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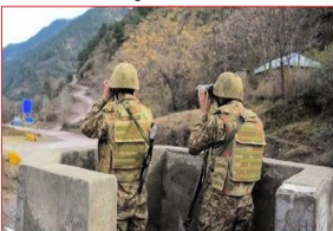
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Saturday, November 22, 2025, Jamadi-ul-Awal 30, 1447 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

KP Operations Shock: 13 Terrorists Gunned Down by Valiant Security Forces

KP: The security forces have gunned down 13 terrorists in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. In a statement, the military's media wing said that between November 20-21, based on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij, a joint intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces and law enforcement agencies in the general area of Paharkhel, Lakki Marwat district. During the conduct of the operation, the security personnel effectively engaged the khawarij's location, and after an intense fire exchange, 10 khawarij were sent to hell. Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in the Dera Ismail Khan district. In the ensuing fire exchange, three khawarij were effectively neutralised by the security forces.



Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed Indian-sponsored khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces, law enforcement agencies, and the target killing of innocent civilians. Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored khawarij found in the area. The ISPR added that a relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the vision of "Azm e Istehkam" would

continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country. Terrorist attacks have seen a sharp increase in Pakistan, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban regime came into power. A police report noted that KP alone recorded over 600 terrorist incidents, in which at least 79 police personnel were martyred alongside 138 civilians, during the first eight months of 2025.—RT/Agency

Tragedy at Dubai Air Show: Indian Tejas Fighter Crashes, Pilot Dies

DUBAI: A shocking tragedy unfolded at the Dubai Air Show on Friday afternoon when an Indian Air Force (IAF) HAL Tejas fighter jet crashed during an aerial display, resulting in the death of its pilot. The incident occurred at around 2:10 pm local time, while the aircraft was performing a high-speed maneuver for the crowds gathered at Al Maktoum International Airport.

Witnesses reported seeing thick black smoke rising from the crash site as stunned spectators—comprising families, children, and aviation enthusiasts—looked on in horror. Several bystanders quickly captured the moment on their phones, and footage of the



crash swiftly spread across social media, adding to the shock of the devastating event. As authorities have yet to confirm the exact details surrounding the crash, it remains unclear whether the pilot managed to eject before impact. Official statements on the injuries or damages are still limited, with an investigation likely underway.

The crash came on the heels of a social media controversy earlier in the show, where footage of a Tejas aircraft was seen leaking fluid mid-flight. However, Indian officials quickly reassured the public that the liquid was simply condensed water released from the aircraft's onboard systems, including the Environmental Control System and oxygen generation unit—an entirely normal occurrence in humid climates. They denied any claims of an oil leak or mechanical malfunction.

The Tejas, a single-engine, multi-role fighter jet designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), is considered one of India's most advanced military aircraft. The 4.5-generation jet is equipped with cutting-edge avionics, a digital fly-by-wire system, and a powerful General Electric F404 engine, which allows it to reach speeds of up to Mach 1.8 and travel over 3,000 km. It is capable of executing air-to-air, air-to-ground, and maritime strike missions, with various variants including the Mk1, Mk1A, and Mk2, each featuring unique upgrades. The IAF's Tejas aircraft has been a key player in several international exercises and showcases, including the Dubai Air Show, where it tragically crashed today. The loss of the pilot has cast a shadow over what was meant to be a spectacular demonstration of India's homegrown aviation technology. As the investigation continues, the aviation community mourns the loss of a skilled pilot and reflects on the risks that come with high-stakes air demonstrations.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Issues Stark Warning Against Terror Plots from Afghan Soil



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the use of Afghan territory for attacks against its soil, highlighting ongoing security concerns. Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi also updated on Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's recent diplomatic visits to the European Union and Moscow.

The Foreign Office spokesperson emphasized that Afghan soil continues to be exploited by terrorists targeting Pakistan. "Afghan citizens are constantly being attacked and attacks are launched from Afghan soil," Andrabi said, adding that Pakistan has suspended trade with Afghanistan due to the Taliban's support for terrorist activities.

Pakistan maintains a policy of border closure and strict trade regulation, demanding that the Afghan Taliban curb citi-

zens involved in cross-border terrorism. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar participated in the fourth European Union Indo-Pacific Forum, engaging with EU officials on a range of issues. He held bilateral meetings with Hungarian, Danish, Slovenian, and Dutch foreign ministers.

During the visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed with Hungary on student scholarships, reflecting Pakistan's efforts to strengthen educational and cultural ties.

Earlier, Ishaq Dar attended the SCO Heads of Government Meeting in Moscow on November 17-18. He met with Russian leaders, including the President, Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister, to discuss relations with Afghanistan. The SCO subsequently issued a joint statement on economic cooperation.—RT/Agency

Finance Minister Drives Virtual Asset Regulations in Global Digital Shift



ISLAMABAD: In a groundbreaking move for Pakistan's financial landscape, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb made his first official visit to the Pakistan Virtual Asset Regulatory Authority (PVARA) to review progress on the country's first regulatory framework for virtual assets. This visit marks a pivotal step as Pakistan seeks to align itself with global developments in the digital economy.

During the visit, PVARA's senior leadership provided the minister with a detailed briefing on the authority's ongoing work to build a robust governance structure for virtual assets. They outlined the phased approach they are using to ensure the sector remains aligned with Pakistan's national priorities while protecting consumers and supporting financial stability. Minister Aurangzeb was updated on PVARA's consultations with both domestic and international stakeholders, as well as the progress made on drafting regulatory guidelines. The Minister stressed the need for

timely implementation and regulatory clarity, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding Pakistan's financial interests in this rapidly evolving sector. Aurangzeb also directed his office to address any administrative hurdles faced by PVARA, reaffirming the government's full support for the initiative. His comments highlighted the crucial role of strengthening Pakistan's regulatory institutions to foster confidence, attract investment, and ensure that the country remains competitive in the global digital economy. PVARA Chairman Bilal Bin Saqib highlighted the authority's commitment to a "Pakistan-first" approach, ensuring responsible

innovation and robust safeguards within the virtual asset ecosystem. He also noted a major milestone—the PVARA Chairman's inclusion in the World Economic Forum's Steering Committee on Digital Asset Regulations, underscoring Pakistan's growing influence in the global virtual assets space. The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of the government's commitment to responsible innovation, emphasizing transparency, security, and compliance with both national and international standards. This marks a significant turning point as Pakistan positions itself to navigate the future of digital assets while safeguarding its financial stability and global standing.—RT/Agency

French Commander Drops Bombshell: Inside the Rafale Shoot-Down in India-Pakistan Clash

FRANCE: A French military commander, Captain Jaquis Launay, has exposed a startling new detail about the May 2025 India-Pakistan air clash, revealing that Indian Rafale fighter jets were indeed shot down during the intense one-hour aerial combat. The revelation marks a significant blow to India's official stance, which has consistently denied the loss of its fighter jets.



fighter jets, pilots, and air-to-air missiles under active combat conditions. Captain Launay, who commands the Naval Air Base at Landivisiau in France—a base equipped with over 40 Rafale jets—provided additional insights into the factors that led to the dramatic shooting down of the jets, adding fuel to the already contentious situation.

Launay, who has been flying Rafales for over 25 years and has participated in numerous high-stakes operations from the Middle East to Europe, is a seasoned authority on the aircraft. He has overseen operations involving 94 naval warships,

10 nuclear submarines, and a fleet of 190 aircraft, including his beloved Rafales. His military credentials were further cemented last week when he supervised a nuclear missile test without a warhead. The shooting down of Rafales has become a source of global embarrassment for India, as it contradicts the country's official narrative of the air combat. The French commander's revelations have sparked international discussions, with military analysts across the world now revisiting the details of the incident, seeking to draw lessons for future air combat strategies.—RT/Agency

Faisalabad Horror: Deadly Chemical Factory Boiler Blast Kills 17, Dozens Feared Trapped

FAISALABAD: A devastating boiler explosion at a chemical factory in Malikpur, Faisalabad, has claimed the lives of at least 17 people, with authorities fearing more casualties as rescue operations continue. The tragic blast occurred on Friday, sending shockwaves through the local community.



Deputy Commissioner Nadeem Nasir confirmed the rising death toll, stating that the victims include factory workers, women, children, and elderly individuals. Early reports suggest the explosion was triggered by a gas leak, causing a catastrophic fire at the factory. The blast's intensity was so severe that it caused the roofs of nearby houses to collapse, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

Rescue 1122 teams have mobilized a total of 22 vehicles, working tirelessly to search for survivors and recover bodies from the wreckage. Emergency crews are still combing through the debris, with

hopes dwindling that more individuals may be trapped beneath the rubble. The community remains in shock as the scale of the disaster unfolds. The tragedy in Faisalabad is reminiscent of another industrial disaster that occurred earlier this year. In June, a boiler explosion at a private steel factory in Karachi's Steel Town area resulted in the deaths of two workers, with another suffering severe burns. The boiler blast in Karachi was happening again. As the death toll continues to rise, the nation is left grappling with the devastating consequences of industrial negligence.—RT/Agency

operations, the question remains whether more lives can be saved from the wreckage of this deadly factory explosion. Authorities are under intense pressure to determine the cause of the blast and hold those responsible accountable for the horrific loss of life. The deadly incident has raised alarms about the safety protocols at industrial sites across Pakistan, highlighting the need for stricter regulations and better enforcement to prevent such tragedies from happening again. As the death toll continues to rise, the nation is left grappling with the devastating consequences of industrial negligence.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Calls for Negotiated End to Ukraine-Russia War



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed strong concerns over the Ukraine-Russia war, emphasizing its severe humanitarian, regional, and global impact.

