill was admitted to hospital after the second day of the Kolkata Test, following the decision to retire hurt after facing only three balls in India's first innings. On the morning of the third day, the BCCI said he would take no further part in the Test. India went on to lose the match by 30 runs, after getting dismissed for 93 in a chase of 124 on a pitch with uneven bounce. Gill had missed a Test against New Zealand in October 2024 due to a neck spasm too.

On Thursday, before ESPNcricinfo learned that Gill is set to miss the match, India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had said in a press conference that the team would not risk playing him if there was any chance of the spasm recurring.

"He is definitely recovering really well," Kotak said. "Now, the decision [whether to play him or not] will be taken tomorrow evening. The physios, doctors, they will have to take a call that, [even] if he is fully recovered, [during the] game, he should not get that spasm again."

"[...] If we have a guarantee that, very likely, he won't have this issue again, then he will play. If there is a doubt, then I am sure, he will take rest [for] one more game, because it won't be helpful to the team [if he plays]." —Agency

Mushfiquir, Litton and Bowling Attack Drive Bangladesh Into Commanding Position

Ireland 98 for 5 (Stirling 27, Balbirnie 21, Murad 2-10) trail Bangladesh 476 (Litton 128, Mushfiquir 106, McBride 6-109) by 378 runs

Ireland lost five wickets for 98 in reply to 476 to put Bangladesh in a strong position on the second day of the Dhaka Test. The day started with Mushfiquir Rahim reaching his century in his 100th Test, before the Bangladesh spinners got into their groove.

Hasan Murad took two wickets, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam picked up one each so far. Ireland's debutant Stephen Doherty and Lorcan Tucker were the unbeaten batters, on 2 and 11 respectively.

When Ireland bowled earlier in the day, Andy McBride completed his second six-wicket haul in Tests, both having come at the Shere Bangla National Stadium.

Matthew Humphreys and Gavin Hoey took two wickets each, making it the first instance of Ireland's spinners taking all ten wickets in a Test innings.

Paul Stirling's string of boundaries, including a slog-swept six off Taijul Islam, got Ireland off to a positive start. But he fell lbw to Khaled Ahmed for 27. Captain Andy Balbirnie was next to go, when Murad had him caught at slip for 21. Cade Carmichael became Mira's first victim when he fell lbw, camping on his backfoot to play the shot.

Murad then bowled the ball of the day, his arm-ball sneaking past Curtis Campher's defensive push. Taijul Islam then got into the act with Harry Tector's wicket, as the batter went back to a slightly good length delivery, only to be trapped lbw for 14.

Bangladesh's 476 was built around centuries from Mushfiquir and Litton Das. Mushfiquir became the eleventh batter to score a century in his 100th Test. He completed his 13th century when he took a single off the ninth ball of the second day after being unbeaten on 99 overnight. —Agency



about it," Smith told reporters. "And Green obviously played exceptionally well in three in some tough conditions in the West Indies.

"But with him bowling and taking that good, we feel that six is a load position for him right now. It doesn't mean in the future that he's not going to slide up the order but, for right now, number six suits this team."

Marnus Labuschagne will return to the side in his favoured No. 3 position after a prolific start to the season with Queensland while Nathan Lyon is also recalled having been left out in Jamaica when Australia fielded an all-pace attack in the day-night Test.

"Marnus, when he's batting at his best at No. 3, makes us a very, very before the back injury said of Labuschagne, who has hit five hundreds for Queensland across four formats so far this domestic season. —Agency

Australia's Injury Crisis Ignites English Hopes, Though the Road Remains Steep

The multi-purpose Perth Stadium staged a Metallica concert earlier this month and another heavy-metal tour begins there on Friday morning. No series can compete with the Ashes for anticipation, and months of speculation will finally come to an end when the first ball of the 2025-26 series is bowled in front of a sold-out crowd.

The first Test arrives with an unmistakable sense of English optimism, fuelled by the injury status of both teams' fast bowlers. For once, the absentees are Australian: Pat Cummins (back) and Josh Hazlewood (hamstring) are unavailable, while Jofra Archer and Mark Wood will play in the same team for only the second time in Tests.

It represents the best-case scenario for England, who have spent the last three-and-a-half years under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum's leadership building a team capable of competing in Australia. They are both aware that the next seven weeks will provide a lasting verdict on their tenures: McCullum has dubbed it "the biggest series of all of our lives".

Four years ago, England returned from Australia as a broken team, thrashed 4-0 on a tour made even more miserable by oppressive Covid restrictions. Since then, they have changed their approach to become Test cricket's most aggressive team, with a settled batting line-up and a regenerated bowling attack since the retirements of Stuart Broad and James Anderson.

But context is key: even being competitive on this tour would represent a marked improvement from England's last three away Ashes series. The scarcity of the draw in the modern era means that they will likely need to win three Tests out of five to regain the urn; they have not managed to win even once in their last 15 in Australia, losing 13 Reports of Australia's demise are an exaggeration: they have won 14 out of 18 Tests since the drawn 2023 Ashes in England, and are unbeaten in their last six series at home. —Agency



about it," Smith told reporters. "And Green obviously played exceptionally well in three in some tough conditions in the West Indies.

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"Marnus, when he's batting at his best at No. 3, makes us a very, very before the back injury said of Labuschagne, who has hit five hundreds for Queensland across four formats so far this domestic season. —Agency

Smith Says Even a Bad Result Won't Break Australia's Resolve to Bounce Back



Steven Smith projected a sense of calm sitting in front of a huge media throng as Australia's captain on the eve of a home Ashes series.

He's been there and done this many times before. But this is a little different. That Smith was sitting there as the stand-in captain was not plan A for Australia.

That they are playing game, because it won't be helpful to the team [if he plays]." —Agency

That they have picked two players, Brendan Doggett and Jake Weatherald, to debut in the same Test for the first time since 2019, and a seventh different opening partner for Usman Khawaja in 16 Tests, was not even plan C. Australia are unsettled and vulnerable. But there is a sense that England must win in Perth to have any chance in the series, there is no sense that Australia feel Perth is make or break. The lessons of last year's loss to India in Perth before winning the series 3-1 are fresh in their minds. "I think you want to try and win the first Test match and get yourself ahead of the game, I suppose, or the series," Smith said on Thursday. "But I think either way we look at last summer, we lost the first Test match and we were able to claw the series back. "We've got a lot of belief in that change room, if the result doesn't go our way this week, that we can turn it around." —Agency

Weatherald and Doggett Thrown Into the Fire With Debuts in Opening Ashes Test



Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett will debut for Australia in the first Ashes Test at Perth Stadium, with Beau Webster losing his place in the XI.