Speaking at the United Nations, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Asim Iftikhar urged both sides to pursue dialogue, diplomacy, and patience to end the bloodshed.

Asim Iftikhar said Pakistan is concerned about the Ukraine-Russia conflict and its "profound regional and international repercussions." He noted that people around the world—and especially civilians caught in conflict zones—are suffering greatly as a result of the prolonged war. He stressed that Pakistan has reservations regarding the targeting of civilian infrastructure, calling it a violation that should not occur under any circumstances. Call to protect civil-

ians, critical infrastructure. The Pakistani envoy underscored that civilian protection is a core principle of international law. He stated that the destruction of homes, hospitals, and basic services is worsening the humanitarian crisis and preventing progress toward peace.

According to Iftikhar, the ongoing bloodshed is making it extremely difficult for the parties to move toward a viable solution. Appeal for restraint, patience, diplomacy. Iftikhar appealed to both Ukraine and Russia to show patience and tolerance, urging them to reduce tensions and work toward ending the conflict. He noted that momentum for negotiations had begun earlier this year, and had that process been taken seriously, the war might have reached a meaningful conclusion by now.—RT/Agency

Mass Protests Erupt Across Pakistan Over Imran Khan's Sisters' Treatment and 27th Constitutional Amendment

PUNJAB: Tensions reached new heights across Pakistan on Friday as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Tehreek Tahaful Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) organized large-scale protests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, and Karachi. The demonstrations were sparked by two key issues: the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment and reports of mistreatment faced by PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

In a coordinated move, PTI and TTAP supporters flooded the streets, condemning the government's actions. The protests gained momentum as protesters in various districts across KP, including Peshawar, rallied in defiance of government policies. PTI workers, holding portraits of their party leader, chanted fiery slogans against state institutions, venting their frustration with both the amendment and the treatment of their leader's family. The protests were organized under the leadership of PTI's KP President Junaid Akbar, and were marked by



high emotion and intensity. In Peshawar, a particularly charged demonstration took place outside the Peshawar Press Club. Local government representatives, including Provincial Minister for Local Government Meena Khan Afridi and MNA Sher Ali Arbab, were among those who addressed the crowd. They decried the constitutional changes and expressed solidarity with Imran Khan's family. Meanwhile, in Karachi, the authorities moved swiftly to contain the unrest, detaining at least six individuals before they could reach the designated protest venue. Despite this, a show of resistance was maintained, with police efforts failing to entirely quell the demonstrations. The widespread

protests highlighted the growing public discontent over the treatment of Imran Khan and his family, as well as concerns regarding the constitutional amendments. The 27th Constitutional Amendment, which has sparked controversy for its perceived bias and implications for Pakistan's political landscape, remains a flashpoint in the ongoing political crisis. PTI and TTAP vow to continue their resistance, with future protests likely as tensions between the opposition and government continue to escalate. These nationwide protests are a stark reminder of the deepening political rift in Pakistan, with Imran Khan and his party showing no signs of backing down.—RT/Agency

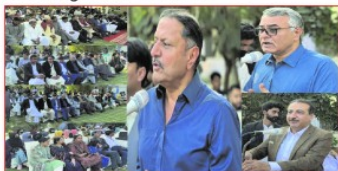
REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



Sindh Govt Rallies Behind Fisherfolk on World Fisheries Day at Keenjhar Lake

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Sindh Fisheries Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani marked World Fisheries Day at Keenjhar Lake, highlighting the importance of fishermen and the fisheries sector for Sindh's economy. Fish seed was released to boost breeding, and new initiatives under the World Bank-supported Double-A Project were announced, including small co-operative groups and one-to-two-acre fish ponds. Women participants will receive Rs



1 million in financial aid to start businesses. The Sindh government has abolished the lake lease system, providing inexpensive fishing licenses. Fishermen will also receive nets, ice crates, boats, and engines. PPP Thatta District President Sadiq Ali Memon, Sindh University VC Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, and local communities attended the event.

Badin DC Sparks Voter Awareness Movement at Jamia Masjid Qatar

By Raja Zafar Iqbal



BADIN: District Election Commissioner Badin, Muhammad Hanif, organized a voter awareness and registration session at Jamia Masjid Qatar, attended by religious scholars, madrasa students, and voter education committee members. The DEC highlighted the constitutional and national importance of voting, while participants were briefed on voter registration, age eligibility, CNIC significance, and polling procedures. Scholars emphasized that voting is both a legal right and a national responsibility, crucial for justice and collective welfare. Committee members stressed timely registration and active participation to ensure transparent and fair elections, strengthening the democratic system in Sindh.

Mirpurkhas Students Face Off in Fierce Anti-Corruption Speech Showdown

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: The Regional Directorate of Colleges Mirpurkhas, in collaboration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), organized an anti-corruption speech competition for college students from Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, and Tharparkar regions at Government Girls Ibn-e-Rushd Degree College, Mirpurkhas. Addressing the event, Regional Director Colleges Mir Chand Od emphasized the need for society



to unite against corruption and urged students to remain honest for future success. Certificates and awards were distributed to top-performing students by Mir Chand Od and Principal Sherry Ubaid. The event was attended by Superintendent Shakeel Khusro, college faculty, and a large number of students, highlighting the importance of ethical values among youth.

Sindh Government Unveils Game-Changing Farmer Card Program in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Sindh government inaugurated a program to distribute farmer cards to local cultivators at the Peoples Secretariat, Pitafi House, Tando Allahyar. Former Provincial Minister and MPA Imdad Khan Pitafi, PPP District

President Zaheer Abbas Pitafi, District Council Chairman Mir Sohail Pappu Talpur, and Sardar Ejaz Khan Pitafi distributed the cards to registered farmers. Speaking at the event, Imdad Khan Pitafi said the program will boost wheat production, benefit poor households, and help reduce

Mirpurkhas Range Storms Into Sindh Police Games 2025 T-20 Final



By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: In the Sindh Police Games 2025, Mirpurkhas Range defeated Hyderabad Range in the T-20 tournament semi-final, securing a spot in the grand final. The victory over a strong Hyderabad team showcased Mirpurkhas Range's skill and determination. The much-anticipated final will see Mirpurkhas Range face Karachi Range in a night match at the stadium. Police teams and fans are eagerly awaiting the final showdown, hoping for an exciting match and a chance for Mirpurkhas Range to claim the championship.

Massive Measles-Rubella Vaccination Drive Ignites in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Noor Mustafa Laghari, instructed health officials to ensure full immunization of children aged six months to five years during the National Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign running from November 17 to 29, 2025. Speaking at a review meeting, he emphasized that negligence will not be tolerated as measles and rubella



are deadly diseases, and protecting future generations is a collective responsibility. District Health Officer Dr. Bhoro Mal, Focal Person for the campaign Dr. Zulfiqar, and other health officials participated. The Deputy Commissioner directed all staff to implement the campaign efficiently under micro-plans to achieve maximum coverage across the district.

Tando Bago Officials Sweep Schools, Push Hard for Quality Education

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago's village Jalil Mallah, Mukhtiar Kar Tando Bago Lal Muhammad Bajir conducted surprise inspections of Girls School Muhammad Khan Mallah and Boys School, checking teacher and student attendance. Under Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti's directives, the visit, supported by UNICEF, included evaluation of school buildings and interaction with students regarding



their courses. Lal Muhammad Bajir stressed that education is essential for every child and praised teachers' efforts. He encouraged parents to enroll children in schools offering free education and books, noting that students' performance will reflect positively on Pakistan and their educators. Yousif Mirani and Altaf Rustamani accompanied the inspection.

Jeay Sindh Mahaz Slams 26th and 27th Amendments, Calls for Full Judicial Inquiry

By Sajad Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Jeay Sindh Mahaz Chairman Riaz Chandio criticized the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments, calling them a major conspiracy against Sindh. Speaking after offering condolences to the family of late Headmaster Jam Aziz Jakhro, who died in police custody, he condemned police misconduct, alleging that law enforcement has become a source of public oppression rather than protection. Chandio highlighted unresolved killings, including Jam Aziz Jakhro and Ramzan Khoso, and accused authorities of failing to ensure education, healthcare, and development despite Sindh's rich

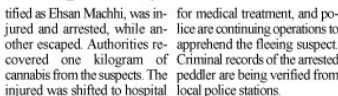


natural resources. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the custodial death of Jam Aziz Jakhro and other incidents, warning that a large public movement will be launched in December to protect Sindh's rights.

Gunbattle Erupts Between Police and Drug Peddlers Near Amri Stop in Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Police clashed with drug peddlers near Amri Stop on Dero Bhannan Road. During the incident, one peddler, identified as Ehsan Machhi, was injured and arrested, while another escaped. Authorities recovered one kilogram of cannabis from the suspects. The injured was shifted to hospital for medical treatment, and police are continuing operations to apprehend the fleeing suspect. Criminal records of the arrested peddler are being verified from local police stations.



Minority Students Rise Up Against Alleged Forced Conversion at Mirpur Sakro School

By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: Minority female students of Government High Girls School, Mirpur Sakro, protested outside Sakro Press Club, alleging that the school

head forced them to convert to Islam or face expulsion. Students, including Nandini, Vishita, Roshni, Akashi, Chandini, and Novita, said they were pressured to change their names and recite Islamic prayers. Parents demanded immediate action, stressing that their daughters' right to education must be protected and they should not face discrimination based on their religion.

Dhoodha Minor Overflow Triggers Flooding Fury in Kandiaro, Residents Protest

By Usama Ayaz Abbasi



KANDIARO: Water from Dhoodha minor beach overflowed and entered homes and mosques in the lutchra areas of Kandiaro, leaving residents deeply distressed, while irrigation officials remained missing from the scene. Leaders of JUI-F and the All Parties Alliance, including Maulana Muhammad Ramzan Khaskheli, Haji Khan Rind and Mazhar Qaimkhani, led a protest along with affected residents. They said that in this era of high inflation, they have built their

homes through hard labor, yet the canal water repeatedly breaks its banks and floods their houses. The protesters warned that if the issue is not resolved immediately, they will take the matter to court.

Jati Court Comes Down Hard Over Delayed Abduction and Forced Marriage FIR

By AS Thahim

JATI: Session Court Sujawal has taken strong action after police failed to register a case of alleged abduction and forced marriage. Abdul Ghafoor Mallah filed an application claiming his wife was abducted and forcibly married. Despite court orders, SHO Jati, Munir Ahmed, did not register the case, prompting a contempt petition by the victim's lawyer, Akbar Jamari. The court summoned SHO Munir Ahmed, placed him in judicial custody, and has also summoned SSP Sujawal Alina Rajpar on November 24 for further proceedings.

Umerkot Seminar Puts Spotlight on Wheat and Fertilizer Relief for Farmers

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Under the guidance of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Sindh government organized a seminar at the People's Secretariat, Burhanuddin Kumbhar House, Wahro Sharif, Umerkot, to raise awareness about financial support for wheat and fertilizer for farmers and cultivators. The seminar, held on the occasion of the Pakistan Peoples Party's 58th founding anniversary, saw large participation from local farmers, farmer organiza-



tions, political leaders, and PPP office-bearers. Officials from the Umerkot Agriculture Department and district administration briefed attendees on government policies, including farmer cards and financial assistance. Farmers owning 1 to 25 acres of land will receive support through a modern, transparent system. Leaders also announced grand arrangements for the 58th PPP anniversary on November 30.

SAC Mounts Intense Protest in Thul Against 27th Constitutional Amendment

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A protest rally was organized in Thul against the 27th Constitutional Amendment by the Sindh Action Committee. Leaders including Jamal Josh, Barro, Wasim Qureshi, Comrade Shoaib Ahmed Noonari, and Comrade Bashir Ahmed Sirki, along with political and social organizations and a large number of citizens, participated. The rally moved through city streets and



concluded at the Press Club Thul. Leaders said the amendment is a direct attack on Sindh's constitutional powers, resources, and national identity. They warned that if the government does not withdraw the amendment, protests will escalate with larger rallies and demonstrations across Sindh.

Thatta Health Department Rolls Out Major Rubella and Measles Awareness Blitz

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The Health Department of Thatta held a major awareness seminar at We Care House Makdi to educate the public about rubella

and measles prevention and the importance of timely vaccination. District Health Officer Dr. Syed Safdar Ali Shah highlighted the serious risks of these viral infections, including pneumonia, brain swelling, disability, and death, stressing that vaccines are the most effective prevention. A special vaccination campaign for children aged 6 months to 5 years will run from 17 to 29 November 2025.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



US Congress Applauds Punjab: CM Maryam's Brick Kiln Reforms Called 'Model for the World'

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's modern brick kiln reforms have been recognised as a model for the region, with the US Congress also acknowledging her leadership. In a statement, Bokhari said the US Con-



gress appreciated the Punjab government's initia-

tives on environmental protection and the eradication of bonded labour. She added that American lawmakers praised the reforms implemented at brick kilns, as well as the government's actions to protect labourers and improve working conditions.—RT/Agency

Sharjeel Discusses National and Sindh's Issues With PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with Sindh Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon in Islamabad. During the meeting, the leaders discussed matters of mutual interest concerning governance, communication strategies, and inter-provincial coordination.



The session aimed at strengthening collaboration between the federal and provincial governments, ensuring effective implementation of policies and development initiatives across Sindh.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Four Extortionists Fall in Karachi Clampdown as Key Operator Captured

KARACHI: In a joint operation, Karachi's SIU and law enforcement agencies arrested four extortionists, including the prime suspect responsible for making threatening calls. Officials confirmed that crucial evi-

dence was recovered from the suspects' mobile phones. According to investigators, the arrested men had demanded extortion from the owner of a car showroom and a marble factory in Manghopir.

The calls were made from an international number to avoid tracing. The marble factory owner received a slip demanding Rs 10 crore, along with two bullets as a threat.—RT/Agency

Massive Power Failure at K-3 Pumping Station Escalates Karachi's Water Emergency

KARACHI: A major power breakdown has once again struck the K-3 Pumping Station, one of the key facilities responsible for supplying water to several areas of Karachi. According to a spokesperson for the Water Corporation, electricity to the K-3 station went out at mid-

night, and despite 13 hours passing, the cable fault has not yet been fixed. The spokesperson stated that despite continuous efforts from K-Electric, frequent breakdowns persist, severely affecting the station's operations. Due to the prolonged

power outage, severe water shortages have been reported in North Nazimabad, Gulberg Town, Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Scheme 33, while water supply has also been badly disrupted in various blocks of Gulshan-e-Iqbal, as well as New Karachi, Saddar and Clifton.—RT/Agency

SPARC Raises Red Flag: A Stunning 26.2 Million Pakistani Children Still Out of School

KARACHI: SPARC's Universal Children's Day consultation highlighted a deepening child rights crisis, with over 26.2 million children out of school in Pakistan due to poverty, gender discrimination, and poor education quality. Experts called for stronger child protection laws and systems to address issues like child labor, forced marriages, and online exploitation. Participants urged



the government and media to prioritize child welfare, with students demanding safer schools and better facilities.

SPARC warned that despite known solutions, a lack of collective will is stalling progress.—RT

World Fisheries Day Uproar: PFF Rallies as Fishermen Demand Justice and Environmental Rescue

KARACHI: The Pakistan Fisheries Forum (PFF) marked World Fisheries Day with a powerful event in Ibrahim Hyderi, spotlighting the struggles of coastal communities. PFF leaders, including Syed Mehran Ali Shah and Yasmin Shah, condemned the arrests of fishermen, forced evictions, and exploitation. Demands included health cards for fisherwomen, restoration of the Indus



Delta, stronger protection for mangroves, and an end to ocean grabbing. Participants, including artist Tufail

Sanjani, vowed to intensify the fight for the community's rights and marine conservation.—RT

Austrian National Day Sparks Buzz: Pakistan-Austrian Ties Enter a Bold New Era

KARACHI: At the Austrian National Day reception, Austria's new ambassador Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera and key dignitaries, including Federal Minister Qaisar Sheikh and Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Austria ties. Hosted by Dr. Hussain Islam, the event celebrated 70 years of bilateral



cooperation in trade, energy, culture, and education. The ambassador praised Pakistan's regional role and emphasized shared goals in cli-

mate resilience, sustainable energy, and inclusive development. The festive occasion also marked a fresh chapter in diplomatic relations.—RT

Deadly Winter Feared: SSGC Kicks Off Urgent Gas Safety Drive in Quetta



QUETTA: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) kicked off its 2025-26 Winter Safety Awareness campaign in Quetta, aiming to promote safe gas use during the colder months. The event, attended by religious scholars, media representatives, and SSGC officials, emphasized the importance of caution when using gas-powered appliances. Regional Head Raheel Malik urged residents to follow safety measures to prevent accidents. Ulemas and media figures committed to spreading awareness, while SSGC promised to address highlighted issues to ensure safer gas use across Balochistan.—RT

Human Trafficking Horror Laid Bare: FIA Officials Reveal Shocking Realities

LAHORE: Top officials from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) shed light on the stark challenges of human exploitation and migrant smuggling, urging students to recognize and combat the pervasive threats faced by vulnerable communities. The informative session, a joint initiative by the Character Building Society and

the FIA Media Wing Lahore, today brought together senior law enforcement figures to address a university audience on the critical issue. Leading the discussion were Capt (R) Muhammad Ali Zia, Director of FIA Lahore; SSP Rana Masoom, the agency's Additional Director; and Deputy Director Bilal Tariq.—RT/Agency

'Irreconcilable' CM Afridi Slams Punjab CM Maryam, Says Court Orders on Imran Meetings Must Stand

KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has called on his Punjab counterpart Maryam Nawaz to hold those accountable for allegedly mistreating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sisters and ensure implementation of court orders for meetings with the former prime minister.

judicial directions governed Imran's visitation rights, allowing close family members and nominated individuals to meet him on certain days. "Despite the unambiguous nature of these instructions, repeated reports indicate persistent non-implementation by authorities responsible for compliance," the KP's chief executive complained.—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah Fined Rs 50,000 for By-Election Code Violation in Faisalabad



FAISALABAD: Faisalabad's District Returning Officer (DRO) has slapped a hefty Rs 50,000 fine on Rana Sanaullah, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, for breaching the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) code of conduct during the PP-116 by-election in Faisalabad. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader was found guilty of violating rules but failed to respond to

the notice served by the DRO. Rana Sanaullah has been instructed to pay the fine and submit the receipt to the Election Commission. Failure to comply will result in the matter being escalated to the ECP for further action. This penalty adds to the political heat in Punjab as by-election heats up, with allegations of misconduct continuing to swirl around key political figures.—RT

BALUCHISTAN HEARTLAND

Knowledge Reborn: Renovated Dera Allahyar Public Library Reopens in Jafarabad



Jaffarabad: Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan inaugurated the newly renovated Dera Allahyar Public Library. The refurbishment, supported jointly by PPAF and Words NGO, upgraded the library with modern facilities including new books, study materials, a computer corner, internet,

Wi-Fi, and a solar-powered electricity system. The DC thanked the organizations for their contribution to youth education. Students welcomed the renovation, saying the improved resources would enhance study, research, and exam preparation. The library's revival is seen as a significant step toward educational development in the region.