Cameron Green's successful return to bowling had been a key final piece to the jigsaw. There had been a thought that the absence of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood could still make the selectors consider additional bowling resources, but they have backed four frontline options supported by Green who got through 16 overs in the last Sheffield Shield round.

The latest batting reshuffle sees Green drop back down to No. 6 where he began his Test career. "Marnus, when he's batting at his best at No. 3, makes us a very, very before the back injury said of Labuschagne, who has hit five hundreds for Queensland across four formats so far this domestic season. —Agency

"I think we're pretty versatile with our order and the way we can go about it," Smith told reporters. "And Green obviously played exceptionally well in three in some tough conditions in the West Indies.

"But with him bowling and taking that good, we feel that six is a load position for him right now. It doesn't mean in the future that he's not going to slide up the order but, for right now, number six suits this team."

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REGIONAL TIMES

ENTERTAINMENT

Demi Lovato Opens Up About the Crushing Pressure Surrounding Marriage



Demi Lovato "expected to be married by a certain age."

The 33-year-old pop star married Jordan "Jutes" Lutes earlier this year, and Demi admits that she felt some pressure to tie the knot during her younger years.

She told Who What Wear: "I had expected to be married by a certain age. There's all this pressure that society puts on you, but it just organically happened."

"I'm really happy. I told my husband today, 'I've never been more in love with you. I didn't know my love could grow for you more so than it already has.' The timing was perfect," Demi Lovato concluded.

Sydney Sweeney's Career Image Debate Sparks Surprising Strategy for Revival



Sydney Sweeney needs to make strategic moves to rescue her image and career amid a tough period.

Sweeney came under fire over an American Eagle jeans ad where the word jeans was used as a play on genes. The ad got serious backlash from netizens over its "eugenics-like" tone.

"Genes are passed down from parents to offspring, often determining traits like hair color, personality, and even eye color. My jeans are blue," said the Anyone But You star in the ad.

The actress has since been asked about the ad in interviews during the promotional tour of her new film, Christy. She refused to condemn the ad and avoided taking any responsibility.

It was simultaneously revealed that the White Lotus actress is a registered Republican. Reports also claim that her Euphoria co-star Zendaya has refused to do press with her to promote the long-awaited new season.

On top of all this, her new film Christy bombed at the box office, getting a historically low viewership at cinemas.

Now, PR expert Nabeela Aysen has suggested a few remedies for the actress to do in order to save her image.

Katy Perry and Justin Trudeau Seen Taking Bold New Turn as Their Romance Deepens



Katy Perry and Justin Trudeau are reportedly going strong.

As per the latest report of RadarOnline.com, the singer cannot stop gushing about Trudeau behind the scenes, particularly about how great of a lover he is.

However, despite the growing affection, the pair has decided to be far more discreet about their relationship in public.

It is noteworthy that Trudeau and the Dark Horse singer made their first official appearance as a couple during Perry's birthday celebration at a cabaret show at Crazy Horse Paris.

"They've decided to be much more private about it," a source shared, adding that both are trying to stay low-key amid intense public and media speculation.

It is noteworthy that Katy and Justin first sparked dating rumors after they were spotted enjoying dinner together in Montreal back in July.

Their romance speculation intensified after they were later photographed kissing on a yacht in early October.

According to insiders, the two have been spending as much time together as their schedules allow.

Face of the Day



My name is Qasim Khan and I'm a Modeling enthusiast from Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Sardar Jam Hatim Khan Unar Pays Influential Visit to Dargah Faiz Hashmi

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: According to Nawab Wali Muhammad, Sardar Jam Hatim Khan Unar visited Dargah Faiz Hashmi in Kareemabad Sharif for a special meeting with the shrine's custodian, Faqir Ali Nawaz Hashmi. They received a warm welcome. The meeting was attended by Sahibzada Abdul Sattar Hashmi, Muhammad Hanif Unar, and other dignitaries. Faqir Ali Nawaz Hashmi presented Ajraks as gifts to Sardar Jam



Hatim Khan and the visiting guests. Afterwards, the visitors were taken on a tour of the dargah's mosque, madrasa, and lan-

gar khana. The event was also attended by Nawab Wali Muhammad, senior tour of the dargah's mosque, madrasa, and lan-

Sita Road Marks Vibrant Annual Urs of Hazrat Sakhi Baba Rahmani

By Zain-ul-Abidin Samo

SITA ROAD: The annual Urs of the historic shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Baba Rahmani (RA) is being observed with devotion on 29th November. Devotees, disciples, and visitors from Sindh, Punjab, and across the country are at-



tending in large numbers. The festival features tradi-

tional fairs, wrestling competitions, swings, theaters, sweets, toy stalls, and other attractions. The shrine's custodians welcomed all attendees, inviting them to enjoy the celebrations peacefully while experiencing the spiritual and cultural vibrancy of the event.

Sindh University Sounds Urgent Call for Wildlife Conservation on World Animal Day

By Munawar Chandi

JAMSHORO: The Department of Zoology at Sindh University, Jamshoro, celebrated World Animal Day with a focus on animal welfare and conservation. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri inaugurated the event, joined by PVC Prof. Dr. Abdul Sattar Shah, deans, faculty, and students. Activities included posters, photographs, and aware-



ness sessions on protecting animals and their habitats. Dr. Marri emphasized the ecological importance of animals, threats from habitat loss, illegal hunting, and the need for welfare of

working animals like horses, donkeys, and mules. The event urged public and government action to preserve wildlife and support flood-affected animals.

Thatta Police Strike Fast, Arrest Four and Seize Drugs and Illegal Gutka

By Mohammad Khan

THATTA: Thatta Police arrested four individuals and recovered drugs and illegal Gutka material during separate operations. On SSP Thatta Farooq Ahmed Bijrani's orders, SHO Thatta Police Station Inspector Majid Ali Korai arrested two drug sellers, Dilshad alias Dilu and Rahmatullah alias Karoo, near Bypass Thatta Dargah Babu Shah Bodlo. In a separate operation, SHO Jhirk Police Station Sub-Inspector Sain Bux Bakhrani



arrested two Gutka material suppliers, Mian Baja and Haji, and seized a Suzuki pick-up. Authorities recovered 1,020 grams of hashish,

240 packets of tobacco leaves, and 500 Mainpuri. Cases were registered under the Gutka Act and Narcotics Act.

Commissioner Sukkur Moves to Untangle Clock Tower's Chaotic Traffic Gridlock

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner Sukkur Division, Abid Saleem Qureshi, has taken notice of growing traffic congestion at the city's central Clock Tower following citizens' complaints. He chaired a meeting with city officials, municipal officers, and traffic police to address the issue. Orders were issued to remove illegal Lunda Bazaar stalls and provide vendors alternate



space. One-way traffic at Charhri will be enforced with tire bursts, while motorcycle parking spots will be designated and encroachments removed. Of-

ficials were directed to raise public awareness and ensure cooperation from shopkeepers to reduce congestion and improve city mobility.