Central Punjab

Labour Law Crackdown: Toba Tek Singh District Goes After Violators in Sweeping Drive

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Under Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, strict measures are being implemented in Toba Tek Singh to enforce labour laws. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela instructed Assistant Director Labour Chaudhry Muhammad Shehbaz to inspect factories, brick kilns, and commercial centres. In-

spections revealed mini-mum wage violations and cases of child labour at brick kilns, Karachi Restaurant Bar BQ, and Ajwa Sweets & Bakers. FIRs were registered, and legal action is ongoing to ensure zero tolerance for violations.

Press Club Unity on Display: Candidates Throw Grand Power Dinner in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: A grand dinner was hosted by Senior Vice Chairman candidate Mehr Ali Ansar in honor of Press Club President candidate Mian Saeed Hassan, attended by a large gathering of journalists. Ansar praised Hassan's leadership, transparency, and dedication, pledging full support in the upcoming elections. Expressing gratitude, Has-

san thanked Ansar and all attendees for their trust and encouragement, promising to serve the Press Club with integrity, energy, and honesty. Both leaders emphasized unity, journalistic dignity, and development of the institution as the cornerstone of their vision for the Press Club.

Election Heat Rises: Alliances Shake Up DBA Toba Tek Singh 2026-27 Race

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The race for the District Benazir Association Toba Tek Singh elections 2026-27 has intensified as local lawyers begin forming strategic alliances. In a recent meeting of the Pak Lawyers Forum, chaired by Advocate High Court Khalid Mehmood Mandahar, members unanimously decided to nominate Advocate High Court Mian Salman Ghani

Noorpori as Chairman, will support the candidates endorsed by these nominees. Meetings and alliance-building among various lawyer groups continue ahead of the elections.

New Perks Announced: Police Families to Get Special Medical and Educational Relief

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Tayab Hafeez Cheema has launched an initiative for the welfare of Gujranwala police personnel and their families. Agreements were signed between RPO Gujranwala and Atlas College, Inspire College of Medical Science, and Dr. Hawarath Ishaq, consultant physiotherapist. Under these agreements, serving, retired, and veteran police officers and their spouses will receive

medical treatment and education at a 50% discount, while families of police martyrs will receive services free of charge. The initiative

Rescue 1122 Sounds Winter Alarm: Awareness Campaign Launched for Public Safety

By Rana Mudassar



NAROWAL: With winter setting in, Rescue 1122 Narowal has initiated a public awareness campaign to prevent accidents caused by gas leaks and unsafe heating practices. The campaign highlights the dangers of electric heaters, gas stoves, water geysers, and coal-based heating in closed rooms, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, fires, or explosions. Dis-

trict Emergency Officer Engineer Aurangzeb urged citizens to ensure proper ventilation, switch off appliances before sleeping, and handle devices cautiously. He emphasized that while Rescue 1122 provides emergency services, public safety depends on citizens following preventive measures during the cold season.

Gojra Transformed: Rapid Green Revolution Unfolds Under CM's Vision

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, significant progress is being made on the beautification and green-

ing of Gojra city. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela is supervising eco-friendly initiatives around main roads and government offices in Tehsil Gojra. The plantation and carpet Municipal Committee, CO MC Syed tee Gojra, with ap-Yasir Ali stated the proval from city ad-project aims to cre-ministration, has ate a greener, launched a plan to cleaner, and health-urban environ-ment for citizens.

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, November 22, 2025

India's Ego Meets Reality at 30,000 Feet

India's towering sense of invincibility — an Everest of ego built on bluster, ethnocentrism, and carefully curated self-mythology — came crashing down in Dubai, quite literally, with the horrific fall of its indigenous Tejas fighter jet at the Dubai Airshow. As human beings, we must unequivocally condole the tragic loss of the pilot who died in the crash. But even amid grief, uncomfortable questions must be asked of New Delhi's dangerously delusional mindset.

The Tejas crash was not an isolated "technical mishap"; it was a painful public unmasking of a defence industry long propped up by narrative rather than performance. The images of smoke billowing from the wreckage — soon after days of embarrass-

ment over alleged "oil leaks" dismissed as "routine



draining" — exposed yet again the fragility behind India's facade of military might.

And this comes just months after India suffered a humiliating setback in the unprovoked May conflict it thrust upon Pakistan — where seven of its jets were downed. The world acknowledged the losses; India, true to form, pretended they never happened. If denial is its default setting, should we now expect New Delhi to blame Pakistan for the Dubai Airshow

crash too? Or perhaps claim that it never occurred at all, just as it continues to deny the May debacle?

Under Narendra Modi's hyper-nationalist governance, such absurdity is not only possible — it is predictable.

The latest Tejas disaster should serve as a sobering reset for New Delhi. No nation becomes credible by suppressing failures. And no leadership earns global respect by weaving fantasies of grandeur while its hardware crashes before international audiences.

India must wake up from its self-induced stupor. The world is no longer buying the bravado. And after Dubai, neither should India.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



IG Sindh Unveils Fully Digital Driving License Revolution in Badin

By Khadem Hussain Shaikh

KADHAN: IG Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, inaugurated a fully digital online driving license office in Badin, marking a major step toward modernizing the licensing system. Addressing the occasion, the IG said the new system will save thousands of citizens from long waits and tedious travel for license issuance. He added that the technology-based platform will ensure transparency, speed up the



process, and help curb illegal licenses while improving road safety standards. The initiative received praise

from local officials, SSP Badin Qamar Raza Jiskani, police officers, and numerous citizens.

Sindh Women's Development Minister Sparks Review of Kotri Safe House Conditions

By Javed Samejo

HYDERABAD: Sindh Women Development Minister Shaheena Sher Ali visited the Kotri Safe House to assess facilities provided to women seeking refuge. During the visit, she met with Safe House in-charge Syeda Qurat-ul-Ain Shah and reviewed accommodations and protection measures for residents. Additional Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Babar Khan Nizamani, Mukhtiar Kotri Majid Ali Khaskheli, and other offi-



cials were also present. The minister emphasized the department's efforts to protect women, provide employment, skill training, and business opportunities for

the unemployed. She also highlighted the 1094 helpline for reporting domestic violence and lauded the in-charge's active support for affected women.

Jamshoro Police Hunt Down Proclaimed Offender in Major Breakthrough

By Munawar Chando

JAMSHORO: Acting on SSP Zafar Sadiq Changa's directives, Jamshoro police successfully arrested proclaimed offender Manthar s/o Gulam Rodhani in a major operation led by SHO Muhammad Ali



Khokhar of Bhan Saeed-

abad Police Station. The accused, wanted in Crime No. 48/2025 under multiple sections of the PPC, had been evading law for a long time. SSP Chhanga praised the team and reaffirmed continued action against criminal elements.

Maqsoodo Rind Gears Up to Mark Ehsan Ali Rind's First Death Anniversary

By Ayaz Latif Rind

MAQSOODO RIND The first death anniversary of journalist, writer, and literary activist Ehsan Ali Rind, General Secretary of Sindh Awami Sath Sanghar, will be observed on November 23, 2025, at Maqsoodo Rind near Village Jalal



Khan Rind at 5 PM. The ceremony will begin with Quran recitation at his rest-

ing place, followed by tributes from prominent poets and writers of Sindh Adabi Sangat and other literary circles, highlighting his literary and scholarly contributions. The announcement was made by Rasheed Ali Rind, treasurer of Maqsoodo Rind branch.

Fury Erupts as Newspaper Vendor Protests Non-Payment by Khairpur Population Welfare Department

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Newspaper vendor Syed Jaffar Abbas Zeedi protested outside Khairpur Press Club after officers of

the Population Department allegedly withheld his seven-month newspaper bills. He said the department refuses to pay, citing a transfer of a former officer, and warned

that non-payment is threatening his livelihood. He appealed to the DC Khairpur to release the dues and prevent him from becoming unemployed.

Gambat Mystery Deepens as Couple Split and Young Man Remains Missing

By Munawar Shah



GAMBAT: In Gambat, Nadia Bhatti and Nasir Bhatti, who had married with court permission seven months ago, have separated. Nadia has appeared in court, while Nasir remains missing. Nasir's family, protesting at

Gambat City Press Club, claimed influential individuals had forcibly confined the couple. They warned that the young man's life is at risk and urged authorities, including DIG Sukkur and SSP Khairpur, to ensure his safe recovery and provide justice.

Khairpur Journalist Ayaz Sohu Faces FIR in Escalating Media Clash

By Naeem Shaikh



KHAIRPUR: A FIR has been registered against journalist Ayaz Ahmed Sohu, reportedly in response to his reports on irregularities at Shah Abdul Latif University. Media bodies and journalist organizations have expressed concern, calling for protection of press freedom. Leaders, including Khairpur Journalists' Alliance and legal

representatives, urged authorities to review the case and ensure that journalists can report public issues independently and without fear.