Shahdadpur Administration Launches Bold Drive Against Expanding Encroachments

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Assistant Commissioner Qamaruddin Rahpoto and CMO Nazir Ahmed Dahiyu, along with police, municipal, and revenue staff, conducted a crackdown against illegal encroachments in Latif Park, Hospital Chowk, and other areas of Shahdadpur. Heavy machinery was used to remove shops, stalls, and temporary structures, and the confiscated goods were seized. AC Qamaruddin Rahpoto



operation received appreciation from local residents for efforts to clear public spaces and maintain order in the city.

Farm Land Agro Services Hosts Field Day on "Hot Queen F1" Chili Variety in Jhudo

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Farm Land Agro Services Seed Team organized a special field day in Jhudo to introduce their new chili variety, "Hot Queen F1." Farmers, landowners, and company representatives attended in large numbers. Experts highlighted the variety's high yield, disease resistance, and modern cultivation tech-

niques, while providing guidance on advanced agricultural practices and crop management. The program was hosted by landowner Abdul Rasheed Laghari, with Area Manager Rizwan Wahla and Marketing Director Rao Faheem also present. Participants appreciated the informative session and expressed interest in more such programs in the future.



Deadly Violence Flares Again as Ulra and Jatoi Clans Clash in Pir Jo Goth

By Abdul Qudoos Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: Violence erupted once again near Piryaloo between the Ulra and Jatoi communities, leaving three from Ulra and one from Jatoi, and four others injured, including laborer passerby. The clash began when Jatoi gunmen attacked Ulra members on their land, triggering a

three-hour firefight near the Indus River. Despite the intense violence, local police did not arrive until four hours later, when SSP Khairpur reached the scene, halted the firing, and transferred the dead and injured to Pir Jo Goth and Khairpur hospitals. Ulra community members confirmed the attack occurred while they were cultivating wheat on their land.



Gambat Resident Erupts in Protest Over Nine-Month Wait for Stolen Motorcycle Recovery

By Munawar Shah

GAMBAT: Soomar Meghwar, a resident of Danhun, staged a long protest at Gambat over the non-recovery of his stolen motorcycle for the past nine months. Despite appearing before nine successive SHO's, Gambat police have not taken any notice of his complaint. Somer appealed to IG Sindh, DIG Sukkur, and SSP Khairpur, stating that influential locals get their stolen property re-



covered quickly, while poor residents like him are ignored. He demanded immediate action for the return of his motorcycle.

Mentor Montessori Hosts a Colorful, Insightful Celebration of Children's Day

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: On the occasion of Children's Day, SHAPE organized a vibrant and educational event at Mentor Montessori, attended by children, parents, teachers, and social personalities. Special guests included Tehsil Education Officer Dr. Muhammad Shalmani and Abdul Sattar Nuhani, along with Manzoor Ali Cheloo, Sir Asim Jatt, Farhan, and Sir Rai Chand. The program began with Quran recitation

and Naat, followed by children's performances, tableaux, and speeches highlighting children's rights and education. Guests emphasized the importance of protecting children's rights and providing a safe environment. The event also featured paintings, charts, posters, and interactive activities. Guests appreciated the children's artwork and encouraged their talents, while SHAPE thanked all attendees for their participation.

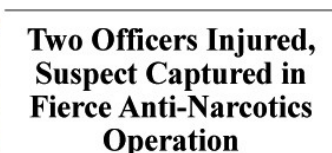


Livestock Eye Disease Spreads Rapidly Amid Stark Departmental Negligence

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: Livestock in Muhammad Yaqub Lakho Panhwar village has been hit by a dangerous eye disease, causing several sheep to go blind and deaths feared. Despite receiving a monthly budget of millions, the Livestock Department failed to provide timely treat-

ment. Villagers, including Saifulah Panhwar, Abdullah Khan, and others, criticized the department's negligence, reporting that hospitals remain inactive and medicines are sold privately. They urged the department and authorities to immediately deploy veterinary teams to control the outbreak and save the affected animals.



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: In a daring attack on law enforcement, narcotics traffickers assaulted police officials during a raid on a drug den near Village Long Khan Darogo. The raid was conducted by the Se-

whwan police with support from a local 110-unit team. During the sudden attack, officers were struck with sticks and rods, leaving constables Shehzad Burdi and Mubeen Mallah injured. Police returned fire to save themselves, forcing the attackers to flee.

Grand Milad-un-Nabi Celebration Draws Crowds at Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A grand and solemn Milad-un-Nabi celebration was organized at Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club, attended by religious scholars, political, social, and media personalities from across Sindh. Renowned religious



scholar Tauseef Attari from Punjab highlighted that Holy Prophet Muhammad is a mercy for all creation, guiding humanity toward righteousness. The event fea-

tured heartfelt Naat recitations by Hafiz Zain-ul-Abideen, Umar Attari, Zulqarnain Attari, Shahbaz Attari, and others, creating a spiritual atmosphere.

Warm Reception Held for Dawat-e-Islami Delegation at Umerkot Press Club

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A delegation from Dawat-e-Islami's Media Department Mirpurkhas Division visited Umerkot Press Club, receiving a warm reception from club officials, members, and journalists. Syed Kamran Attari and Muhammad Ali Attari briefed attendees about Dawat-e-Islami's mission, nationwide religious programs, and active role in welfare, relief, and public service initiatives. Journalists including Ghulam Mustafa Mahar, Ashok



Kumar Darra, and Sajad Ali Shaikh praised the organization's sincere and organized efforts. The media pledged to highlight its positive contributions. The program concluded with prayers for national progress, security, and well-being.

Thatta and Sujawal Farmers Sound Alarm, Demand Subsidies as Wheat Output Plunges

By Mohammad Khan Memon

THATTA: Farmers, landowners, and agricultural experts from Thatta and Sujawal emphasized the urgent need for government subsidies and a special support package to address declining wheat production. Speaking at a Wheat Conference, experts highlighted rising cultivation costs, water scarcity, climate change, and poor-



quality seeds as major challenges, causing heavy losses to farmers. They urged the Sindh government to implement the mad Saleem Lashari, Abdul 'Hari Card' scheme Samad Abro, and local promptly, fix fair prices at landowner leaders.