Hala Pays Tribute on Makhdoom Amin Fahim's Tenth Death Anniversary

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi



MATIARI: The 10th death anniversary of veteran PPP leader Makhdoom Amin Fahim was observed with deep respect and devotion in Hala. On the occasion, spiritual leader MNA Makhdoom Jamil-uz-Zaman and Provincial

Food Minister Makhdoom Mehboob-uz-Zaman offered prayers at his shrine. Hala Municipal Committee Chairman Zafar Gul Muhammad Panhwar, Syed Mumtaz Shah, Zafar Nadeem Dahri, and other local leaders also attended the commemorative ceremony.

Digri Assault Case Triggers Outcry as Suspects Still on the Run

By Farooq Randhawa

DIGRI: A case of assault was registered at Digri police station after an attack on local resident Mohammad Amin and his cousin Niaz Ali. According to the complainant, on the night of

November 13, unknown assailants, including the son of Irvani Shaikh, entered their homes on motorcycles and attacked them with sticks and axes. Police have started an investigation, but the suspects have not yet been arrested.

SSP Ahmed Faisal Chaudhry Honored with Peace Award by Larkana Traders

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A dignified ceremony celebrating peace and security was held in Larkana, where the Paint and Hardware Association honored SSP Ahmed Faisal Chaudhry for effectively curbing crime and restoring peace in the city. Association President Muhammad Ashiq Pathan presented the Peace Award, while the SSP was also adorned with a traditional turban, Ajrak and



Sindhi topi as symbols of team for their dedication to the law and order. The ceremony concluded with a dinner attended by senior traders and officials.

Sakhi Jam Datar's 754th Urs Ends with Mesmerizing Sufi Nights and Cultural Flair

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BE: NAZIRABAD: The three-day official celebrations of the 754th annual Urs of the revered Sufi saint, Sakhi Jam Datar, concluded with a Sufi musical night and a special guests. Renowned

artists Ahmed Mughal, Farzana Bahar, Faqeer Barkat Jamal and others enthralled the audience with their performances, while poets including Sughar Ali Gul Bharti recited traditional "Nar Bat." A large number of officers, devotees and local residents participated in the event.

IBA Test Pass Candidates Rise in Protest Over Stalled Grade 5-15 Posts

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Students and IBA test qualified candidates staged a protest outside the Larkana Press Club, led by Fawad Azad Jatoti, Akash Shahani and Sarang Sindhyar. They said they passed the 2021 recruitment tests for Grade 5 to 15 posts conducted by the IBA system but still have not received appointments. Protesters criticized the Sindh government for introducing



new policies after the dates demanded merit tests. They noted that Punjab, KP and Balochistan set the upper age limit at 45, while Sindh increased it to 28. The candi-

dates demanded merit tests. They noted that Punjab, KP and Balochistan set the upper age limit at 45, while Sindh increased it to 28. The candi-

SEPA Summons Brick Kiln Owners in Tough Hearing to Tackle Toxic Emissions

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A personal hearing session with brick kiln owners was held at the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Regional Office Hyderabad under the directives of Provincial Advisor for Environment Dost Muhammad Rahimoon and Secretary Environment Zubair Ahmed. Chaired by DG SEPA Waqar Hussain Phulpoto, the meeting addressed the use of substandard and polluting fuels such as plas-



tics, cloth, and other waste materials in kilns. The DG instructed owners to immediately switch to eco-friendly fuels and adopt modern technologies like zig-zag kilns. Officers were

directed to monitor kilns strictly and take legal action against violators. Brick kiln association president Jaffar Khan and owners from Matli, Muhammad Khan, and Hyderabad attended.

REGIONAL TIMES SPORTS



Naqvi Unveils Bold New Reward Scheme for PSL 2026 Franchises



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Friday announced a special reward for the franchises participating in the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026.

Naqvi made the announcement on his X account, saying that franchises would be rewarded for their contribution to the growth of the PSL.

The PCB chairman said that the champion franchise of the PSL 2026 will be rewarded with \$500,000, the runner-up with \$300,000, while the franchise recognised for its efforts in cricket development will take home \$200,000.

These rewards are separate from the regular prize money awarded each season.

"Let's take Pakistan cricket to new heights," he added.

Earlier in the day, the PCB announced that the auction for the two new PSL franchises will be held on January 6, 2026, marking a major milestone in the league's expansion plans.

The announcement came shortly after the PCB dismissed media reports claiming that the names of the two new franchises had already been finalised.—Agency

Rib Blow Forces Kagiso Rabada Out of Second Test as Injury Woes Deepen

Kagiso Rabada has been ruled out of the second India vs South Africa Test match, in Guwahati on Saturday, after not recovering sufficiently from the rib bone stress injury that had kept him out of the opening Test of the series in Kolkata.



"The injury has been closely monitored by the Proteas medical team, and due to ongoing discomfort in the affected area, Rabada has been withdrawn from the remainder of the tour," Cricket South Africa said in a statement on Friday morning, a day off from the start of the game. "He will continue the initial phase of his four-week rehabilitation program in with the Proteas medical team before returning to South Africa at the conclusion of the second Test."

This will put him out of the white-ball series in India that will follow the Tests.

As reported by ESPNcricinfo, Rabada had not bowled since sustaining the injury in training last Tuesday in with the Proteas medical team on Wednesday in Guwahati.—Agency

Earthquake Halts Bangladesh vs Ireland Test, Shaking Play for Three Minutes



Play had to be halted for three minutes after a 5.5 magnitude earthquake caused severe tremors in parts of Bangladesh and India in the morning session of the third day of the ongoing second Test between Bangladesh and Ireland in Dhaka.

There was immediate panic in the stands as the jolts were felt, and the players and umpires gathered near the pitch. Both dressing rooms emptied at around 10.38am (10.08am in India). The small crowd looked for open areas to escape to. Some went out of the stadium while others tried to get close to the ground. The media centre, a five-storey building at the north end of the stadium, also emptied quickly as people tried to go out to safe spaces.

While there is some confusion about the magnitude of the earthquake, local media in Bangladesh has reported that it was recorded at 5.5 on the Richter scale, with the epicentre in Madhabdi, a municipality around 40 kilometres east of Dhaka. There have been reports of at least two damaged buildings in the capital city but no confirmed reports of casualties.—Agency

Face of the Day



My Name is Syed Asher Ali and I'm a Young Gamer From Karachi who's Making Digital Playtime my Identity

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

Guwahati's Debut Test Thrown Into Turmoil by Mysterious, Unpredictable Pitch

Back in 2015-16, when the Test contest between India and South Africa was named Freedom Trophy, or alternatively the Mandela-Gandhi Trophy, both sides committed to treat it as a marquee contest. For the first time since 1992-93, they played four Tests in a series. A major part of such a commitment is to avoid the unsatisfactory two-match series. It was good while it lasted. All of four series, they are at the receiving end of the series' brevity. Once again, a series win is impossible for them after 2.67 days of cricket. The best they can do now is level it, the worst will mean a second series defeat at home in the last three after 12 years of winning every home series.

It should come as no surprise that the leaders of the time find themselves under the pump despite all the success in ODIs and T20Is. In fact, it speaks to the health of Test cricket in India that a home defeat, even if it comes against the world champions, draws such sharp reaction.

After two fruitless tours of India in the last decade, South Africa would have been glad the depth of their



make sure their country continues to stay the toughest place to tour, and not get relegated to "formerly the toughest place to tour".

In the spotlight: Ravindra Jadeja and Simon Harmer.

The first Test practically came down to a second-innings shootout between the two best spinners in the match. The margin for error was so low that you couldn't afford even one remotely ordinary spell. Harmer, now as good a spinner as any in the world, took 4 for 21. Ravindra Jadeja, after bowling a near-unplayable spell of 13-3-29-4 on the second evening, went searching a bit on the third morning. This Test will hopefully bring out more aspects of their bowling.—Agency

Dane van Niekerk Set for Stunning International Comeback After Four-Year Gap

Former South Africa women's captain Dane van Niekerk will make her comeback to international cricket in the home series against Ireland, more than four years after her last appearance. Van Niekerk announced her retirement in March 2023, after being left out of South Africa's T20 World Cup squad for the 2023 tournament, but reversed that in August this year. She has been included in both the ODI and T20I squads to face Ireland in a six-match series starting on December 5.



Since retiring, van Niekerk featured briefly at the IPL, but made a proper return to the domestic game for South Africa's provincial team Western Province. She was included in a national training camp ahead of the 2025 ODI World Cup but did not make the final squad and continued playing locally as she made her case for a return. She is currently the third-highest run-scorer in

as she can bat, move in the field, and think, we are good and from what I have seen, she can do that."

Van Niekerk is one of six additions to the ODI squad that reached the World Cup final in India last month, including one uncapped player. All-rounder Leah Jones, who captains Western Province, is in line for her first ODI cap. There are also returns for batters Lara Goodall and Faye Tunncliffe, while seamer Ayanda Hlubi and allrounders Eliz-Mari Marx and Miane Smit are all in that squad, which will be without several frontliners who will only play in the T20I series. Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Chloe Tryon and Nadine de Klerk will all be rested for the ODIs. Anneke Bosch does not feature in either squad and will return to domestic cricket with the Titans.—Agency

Stokes Ignites Dramatic Fightback After Starc's Seven as Ashes Sees 19 Wickets Fall

PERTH: Australia trailed England by 49 runs on 123-9 at the end of an extraordinary opening day of the Ashes series on Friday at Perth Stadium, where bowlers had very much the upper hand and a remarkable 19 wickets fell.