Johi Honors Khalil Arif Soomro with a Lively 60th Birthday Tribute

By Roshan Ali

JOHI: Sindh Adabi Sangat Joohi branch organized a grand ceremony to celebrate the 60th birthday of poet and artist Khalil Arif Soomro. The event was attended by notable personalities including Azad Anwar Kandhro, Sindh University Dadu Campus PVC Syed Azhar Shah, Tabish Bukhari, Lala Rafiq Zaur, Sharfuddin Pan-



hwar, and others. Speakers praised Soomro's literary contributions, calling him a symbol of light in the world of poetry. The gathering featured poetry recitations by Mustafa Dost, Khadim Mangnejo, Tanha Janib Khoso, and others. The celebration continued into the night, honoring his literary and artistic legacy.

Sujawal Police Sweep Mahmood Wah Stop Clean of Ice and Drug Peddlers

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Sujawal Police have successfully cleared the notorious Mahmood Wah Stop, once a hub for ice and narcotics, completely removing all drugs. Local residents

from Mahmood Wah and surrounding villages visited SSP Sujawal Alina Rajpar to express gratitude, presenting Sindh gifts, lungis, and Ajraks. Villagers praised the effective operations, noting that future generations are now protected from the dangers of ice. SSP Rajpar stated that with continued community support, similar operations across Sujawal will ensure the district becomes completely free of narcotics.

MNA Salahuddin Junejo Grieves Death of Headmaster Jam Aziz Jakhro in Police Custody

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: PPP MNA Salahuddin Junejo visited the residence of Headmaster Jam Aziz Jakhro, who died in police custody, to express grief and solidarity with the fam-

ily. He condemned the killing as a grave injustice and vowed to ensure that the accused, including SHO Ghulam Shabbir Dilwani, are denied bail. He criticized police for filing an FIR against the bereaved family following the incident. Junejo said National Highway was briefly blocked for protest to demand justice, stressing that the victims should never face additional legal harassment. He assured full support to the bereaved family.

New Jatoi Marks Somber 16th Death Anniversary of Former Caretaker PM Raees Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jatoi

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: The 16th death anniversary of former caretaker Prime Minister and National Peoples Party founder Raees Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jatoi was solemnly observed in Nawab Jatoi. The ceremony, organized by Asadullah Jatoi at the late leader's resting place, included Quran recita-

tion, prayers for his soul, and the offering of floral tributes. Prominent attendees included Sakhi Jatoi, Muhammad Qasim Jatoi, Hafiz Abdul Ghani Panhwar, Noor Ahmad Jatoi, Ishtiaq Ahmad Jatoi, Khadim Hussain Jatoi, Faheem Jatoi, Sain Ghulam Muhammad Jatoi, Idrees Jatoi, Noor Ahmad Jatoi, Ghulam Abbas Palh, Shar-

Khairpur's Khara Feud Turns Deadly After Two Months, Leaving Youth Killed and Minor Injured

By M Dino Lakho

KHUHRA: A violent feud between the Ajan and Kaleri communities in Khuhra, ongoing for two months,

claimed a life on Thursday. Armed members of the Kaleri community opened fire on Ujjan villagers working police in a field, killing 20-year-old Mian Imam Din, son of Mian Zahid Ujjan, and injuring minor Amjad, son of Majid Ujjan. Khuhra police shifted the deceased and injured to GIMS Hospital.

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Showcases Post-Flood Recovery and Urban Reforms to National Security Delegation

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, while welcoming the participants of the 27th National Security Workshop at CM House on Thursday, said that the Sindh government places high value on institutional engagements that strengthen coordination between civil administration and national security institutions.

A 95-member delegation of the workshop, led by Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, met the Chief



Minister and attended a comprehensive briefing on Sindh's development priorities, reform agenda, and post-flood reconstruction efforts.

Murad Ali Shah said that the presence of the workshop participants—representing Pakistan's future strategic leadership—was of great significance.

He said Sindh's development vision is based on inclusive, equitable, and climate-resilient growth, focusing on education, health, drinking water, sanitation, agricultural productivity, road connectivity, energy, and poverty reduction.

He highlighted that the Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2025-26, with an outlay of over Rs1 trillion, demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening socio-economic foundations and improving public service delivery.

Manghopir Town Chairman Inspects Rapid Construction of Modern Community Centre in Ramzan Goth

By Rahib Gaho

Karachi: Chairman of Manghopir Town, Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing development work at the modern Community Centre being built in Union Council 1, Ramzan Goth, in collaboration with CLICK. The project, considered a long-standing need of local residents, is now nearing completion in line with modern construction standards.

UC-1 Councillor Javed Brohi, CLICK officials, engineers, and technical teams accompanied the Chairman during the visit. He reviewed



each section of the project and inquired about construction quality, materials, structural strength, electrical work, drainage layout, and overall internal design. He also issued several on-site instructions to ensure quality and timely completion.

Calling the community centre a "significant gift" for Ramzan Goth

and UC-1, Chairman Brohi said the facility will enhance social activities, youth and women's training programs, and local community events. He ordered the pace of work to be further accelerated, stressing that delays in a public-focused project are unacceptable.

Afaaq Ahmed Demands New Province for Urban Sindh Amid Growing Governance Concerns

KARACHI: MQM Chairman Afaaq Ahmed has reiterated the party's stance on creating a separate province comprising Sindh's urban areas, describing it as essential for the survival of the Muhajir



community. Speaking at a joint meeting of central and district committees, he urged the ruling authorities not to dismiss the proposal as a mere political slogan.—RT

community. Speaking at a joint meeting of central and district committees, he urged the ruling authorities not to dismiss the proposal as a mere political slogan.—RT

APNS Slams Govt Over 3-Year Delay in Ad Rate Hike, Demands Immediate Clearance of Dues

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) expressed deep frustration over the federal government's failure to implement Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's long-announced increase in government advertisement rates—a delay now stretching to three years and causing severe financial strain for newspapers. At a meeting in Lahore chaired by APNS President Senator Sarmad Ali, members urged the Press Information Department to immediately clear outstanding federal ad dues



from April 2020-June 2025. Punjab officials acknowledged Rs220 million pending with DGPR and another Rs730 million awaiting disbursement, promising clearance by December. APNS also appreciated Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Information Minis-

ter Azma Bukhari and top information officials for easing restrictions on IPL tenders and streamlining payments. The committee approved provisional accreditation for seven advertising agencies and endorsed restructuring of several others.—RT

PPP Karachi Division Finalizes Grand Rally Plans for Party's Foundation Day

KARACHI: The executive committee of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Karachi Division held a meeting chaired by Saeed Ghani to finalize preparations for the party's upcoming Foundation Day celebrations.



During the session, party leaders discussed arrangements and unanimously decided to organize a major public gathering in Karachi, ensuring maximum participation from the citizens. The meeting emphasized coordination among various party units to make the event successful and engaging for supporters.