Mitchell Starc, spearheading the home attack in the absence of the injured Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, took a career-best 7-58 as Australia dismissed the tourists for 172 before tea.

The large visiting contingent in the crowd of 51,531 were soon in full voice, however, as England skipper Ben Stokes led a pace counter-offensive to rip through the Australian batting order and claim his own five-wicket haul with figures of 5-23.

Nathan Lyon, who was



everyone that's come today has got their time worth - 19 wickets," England seamer Brydon Carse said in a pitch-side interview. "Fantastic session from everyone to put us in a strong position heading into tomorrow."

Action-packed opening day.

The action-packed opening day, which saw more wickets fall on any single day of an Ashes Test since 1909, evoked memories of the first day of last year's Test between Australia and India at the same stadium when 17 first-day wickets fell.—Agency

Gill Out of Guwahati Test, Pant Steps Up to Lead India in Crucial Clash



Shubman Gill, who suffered a neck injury during the first India vs South Africa Test in Kolkata, has been ruled out of the second Test in Guwahati, which starts on Saturday. Rishabh Pant, who led in Kolkata after Gill left the game, will be India's captain.

Gill had travelled to Guwahati on November 19 after spending time under observation in a Kolkata hospital, but has now been ruled out of participation in the game. Gill "will head to Mumbai for further assessment of his injury," the BCCI said in a statement on Friday morning.

As reported by ESPNcricinfo on Thursday, it was understood that Gill is at risk of further neck spasms if he plays so soon after recovering. 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 out and no replacements named, India 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 after he retired hurt having faced 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 being 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, India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had said in a press conference that the team would not risk playing Gill if there was any chance of the spasm recurring.—Agency

West Indies Recall Kemar Roach and Kavem Hodge for High-Stakes NZ Test Series



Kemar Roach has been recalled to the West Indies Test squad for their tour of New Zealand in December this year. Roach was part of a 15-member squad for the three matches, but Shamar Joseph and Alzarri Joseph are still missing, due to injuries.

Roach last played a Test in January, in Multan during their tour of Pakistan, and his 85-Test record will balance out a relatively inexperienced pace attack, which also includes 29-year-old Ojay Shields, who has received his maiden call-up.

Allrounder Kavem Hodge, who also made his last Test appearance during the Multan match, has been recalled to the side. However, Khary Pierre finds himself and his left-arm orthodox spin bowling out of favour - he has been dropped from the squad.

Cricket West Indies' Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said, "New Zealand has traditionally been one of the toughest places for any touring side... The recent high-performance camp here in Antigua was designed to replicate, as closely as possible, the conditions we expect to face, particularly the pace-friendly surfaces."

Shields and Roach, among other players named in the squad, have completed a two-week high-performance camp in the region. They will also be joining the rest of the squad - already in New Zealand for the ongoing ODI series - on November 20, to part of a two-day warm-up match against a New Zealand XI in Christchurch.

The series will be part of the ongoing World Test Championship cycle. West Indies sit at the bottom of the table among the teams who have played at least one Test in the cycle - they have lost all five of the matches they have appeared in so far. New Zealand, on the other hand, are yet to play a match in the cycle, and this series against West Indies will get their WTC campaign belatedly off the mark.

West Indies squad for tour of New Zealand: Roston Chase (Captain), Jomel Warrican (Vice-Captain), Alick Athanaze, John Campbell, Taneisha Chanderpaul, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Shai Hope, Tevin Imlah, Brandon King, Jomah Layne, Anderson Phillip, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Ojay Shields.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Ariana Grande Falls Ill After Singapore Attack Amid Turbulence Around Wicked 2 Premieres



Ariana Grande has tested positive for Covid-19 amid the press tour for her new movie, Wicked: For Good.

Taking to her Instagram Stories on Thursday, the singer-actress posted a black-and-white photo of herself from her appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon which occurred earlier this week.

In the caption, Ariana wrote, "Moments before Covid."

The eternal sunshine singer did not reveal any further details as to what symptoms she's facing or if she is taking any form of treatment.

However, editors at Variety reported that Ariana will skip several Q&A sessions about Wicked: For Good that were scheduled for the coming days and an interview for The Kelly Clarkson Show alongside her co-star, Cynthia Erivo.

It's understood Cynthia will still appear on the daytime talk show, even though she lost her voice and wasn't able to do interviews at the New York City premiere on Monday evening.

"She's still missing in action, but she's there," the 38-year-old told host Jimmy Fallon of her voice issues during her appearance on his late-night programme on Wednesday. "She's kind of sexy."

Amanda Seyfried's Denim Remark Sparks Buzz During Sydney Sweeney Interview



Amanda Seyfried has stirred fresh attention to Sydney Sweeney's recent denim campaign after a brief moment in a new interview.

During a rapid-fire Vogue interview with her Housemaid costar Sydney Sweeney on November 20, Sweeney was seen asking Seyfried which single item from her closet she would choose.

"Denim. My jeans," Seyfried, 39, answered. The clip briefly showed her glancing sideways, seemingly toward Sweeney, before cutting away.

Later in the segment, jeans surfaced again as the actors discussed fashion trends they hope stay popular. "Loose jeans, I don't want skinny jeans," Sweeney said.

American Eagle defended its campaign shortly after the controversy, saying the slogan was only about denim and Sweeney's style. In a Q&Q profile on November 4, Sweeney also admitted that the reaction surprised her and noted that she wears jeans almost every day.

The ad even drew political attention, including praise from former President Donald Trump, which Sweeney later called "surreal."

Katy Perry Plotting Romantic Escape With Justin Trudeau, Claims Insider



Katy Perry is reportedly taking a major step in her relationship with Justin Trudeau.

On Thursday, an insider spilled to People magazine that the 41-year-old pop star is "making plans for the holidays" with her new boyfriend.

The confidant further told the outlet that Katy is really "looking forward" to closing out her LifeTimes tour before the holidays.

"Without exaggeration, this year has been a described the insider, whirlwind for her," the source said. "She hasn't even had time to really think about her life after the tour."

Rumors of Katy and Justin's relationship first sparked in July 2025, after the two were seen getting cozy on a dinner date in Canada.

However, the former PM of Canada confirmed his romance with Katy when he was seen at the pop sensation's birthday bash in Paris.

At that time, the source told Page Six that Justin is over the moon to be dating the Dark Horse hitmaker. "He is crazy about her and thinks she is the perfect woman," the insider described.

"They are simpatico on everything including politics, kids and French food," a tipster added. "They both have a sparkle for each other."



SPARC Rallies Brick Kilns to Mark Universal Children's Day

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) Umerkot celebrated Universal Children's Day with children of brick kiln workers in the district. The event highlighted children's rights, welfare, and empowerment for a brighter future. District Manager Sooraj Mal, along with SPARC team members Khadija Baloch, Shoukat, and Hussain, encouraged the children and shared motivational messages. Activities included awareness speeches on child labor, education, health, and equal opportunities. Children showcased their talents through sports, dances, and tableaux, with special recognition for performance by children with special needs, earning widespread appreciation.



HESCO Tightens Noose on Power Theft in Latifabad No 6

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: Under the directives of HESCO Chief Faizullah Dahri, Executive Engineer Latifabad-II Muneer Pehnar, along with COO Aijaz Shaikh and SE Circle One Suhail Sheikh, reviewed ongoing recovery and anti-theft operations in Latifabad Unit No. 6. Strong action was taken against electricity thieves and illegal "kunda" connections, with wires seized from multiple locations. Pehnar emphasized complete eradication of power theft and 100% recovery of dues, warning staff against negligence. He urged the public to pay bills on time, stating that legal action will be taken against defaulters. Operations to combat electricity theft are ongoing.



Rescue 1122 and LCF Forge Powerful Alliance to Boost Emergency Care in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The Sindh Emergency Services Rescue 1122 team, led by Station In-Charge Nirma Batool Memon, visited the LCF-DEPD Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities (CWD) in Hingorja. The meeting with LCF representatives, including Ayaz Ali Sehto and Abbas Raza, focused on improving emergency response coordination, enhancing service quality, and strengthening rehabilitation efforts for children and vulnerable groups. Both teams discussed future collaboration, community awareness, and modern technologies in rehabilitation. Memon highlighted the importance of joint efforts to provide faster, effective services, while LCF expressed commitment to improving community health and safety through coordinated initiatives.



Government Degree College Madeji Claims Inter-School Hockey Crown 2025-26

By Zain-ul-Abideen Samo

SITA ROAD: The Inter-School and Collegiate Hockey Championship 2025-26 concluded at Abdul Rehman Shaikh Hockey Stadium, Shikarpur, under the supervision of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Larkana. Five teams, including Government Higher Secondary School Seatarod and Pilot Higher Secondary School Larkana, competed fiercely.



In the final, Government Degree College Madeji defeated Pilot Higher Secondary School Larkana 1-0 to claim the championship. Vice Prince College Madeji defeated Arain of Seatarod served as chief guest.

Two Young Lives Lost as Trawler Smash Tragedy Hits Tando Muhammad Khan

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A tragic accident on Lakhat Road claimed the lives of two young men, Rehan Ali Gadi (23) and Usama Gadi (25), in a collision between a trawler and a motorcycle. Both victims were buried simultaneously at Sakhi Burhan Shah Cemetery in Tando Muhammad Khan, creating a sorrowful atmosphere. Rehan Ali was a resident of Tando Muhammad Khan and employed in the Public Health Department in Kotah, while his friend Usama had recently moved to Hyderabad from Tando Muhammad Khan.



Mirpurkhas Traffic Chaos Escalates as Citizens Demand Permanent Rickshaw Stands

By Muzamil Malik

MIRPURKHAS: Traffic congestion in Mirpurkhas has become severe, with major roads, including Sabzi Mandi Chowk to Civil Hospital Iqbal Road and Biladya Market to Up Station Road, blocked by pushcarts, unauthorized parking, rickshaws, and Chingchis. Citizens report that despite repeated complaints, municipal authorities and traffic police have taken no permanent action. The new Peoples Bus Service has worsened jams, and narrow roads make overtaking difficult.



National Cadet College Principals Unite in Nawabshah for Groundbreaking Education Convention

NAWABSHAH: The two-day convention of cadet college principals concluded at Bakhawar Cadet College for Girls, Shaheed Benazirabad, with the participation of 17 cadet colleges and public schools across Pakistan. The event, attended by the Provincial Secretary for Information and College Education Sindh, Nadeem-U-Rehman Memon, focused on enhancing national unity and educational standards. Memon praised Bakhawar Cadet College's efforts and pledged full support for improving cadet colleges. A resolution to adopt digital education and AI technologies was passed, followed by the planting of saplings in the college park. —RT



Shaikh Builders Director Holds Key Meeting with DC Shaheed Benazirabad



SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Director of Shaikh Builders & Developers, Amir Shaikh, met with Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad District, Abdul Samad Nizamani. The meeting was also attended by Director Information, Government of Sindh, Muhammad Musa Gondal, President of Nawabshah Press Club, Muhammad Anwar Shaikh, and PA Zubair Ahmed Mallah. The discussion focused on local development and cooperation between the district administration and private developers.

Makhdoom Amin Fahim Remembered as Towering Symbol of Spirituality and Politics



HYDERABAD: On the death anniversary of Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif," 15th Sajjada Nashin of Makhdoom Nooh Sarwar's shrine and chairman of Sarwari Surhan, paid tribute to the late leader. He described Fahim as a symbol of patience, tolerance, patriotism, and spiritual guidance, whose life exemplified love, loyalty, and adherence to principles. Atif emphasized that Fahim's contributions in spirituality, social service, and politics continue to guide followers. He vowed that Sarwari Surhan will uphold Fahim's teachings and mission, promoting unity, peace, and service to humanity. Prayers were offered for blessings on his sacred resting place.

Daulatpur Trauma Center Still in Limbo After Fifteen Years of Delay

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: The Daulatpur Trauma Center, built in 2011 at a cost of over 9 crore PKR on the National Highway, remains inactive 15 years later due to pending SNE approval. The facility includes modern emergency wards, operation theaters, CT scan, X-ray, laboratory, and an ambulance, but doctors' and paramedical staff quarters were left incomplete.

Hyderabad Police Gun Down Two Suspects in High-Stakes Encounter

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: In a police encounter near Makrani Phatak near Maki Shah Police Station jurisdiction, two suspects were apprehended, both carrying 30-bore pistols. Acting on a tip-off, police were fired upon by the suspects. One suspect, Abu Saeed, was injured and arrested, while Zahid Rehman was apprehended unhurt. Abu Saeed was taken to LMC Hospital, and Zahid Rehman to Maki Shah Police Station for legal proceedings. During initial questioning, both admitted involvement in multiple criminal cases in Hyderabad.

Fire Breaks Out on Ninth Floor of Abdullah Sports Tower in Hyderabad

By Muqem Keerio

HYDERABAD: A fire broke out on the ninth floor of Abdullah Sports Tower, originating in the kitchen area. Rescue 1122 teams promptly reached the site and deployed two fire tenders to control the blaze. Heavy smoke is hampering firefighting efforts, and despite temporary suppression, the fire continues to flare up due to internal heat. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Authorities reported no casualties so far. Rescue teams are working tirelessly to bring the situation under control and ensure the safety of the building and its occupants.

Faisal Khan Powers SU's IBA with Major Tech Boost



JAMSHORO: In a powerful show of alumni commitment, Tax Inn (Pvt.) Ltd. CEO and SU's IBA alumnus Faisal Khan visited the Institute of Business Administration, University of Sindh, and met Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Sattar Shah, and Director IBA Prof. Dr. Imamuddin Khoso. Mr. Khan donated 10 brand-new desktop computers for the IBA computer lab and pledged more systems soon. Faculty members and students hailed the contribution as a major step toward modernized learning and stronger alumni engagement. —RT

PTI Workers Mobilize in Mehar Against Controversial Constitutional Amendments

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: PTI workers and supporters staged a protest rally in Mehar against the 27th constitutional amendments and other laws they termed unconstitutional.

The procession moved from Mehar Bypass to Ghanta Ghar Chowk and Mehar Press Club, with participants holding placards and party flags while chanting slogans. PTI leaders Ayub Khoso, Abdul Wahab Sangi, Mehboob Khoso, and others said the amendments undermine judiciary and citizens' rights, demanding their repeal and warning of wider provincial and national movements if ignored.

Mirpurkhas Hosts Commanding Speech Competition to Expose Scourge of Corruption

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: A speech competition on the theme of anti-corruption was organized at Government Girls Ibn Rusud Degree College Mirpurkhas in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Colleges Mirpurkhas and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Students from colleges across Mirpurkhas, Umerkot and Tharparkar participated. Addressing the event, Regional Director Colleges Mir Chand Oud emphasized the need for collective efforts to eliminate corruption and urged students to uphold integrity for a successful future. Certificates and awards were distributed by Mir Chand Oud and Principal Sherry Obaid to outstanding participants. Superintendent Shakeel Khoso, teachers and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

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Jacobabad Crackdown Nets Sixteen Suspects and Seizes Cache of Arms

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: In a significant operation near Babal Khan Mall, Jacobabad, police detained 16 individuals and recovered unlicensed weapons, including hand grenades, G3 rifles, Kalashnikovs, and pistols. The arrests followed a secret tip-off, and an FIR has been registered at the Jacobabad Saddar Police Station. Among those taken into custody are Abdul Sattar Katuhaar, Suleman Lohar, Morial Buladi, and Ishaq Marhato. According to SHO Saddar Yar Muhammad Lashari, the suspects were armed men of landlord Rehan Khan Belidi from Garhi Khairi, waiting for a bus. Police said further investigations are underway to uncover additional details.

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The Sixty-Year Saga of Educationist Ghulam Sarwar Mallah Inspires Sindh

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: Ghulam Sarwar Mallah, born on 19 November 1965 in Dubai (District Dadu), retired on 18 November 2025 as Director Secondary after a 35-year career in the Education Department. Coming from a humble farming family, he completed his BSC, MSc, B.Ed and M.Ed, while working night shifts. Starting as a High School Teacher in 1990, he served in key roles including Lecturer at Cadet College Petaro, DEO Jamshoro, DEO Matiari, Director Finance Hyderabad, and Director Secondary for nine districts. Known for honesty, discipline and promoting literature, especially Shah Latif's poetry, he established libraries and encouraged reading and public speaking. His dedicated services to education and culture remain widely admired.

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Larkana Press Club Salutes Senior Journalist Abdul Qadir Jagirani

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Larkana Press Club organized a grand ceremony to honor senior journalist and General Secretary Abdul Qadir Jagirani. The event was attended by Club President Naveed Larik, Vice President Murtaza Kalhoro, Joint Secretary Salamat Abro, Treasurer Mansoor Abbas Abro, and senior journalists including M. Younis Detho, Muhammad Ashiq Pathan, Mashhoq Odho, Abdul Khaliq Mugheri, Syed Javed Shah, Dr. Badar Shaikh, Syed Sabir Shah, Munawar Rind, Mahmood Pathan, Abdul Hafeez Mangi, Nadir Abro, Khan Raja Maggi, Nadeem Akhtar Soomro, Zain-ul-Abidin Pathan, Shah Muhammad Lashari, Rasheed Samoon, Akbar Heshbani, Raja Khan Gadhri, Ali Gramani, Waheed Langah, Abdul Hameed Bhutto, Syed Safer Shah, Naseer Muhammad Khawar, and Zeeshan Khokhar, along with photographers.