Saeed Ghani highlighted the significance of Foundation Day in reaffirming the party's commitment to public service and democratic values.—RT/Agency

FIA Foils Passenger Using Fake Documents for Saudi Visa at Karachi Airport

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Investigation wing at Karachi Airport foiled a passenger attempting to travel on a visa obtained through fake documents. Officials said the suspect, a

resident of Bannu, was traveling to Saudi Arabia on a visa meant for heavy truck driver employment.

The passenger presented an HTV license allegedly issued by the Clifton License Branch, which was

later found to be forged. Initial investigations revealed that he had paid PKR 350,000 to an agent for employment in Saudi Arabia, and the agent provided him with the counterfeit license.—RT/Agency

Hasan Square Toll Plaza Closed Temporarily for Development Work

KARACHI: The Hasan Square Toll Plaza on the Lyari Expressway has been temporarily closed, officials from the Motorway South Zone confirmed. The closure comes as the Frontier Works Or-

ganization (FWO) undertakes development and improvement work on the expressway.

A spokesperson advised commuters to use the Gharibabad Toll Plaza as an alternative entry

point to the Lyari Expressway to avoid inconvenience. Authorities urged drivers to follow designated detours and plan their routes in advance to prevent traffic delays.—RT/Agency

President Zardari Removes FUUAST Deputy Chairman Jamil Ahmed Khan

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari has removed Jamil Ahmed Khan from the position of Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST).

According to media reports, a notification issued by the Presidency states that the removal has been made under Section 10(4) of the

FUUAST Ordinance.

The development comes shortly after a Senate meeting of the university was held in Karachi, during which several contentious decisions were made—including the controversial fixation of the Vice Chancellor's salary and the appointments of the Registrar, Director Finance, and Controller of Examinations.—RT

JI Karachi Chief Slams Sindh Government's Controversial Master Plan

KARACHI: Karachi Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief, Munim Zafar Khan, has strongly criticized the Sindh government's so-called master plan for Karachi, describing it as "nothing but a blueprint for the city's destruction."

Speaking on local issues, Khan targeted the government's e-challan system and surveillance cameras, saying these measures have turned major roads like Shahrah-e-Faisal into a "path of trials" for ordinary citizens. He highlighted that the city's deteriorating infrastructure and broken roads already serve as daily challenges for Karachi residents.

Khan emphasized that in-



stead of providing solutions for urban development and public convenience, the government's policies are further burdening the people. He urged authorities to focus on practical improvements to the city's infrastructure and traffic management, rather than implementing measures that exacerbate citizens' daily hardships.—RT/Agency

UN Report Predicts Karachi Among World's Top 10 Cities by 2030

KARACHI: The United Nations has projected that Karachi will rank among the world's ten largest cities between 2025 and 2030 due to its rapidly growing population. According to the UN's World Urbanization Prospects 2025, the city's population could reach approximately 33 million by 2030, positioning it as the world's fifth-largest city.

Karachi is expected to surpass other major urban centers, including Cairo (32 million), Tokyo (31 million), Guangzhou in China (29 million), Manila in the Philippines (27 million), and Kolkata in India (24 million). Dhaka is projected to become the largest city globally by mid-century due to its accelerating growth.—RT/Agency

Pakistani Rapper Talha Anjum Faces Legal Notice Over Offensive Content

KARACHI: Pakistani rapper Talha Anjum has been issued a legal notice by a citizen for allegedly causing "widespread outrage, mental anguish, and profound injury" to the national, patriotic, and religious sentiments of millions of Pakistanis both at home and abroad.

The notice claims that Anjum's actions have further strained tensions between

Pakistan and India, where diplomatic and military relations remain fragile due to historical conflicts, border disputes, and ongoing security concerns. The legal notice demands an unconditional public apology from Talha Anjum and warns that failure to comply could result in the filing of an FIR and criminal prosecution without further notice.—RT/Agency

Monem Zafar Criticizes MQM for Backing Controversial 27th Amendment

KARACHI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi, Monem Zafar, has strongly criticized the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) for backing the 27th Constitutional Amendment, accusing the party of playing the role of a "friendly opposition."

In a statement, Zafar

said that MQM's support for the amendment contradicts the public interest and exposes the party's political double standards. He added that the people of Karachi expected MQM to safeguard their rights, not side with decisions that undermine constitutional and democratic values.—RT/Agency

Karachi Marble Factory Owner Targeted With Extortion Threat

KARACHI: Police in Karachi have registered a case after the owner of a marble factory in the Manghopir area received an extortion notice. Authorities said the suspects demanded Rs10 crore from the factory owner.

According to police, the

victim also received two bullets along with the threatening note, escalating concerns about the severity of the threat. Investigations are currently underway to identify and apprehend the individuals behind the extortion attempt.—RT/Agency

Murder at Mazar-e-Quaid's VIP Gate Shocks Karachi

KARACHI: Karachi was rocked as Shabbir, 60, son of Qasim Ali, was shot dead by unknown assailants at the Mazar-e-Quaid's VIP Gate. His body has been shifted to Civil Hospital

for legal formalities. Police in Jamsheed Quarters have launched an investigation, but the identity and motive of the killers remain unknown, sparking fear in the area.—RT

IG Sindh Highlights Notable Improvements in Karachi's Law and Order

KARACHI: Inspector General of Sindh Police, Gulam Nabi Memon, has highlighted significant improvements in Karachi's law and order, noting the city's progress on the global crime front. Speaking at a seminar on the National Strategy Against Organized Crime, Memon stated that Karachi, which ranked sixth on the World Crime Index in 2013, has seen a remarkable turnaround due to the relentless



efforts of law enforcement agencies, police, and coordinated stakeholder collabora-

tion. He said Karachi currently ranks 19-plus on the World Crime Index, showing a substantial improvement from last year when it was at 128th position. Organized crimes, including kidnappings for ransom, have drastically decreased, while extortion cases have also seen significant reduction, marking the success of targeted policing measures.—RT/Agency

Inclination Towards Latif Program Showcases Sindh's Struggle and Progress

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: A program titled "Inclination Towards Latif" was held at Malir (Laro) Bar, attended by Awami Tehreek leaders Lal Jarwar, Sattar Chind, Mehran Dars, Razaq Chando, Bashir Jarwar, and others. Lal Jarwar emphasized that Sindh people are the true guardians of their homeland and resources. He highlighted Latif's poetry as a symbol of patriotism, struggle, and protection of the oppressed Sindh heroes and women for their courage and urged participation in a mass protest march in Larkana on December 21 against anti-seize Sindh's lands. He Sindh policies



also participated. Non-tion, noting improved compliant structures, traffic flow and better shutters, kiosks, and public spaces. AC Jave-counters were removed, rias Ashraf confirmed o-restoring pedestrian erations will continue rector KMC Ali Alamdar, pathways. Local resi-ual until all encroachments dents welcomed the ac-

Major Anti-Encroachment Operations Continue in Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Johar

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Under Commissioner Karachi's directives, East District Administration carried out a large-scale operation against encroachments in Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Johar. The operation, supervised overnight by Assistant Commissioner Javeria Ashraf from 2 AM to 7 AM, targeted footpaths, green belts, and illegal shop extensions. Staff Officer Nisar Narjo, Additional Director KMC Ali Alamdar, and Deputy Director Gulfranz



also participated. Non-tion, noting improved compliant structures, traffic flow and better shutters, kiosks, and public spaces. AC Jave-counters were removed, rias Ashraf confirmed o-restoring pedestrian erations will continue rector KMC Ali Alamdar, pathways. Local resi-ual until all encroachments dents welcomed the ac-

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
Camp Office 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department K.M.C. Muslimnabad Karachi.
No. CPC/ED/KMC/2025-26/32/Karachi Dated: 19-11-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(Method of Procurement: Single Stage - Two Envelope Procedure)
Tenders are invited E-Bid through newly method of "EPADS" on Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure from eligible bidders as per details below, strictly in accordance with SPFRA's E-Procurement submission requirements:

S#	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost Rs.	Bid Security	Tender Cost	PEC Category with Codes
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF NATHA KHAN BRIDGE AT GRADE ROAD WITH RCC CULVERT & LINK ROAD FROM SHAHRAH-E-FAISAL TO HABIB UNIVERSITY, KMC KARACHI. (PHASE-I & II). (NON-ADP).	779,993,000/-	5% of Estimated Cost	5,000/-	Valid PEC License in Category C-2 or above alongwith the fields of specialization codes CE01, CE09, CE10, EEO9.
2.	IMPROVEMENT REHABILITATION OF JHANGRI ROAD ALONG WITH STROM WATER DRAIN (FROM GURUMANDIR TO TEEN HATTI KMC, KARACHI). (NON-ADP).	297,429,400/-	5% of Estimated Cost	5,000/-	Valid PEC License in Category C-3 or above alongwith the fields of specialization codes CE01, CE09, CE10.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENT:
a) The participants must quote their rates both in words and figures.
b) Bid should be signed along with company's stamp.
c) Bid Security / Earnment Money should be made from the Account of the Company / Firm of the participant.
d) If the Bid Security is not submitted, the bid will be rejected.
e) The bid should be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
f) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
g) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
h) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
i) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
j) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
k) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
l) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.
m) The tender shall be submitted in the Office of the Chairman Procurement Committee situated at 01, Behind Dawood Engineering University Engineering Department.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
a) copy of CMG.
b) Valid PEC and Category relevant field of specialization codes (where applicable).
c) Valid SFRB Registration Certificate. (The bidder must be on active Tax payer List of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).
d) Valid SFRB Registration Certificate. (The bidder must be on active Tax payer List of Sindh Revenue Board (SRB).
e) Valid Professional Tax Certificate.
f) Proposed Construction Schedule: The bidder must provide Construction Schedule in Bar Chart as per Appendix E.
g) Valid Electrical License from Government of Sindh (Karachi Region) for Work No.01.
h) Affidavit / Undertaking regarding Firm never been black listed OR not involved in any Court Case/Litigation with any Government/Semi Government Department for the last five years.
i) Average Annual Turnover of last five years from (ICAP) Registration Audit Firms, Audit Report issued other than (ICAP) registered audit firms will not be accepted.
j) List of Machinery and Equipment available with documentary evidence of its ownership / Leased / rented (as required and mentioned in Bidding Documents).
k) At least one similar nature of work having minimum cost of the estimated cost of work. OR At least two similar nature works each having minimum cost of 50% of the estimated cost for last five years duly supported with Completion Certificate.
l) Bio data of Engineering and Technical Staff working with the firm as required and mentioned in bidding documents.

TERMS CONDITIONS:
1. Bidding / Tender Documents: Bidding Documents shall be downloaded from the website of "EPADS" (<http://portalindia.eprocurement.gov.pk>) or SPFRA Sindh.
2. Submission Date: All bidders (Financial) must be submitted ONLINE only via SPFRA E-Procurement System "EPADS" (<http://portalindia.eprocurement.gov.pk>) both the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be submitted / uploaded in respective section and manual physical submissions will not be accepted.
3. Bid shall be submitted online on or before 11-12-2025 by 11:00 AM and only the Technical Bid will be initially opened on 11-12-2025 by 11:30 AM at the office of the Chairman Procurement Committee Engineering Department KMC in the presence of the Procurement Committee as well as the presence of the Contractor(s) or their authorized representatives of interested bidders if desired.
4. In case of any reasons if the tenders are not responded on the above date the next date of submitted online on or before 29-12-2025 by 11:00 AM and will be opened on 29-12-2025 by 11:30 AM.
5. Funded Through: Non-ADP (KMC Fund).
6. Bid Validity Period: 90 Days.
7. Under following Conditions bid will be rejected:
a) Hard Copy of Bid or by Hand bid will not be accepted.
b) Conditional Bid will not be accepted.
c) Bid uploaded / submitted after specified date and time.
d) Black listed firms.
e) Submitted Documents if found forged at any stage.
f) Pay-Order of the Bid Security submitted physically before the date of Opening.
8. The competent authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted to the relevant provision of SPFRA.
9. Interested bidders are requested to register their firm(s) / company(s) on SPFRA website of "EPADS" (<http://portalindia.eprocurement.gov.pk>) for submission of e-bid.
10. The technical proposals submitted by the bidders will be evaluated by Procurement Committee as per evaluation criteria and mandatory requirements given in the Technical Proposal and thereafter financial proposals of technically qualified bids will be opened by the same Committee on the date and time to be proposed to the bidders.
11. The financial proposals of the bidders found technically non-responsive shall be returned unopened to the respective bidders.
12. In case the date of opening or last date of sale is declared as a public holiday by the Government or non-working day due to any reason, the next working day shall be deemed to be the date for last date of sale and submission and opening or tenders accordingly.
13. Bid Security: Bid Security as mentioned above in shape of Pay order or Bank Guarantee (non specified) shall be submitted with the Technical Offer in favor of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) shall be enclosed as follows: Work No.01
a) Rs. 10.00 Million shall be enclosed with Technical Offer Envelope as part Of Bid Security. Otherwise the bid will not be evaluated.
b) Balance Bid Security Amount after deducting Rs. 10.00 Million shall be enclosed with Financial Offer Envelope in case Of non-compliance, the part Of Bid Security attached with the technical offer shall be waived.
c) The Bid Security of qualified and non-qualified both will be retained till finalization to award of work. Work No.02
d) Rs. 5.00 Million shall be enclosed with Technical Offer Envelope as part Of Bid Security. Otherwise the bid will not be evaluated.
e) Balance Bid Security Amount after deducting Rs. 5.00 Million shall be enclosed with Financial Offer Envelope in case Of non-compliance, the part Of Bid Security attached with the technical offer shall be forfeited.
f) The Bid Security of qualified and non-qualified both will be retained till finalization to award of work. Work No.03
g) Censuring in connection with tendering is strictly prohibited and proposals submitted by the contractors who are reported to be involved in canvassing are liable for rejection.
h) The data of qualified bids will not be allowed.
i) All SPFRA Rules / Notifications must be followed.

Chairman Procurement Committee
Engineering Department
Karachi Metropolitan Corporation
INF/MM/102/2025

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

—Oscar Wilde

THE REGIONAL TIMES

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21 2025

NA-18 By-Polls: ECP Calls for Army Deployment Amid KP CM's Alleged Threats

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is seeking the deployment of the Pakistan Army and the civil armed forces for NA-18 by-elections citing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's "threats" and use of "provocative language" against public officials.

In separate letters addressed to the respective secretaries of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior, the ECP drew attention to CM Afridi's recent speech at a public rally at Havelian, alleging that he



"clearly threatened" district administration, police officers and ECP officials engaged with the by-polls due on November 23.

"Regrettably, he [KP CM] used offensive lan-

guage which amounts to harassing and unduly influencing them which may prevent them [officials] from effective performance of their duties," the letter reads.

The electoral body's

concerns are linked with CM Afridi's speech at Chamba, near Havelian, in relation to the upcoming by-election for which the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has fielded Shehmaz Khan, wife of former National Assembly opposition leader Omar Ayub.

During his speech, the CM issued a stern warning to local political actors in Haripur, claiming that some individuals had "changed their votes" ahead of the November 23 by-election. Urging voters to support PTI in the upcoming by-election, he warned

the local administration and law-enforcement agencies against any attempt to manipulate results. "If the people's mandate is tampered with, the consequences will not be good. Any attempt at rigging will create a serious situation," he said. Stressing that justice was being denied and democratic norms were being undermined, CM Afridi said: "The situation now leaves only one option — and we will definitely adopt it," he cautioned, without specifying what that option might be. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Publishes Key Anti-Corruption Report Ahead of IMF Review



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has fulfilled a major condition ahead of the IMF Executive Board meeting by releasing the Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment Report. The report identifies long-standing governance weaknesses and outlines reforms to strengthen anti-corruption institutions and economic performance. The report, prepared with technical assistance from the IMF and World Bank, emphasizes that corruption has plagued Pakistan for over 70 years, significantly hindering economic and social development. Weak governance and lack of transparency, and limited capacity in internal and external audits

External budget-using institutions operate beyond supervision, increasing corruption risk. Governance and accountability issues or government institutions pose the most serious forms

of corruption, consuming government funds, distorting markets, and obstructing fair competition. Key findings of the report: Fiscal and institutional weaknesses. Inefficiencies in the tax system and government spending. Weak public sector performance and limited capacity in internal and external audits. External budget-using institutions operate beyond supervision, increasing corruption risk. Governance and accountability issues or government institutions pose the most serious forms

consistent performance. Weak transparency in government decision-making. Public participation in policymaking is negligible. Judicial system trust is low, affecting accountability. Economic impacts. Corruption is cited by 11.1% of businesses as the biggest obstacle, higher than the South Asian average of 7.4%. Complex business and foreign trade laws hinder investment and private sector potential. Fiscal weaknesses increase borrowing needs, adding external risks. —RT/Agency

IAEA Demands Iran Grant Access to Nuclear Sites After June Strikes

UN: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday passed a resolution urging Iran to provide full access and information about its nuclear program, reinforcing obligations under UN Security Council resolutions. The move comes amid escalating tensions following a 12-day conflict in June, during which Israeli and U.S. strikes targeted key Iranian nuclear facilities.

IAEA inspectors have been blocked from entering critical sites such as Fordo and Natanz, though they continue to visit other locations. The resolution, adopted with 19 votes in favor, three against,



and 12 abstentions, calls on Tehran to cooperate fully and promptly with the agency, including granting requested access and information.

Director General Rafael Grossi emphasized the ur-

gency of inspections, telling reporters that while the agency has conducted checks at accessible facilities, visiting the sites attacked in June is essential for Iran to meet its commitments. —RT/Agency

Trump to Meet NYC Mayor-Elect Mamdani at White House Today

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said he will meet New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani at the White House today in what would be the first meeting of the Republican leader with the democratic socialist who won this month's mayoral election. Mamdani and Trump have been critical of each other, with Trump having backed Mamdani's opponent, Andrew Cuomo. Mamdani, for his part, has been critical of the Trump administration's policies, including its crackdown on immigra-



tion and US support for Israel during the Gaza war. "We have agreed that this meeting will take place at the Oval Office on Friday, November 21st," Trump said

on social media. Mamdani told reporters earlier this week that his team had reached out to the White House to arrange a meeting. —RT/Agency

US Pledges to End Sudan War at Saudi Arabia's Request, Says Trump

US: US President Donald Trump said he would work to help end the war in Sudan after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman asked him to get involved in the matter. "We've already started working on that," Trump said.

Trump told the gathering, which was attended by bin Salman and his delegation, that his administration began working on the issue



half an hour after the crown prince requested Tuesday's meeting. The US will work with

the Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and other Middle Eastern countries to end atrocities in the region and stabilise Sudan, Trump later said in a social media post. The Sudan conflict erupted in 2023 amid a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule. —RT/Agency

Rawalpindi ATC Withdraws Arrest Warrants Against Aleema Khan in Terrorism Case

RAWALPINDI: A Rawalpindi Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday withdrew arrest warrants previously issued for Aleema Khan, the sister of PTI founder and former premier Imran Khan, in the November 26 protest case.

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah withdrew the warrants after Aleema appeared before the court and submitted a compliance report. The court directed her to furnish fresh surety bonds worth Rs1 million each, following which the warrants were cancelled.

The case pertains to a protest staged by the PTI in November last year and the court has issued arrest warrants for Aleema multiple times over her repeated absence. Aleema has denied any wrongdoing, maintaining that the charges are politically motivated.

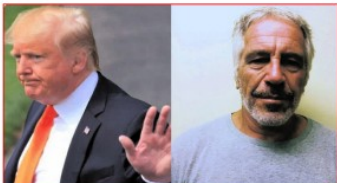


At a previous hearing, the judge had also directed the relevant authorities to block Aleema's national identity card (CNIC) and passport, and freeze her bank accounts.

During today's hearing, Aleema moved an application seeking a reversal of the freeze on her bank accounts, including joint accounts associated with the National University of Modern Languages. She argued that the freezing orders had caused her

undue hardship and were issued without proper legal justification. In response, Judge Shah issued notices to the prosecution, seeking their response on the application. The court is expected to examine whether the freezing orders were warranted and whether there was a sufficient legal basis to maintain them. Subsequently, the judge adjourned the hearing until November 26, directing the prosecution to submit its reply before then. —RT/Agency

Epstein Files to Become Public Following Trump's Bill Signing



US: US President Donald Trump announced that he has signed legislation requiring the Justice Department to release all files related to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The move comes after months of pressure from victims, lawmakers, and the public. The newly signed Epstein Files Transparency Act mandates that all unclassified materials from the Epstein inves-

tigation be made available in a searchable and downloadable format within 30 days. The bill cleared Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support: the House voted 427-1, while the Senate passed it by unanimous consent. Previously, Trump had opposed releasing the files but shifted his position after criticism from Epstein's victims and members of his own Republican Party. —RT/Agency

Two Police Officers Martyred in Dera Ismail Khan Blast



DIK: Two police personnel were martyred after an explosion near an armoured police vehicle in Dera Ismail Khan, according to police officials.

According to details, the blast took place in the Hathala area of Kulachi. The DSP said that a search operation is underway in the area. Earlier,

the Inter-Services Public Relations said security forces conducted two operations in Kurram district. In an exchange of fire during a targeted operation based on intelligence, twelve members of the Kharijites were killed. In a separate operation against another group, forces killed eleven terrorists. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Emerges as Dubai Airport's Fourth-Largest Market with 3.2 Million Passengers



DUBAI: Dubai International Airport (DXB) handled 3.2 million passengers from Pakistan in the first nine months of 2025, making Pakistan the airport's fourth-largest market, Dubai Airports Dubai Airports noted that millions of Pakistanis continue to use DXB for tourism, business travel, family visits, job opportunities, and transit to Europe, the Middle East and North America.

Pakistan remains one of the UAE's most important tourism and labour-mobility partners, with steady travel demand throughout the year.

Dubai airport recorded the highest quarterly traffic in its 65-year history, welcoming 24.2 million passengers between July and September — a 1.9% increase year-on-year. Total traffic from January to September reached 70.1 million, up 2.1% from last year. While Dubai Airports said its 12-month rolling traffic hit 93.8 million passengers by the end of September, the highest ever, India remained DXB's top market with 8.8 million passengers, followed by Saudi Arabia (5.5 million) and the UK (4.6 million). —RT/Agency

Pakistan Extends Ban on Indian Aircraft Until December 24 via NOTAM

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) has issued a notice to airmen (Notam) extending the airspace ban for Indian aircraft till December 24, it emerged on Thursday.

The new ban for Indian aircraft has been notified just four days before a previous one is set to expire. India and Pakistan have closed their airspace to each other's airlines since tensions between them escalated in late April in the wake of an attack in occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people. Islamabad most recently extended the airspace ban in mid-October till November 24.

The latest restriction went into effect from 2:50pm Pakistan time on November 19 (yesterday) to 4:59am on December 24, according to a Notam issued on Wednesday.

The bar will apply to all Indian-registered aircraft as well as any aircraft operated, owned, or leased by Indian airlines or operators, including military flights. The airspace closure applies from



ground level up to unlimited altitude. Pakistan's airspace is divided into two flight information regions (FIRs) — Karachi and Lahore, according to a Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) document from 2022. The Notam applies to both the Karachi (OPKR) and Lahore (OPLR) FIRs. —RT/Agency

French Lab Pushes mRNA Technology Beyond Covid, Targets Deadly Cancer Breakthroughs

FRANCE: Inside a lab in Orleans, France, scientists are exploring the untapped potential of messenger RNA (mRNA) — the molecule behind Covid-19 vaccines — to develop innovative cancer treatments. mRNA carries genetic instructions from DNA to create specific proteins, and researchers aim to harness this "message" to stimulate patients' immune systems to fight tumors more effectively, according to Dimitri Szymczak, project manager at Inserm's ART lab. While mRNA was discovered in the 1960s, it became globally celebrated during the Covid pandemic, leading to a Nobel Prize in 2023 for its role in rapid vaccine development. Now, its applications are expanding far beyond infectious



diseases. ART lab head Chantal Pichon explained that mRNA could enhance immunity, correct malfunctioning cells, target rare or genetic diseases, and even treat allergies. Worldwide, over 200 clinical trials are testing mRNA therapies, driven by pharmaceutical giants and emerging startups, with hotspots in the US, China, and Japan. France, Pichon emphasized, boasts some of the

strongest fundamental mRNA research teams, positioning the country at the forefront of this medical frontier. At the Orleans lab, researchers are synthesizing different mRNA molecules and testing them on cells to ensure safety and effectiveness. The experiments are designed to identify mRNA candidates that are non-toxic and capable of triggering precise therapeutic responses. —RT/Agency

CTD Thwarts Planned Attack, Kills Two Militants in Sarai Naurang

PESHAWAR: A joint Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and police operation in the Sarai Naurang area late Wednesday ended with two suspected militants shot dead after what officers described as a tense, stop-and-start exchange of fire.

Officials from the CTD in Bannu and Lakki Marwat stated that their teams had been tracking the pair since early evening, after receiving information that the men were moving around the Nali Chak Road belt and possibly planning an attack there.

By the time the units reached the spot, the suspects had already shifted positions, and the situation, as one official put it, "turned hostile very quickly."

Gunfire broke out almost immediately, and after an intense but brief battle, both men lay dead. Officers later said the two had been on their radar for months.

According to CTD



sources, one of the dead, identified as Azmatullah, had been named in multiple cases linked to attacks on police and security personnel, including incidents in which DSP Gul Muhammad, Constable Naseem Gul and Lieutenant Arifullah were martyred.

The second suspect, Mohammad Sohail, had earlier been accused of the killings of Constable Mansoor Khan and LHC Hashim Khan.

Police said the bodies have been shifted for identification procedures, and further checks are underway to determine whether the men were part of a wider cell still operating in the region. Earlier, Security forces eliminated four terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fatah al-Khawarij, in multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from November 17 to 18, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday. The security forces in Bajaur district conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) on the reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of the operation, troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, one militant was killed. —RT/Agency