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Massive Azadari Held at Masooma-e-Sindh Shrine for Ayyam-e-Fatimia

By Saleem Raza Sahar's

HYDERABAD: Thousands gathered at the sacred shrine of Syeda Khadija Maham bint Imam Musa Kazim (A.S.) in Agham Kot for a day-long Azadari event marking Ayyam-e-Fatimia. Organized by the Mominien of Badin and Tando Bago, the mourning rituals featured a moving address by Allama Muhammad Murtaza Mahdavi Laghari and noha khwani in full devotion, with generous provisions for nazar, niyaz, and saabel. Security was managed by Al-Husaini Scouts, ensuring a peaceful gathering. —RT



SABS University Syndicate Takes Major Decisions to Strengthen Academic & Administrative Framework

JAMSHORO: The 6th meeting of the SABS University Syndicate, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, focused on critical academic and administrative issues. Key decisions included approving recommendations from the 2nd Selection Board, reviewing the first-ever graduating batch of the Faculty of Visual Arts & Architecture, and discussing nominations for university committees. The Syndicate also addressed the resignation of a staff member and authorized legal counsel engagement for future cases, aiming to enhance governance and institutional efficiency. —RT



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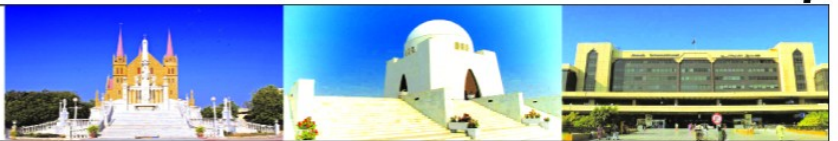
Aazadi Fateh Muhammad Wins Prestigious Allushushki Fellowship Award from Ohio University

By Zia Qureshi

VIRGINIA: Aazadi Fateh Muhammad has been awarded the highly esteemed Allushushki Fellowshipship for the 2025-26 academic year by Ohio University's Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGSS). Recognized for her groundbreaking research, Muhammad will receive \$2,000 in research support, direct involvement with WGSS programming, and the opportunity to deliver a lecture at the WGSS Spring Colloquium. The fellowship highlights her work's potential to enhance academic opportunities and deepen departmental engagement.



METRO KARACHI



Sindh-FAO Alliance Powers Up Climate-Resilient Agriculture Drive

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with a UN FAO delegation on November 21, 2025, to review key climate-resilient agriculture initiatives. The meeting focused on projects like the €48 million GRASP and \$47.69 million Indus Basin Climate-Resilient Agriculture



project, aiming to enhance food security, livelihoods, and water management

across Sindh. FAO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting sustainable agriculture, with both sides agreeing to extend the timeline of the Indus Basin project for comprehensive completion. The collaboration promises to boost climate-smart farming and resilience in Sindh.—RT

Nasir Shah Promises Karachi's Betterment as Major Infrastructure Shake-Up Looms

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah promises a major transformation of Karachi's infrastructure within a year. Speaking at a press conference, Shah dismissed MQM's political noise, stating their influence in the city is over. He emphasized ongoing mega-projects, improved garbage collection, and the impor-



tance of e-challans for traffic discipline. Shah invited all Karachi stakeholders to unite for the city's betterment and re-

vealed that Sindh is actively combating extortion, with major improvements visible in the city's security and infrastructure.—RT

K-Electric Takes to the Streets with Awareness Camp in Landhi

By Zafar Alam Malik

KARACHI: K-Electric organized a public awareness camp in 36G Burni Colony, Landhi, Karachi, aimed at informing residents about its services and facilities. At the event, Deputy Manager IBC Tahir Mahmood highlighted the convenience offered to consumers regarding electricity plans and electricity meter facilities. Residents were guided on how to avail



these services efficiently, ensuring better access to electricity connections and payment options. The camp also served as a platform for K-Electric to address

public queries and promote awareness about legal electricity usage, billing processes, and customer support services in the community.

Sindh's Katcha Operation Intensifies as Over 170 Criminals Eliminated in Push for Peace

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: The Sindh government has intensified targeted crackdowns against criminal elements in the Katcha areas. According to spokesperson Sukhdeo Hamanani, police operations in Katcha regions of Ghotki, Sukkur, and Kashmore have resulted in the deaths of over 170 criminals, with hundreds



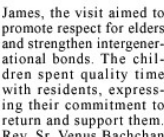
more arrested or injured. Dozens of criminals have surrendered under the "Surrender and Rehabilita-

tion Policy," handing over their weapons and agreeing to reintegrate into society under legal supervision. Following directives from the Chief Minister, 100 Special Security Unit commandos have been deployed to protect key bridges and installations. Operations will continue until complete peace is restored.

Students Mark International Children's Day with Heartwarming Visit to Senior Citizens

By Zafar Alam Malik

KARACHI: The students from Happy Palace Group School celebrated International Children's Day by visiting Dar ul Sukoon Welfare Society, a home for senior citizens. Led by Principal Ms. Samina



James, the visit aimed to promote respect for elders and strengthen intergenerational bonds. The children spent quality time with residents, expressing their commitment to return and support them. Rev. Sr. Venus Bachchan and Ms. Jennifer

Kennedy facilitated the event. The initiative highlighted the importance of valuing parents and grandparents, sending a message that love, care, and respect for elders should always start at home.

Health Experts Sound Alarm on Karachi's Post-Rain Dengue and Malaria Threat

By Dildar Seelro

KARACHI: Dr. Mumtaz Gopang warned that dengue and malaria cases typically rise after rains, but authorities failed to take timely measures this season. Standing water increases mosquito breeding, prompting the need for im-



mediate drainage and mos-

quito spraying. He urged parents to dress children in full-sleeve clothing and called on the government to run testing and awareness campaigns. Chest infections and flu-like illnesses are also on the rise, with citizens advised to use masks and take precautions.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab Revives Karachi's Green Line as Project Roars Back to Life

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab met with Federal Government Special Representative Raja Ansari and a delegation from PIDCIL to discuss the Green Line Bus project. During the meeting, the delegation addressed the Mayor's concerns and assured him that the project would be completed within one year.

The briefing revealed that the 1.8-kilometer track will feature three new bus sta-



tions, extending from Namishan Chowangi to Municipal Park near University Cloth. The inclusion of three additional stations has been finalized to enhance commuter access.—RT

SSUET Electrifies Campus with High-Energy Iqbal Day Celebration



KARACHI: Sir Syed University's Literary Art and Culture Forum marked Allama Iqbal's 148th birth anniversary with an inspiring speech competition celebrating his vision, patriotism, and philosophy of self-reliance. Students delivered powerful speeches reflecting Iqbal's message for today's era. Winners in-

cluded Durre Shah Taj, Mushkabar Mansoor and Sara Mansoor (English), and Asim Malik, Tayyaba Shaukat and Faizan Sheikh (Urdu). University officials urged youth to embody Iqbal's ideals. The event boosted students' knowledge and showcased their creative brilliance.—RT

Murad Unveils ADLP Phase II with 200 Micro-Schools Set to Revolutionize Digital Learning for 30,000 Children

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launched Phase II of the Accelerated Digital Learning Programme (ADLP) on November 21, 2025, aiming to bring 30,000 out-of-school children into digital education. The expansion will establish 200 new Micro-Schools over two years, building on the suc-

cess of Phase I, which enrolled over 11,000 students. The initiative provides tablet-based, self-paced learning in underserved communities, addressing educational gaps with modern, flexible tools. The CM emphasized the government's commitment to bridging educational inequalities through digital solutions.—RT

FBR Joins Forces with KATI to Push Tax Net Expansion and Rein in Non-Filers



KARACHI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) plans to broaden the tax net in collaboration with the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) and other trade bodies, announced Ahmed Kamal, Chief Commissioner IRS. At a meeting in Karachi, Kamal appointed Ahmed

Mukhtar Shahani as FBR's focal person at KATI to resolve industry issues. KATI President Ikram Rajput called for an extension on digital invoice deadlines, while industry leaders urged FBR to target non-filers and review tax rates to remain competitive.—RT

Gadap Journalist's Brother Shot in Controversial Police Encounter

By Fida Hussain Panhwar

KARACHI: Sudheer Barjio, brother of Gadap Press Club Vice President Gul Sher Barjio, was injured in an alleged police encounter at Memon Goth Police Station. Protests by journalists, local residents, and political leaders demanded justice and a transparent inquiry against the SHO. Gul Sher Barjio



has filed a petition in the Sindh High Court, which has scheduled a hearing on December 4.

Sharjeel Drives Red Line BRT Forward as ADB Praises Project Momentum

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon met an Asian Development Bank delegation led by Country Director Emma Fenn in Karachi to review the Red Line BRT's construction progress and technical challenges. Memon said the Sindh government is working round-



the-clock, resolving major utility hurdles to accelerate completion. He noted con-

tinuous monitoring by the Chief Minister and project teams. The ADB delegation expressed satisfaction with the project's pace, praising administrative efforts and reaffirming support to make the Red Line BRT an award-winning modern transport system for Karachi.—RT

SCICON 6.0 Launches in Karachi with a Dazzling Display of Science and Innovation

KARACHI: SCICON 6.0, Karachi's premier science olympiad, launched on November 20, 2025, with over 450 students from 25+ schools and colleges competing in diverse challenges. This two-day event features modules like Decryption, Kinetic Cascade, and Market Mayhem, testing students' scientific knowledge and creativity. Hosted by Beacon Jubilee Campus, SCICON 6.0 highlights talent



from both private and government institutions. Organizers are confident the event will be a huge success, cele-

brating innovation and providing students a platform to shine in science and technology.—RT

Indonesia Marks 80 Years of Independence in Karachi with a Night of Diplomacy and Cultural Flair



KARACHI: The Consulate General of Indonesia in Karachi hosted a dazzling Diplomatic Reception on November 21, 2025, celebrating Indonesia's 80th Independence Anniversary and the 75th year of Indone-

sia-Pakistan diplomatic relations. The event, attended by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, CM Syed Murad Ali Shah, and key diplomats, highlighted growing bilateral ties. Guests were captivated by traditional In-

donesian performances, including the Tari Piring dance. Six lucky attendees won return tickets to Indonesia, reflecting the event's focus on strengthening cultural and economic cooperation.—RT

Competition Commission Cracks Down on 17 Elite School Systems Over Pricey Books and Uniforms

KARACHI: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show-cause notices to 17 major private school systems across the country for forcing students to buy overpriced branded notebooks and uniforms. According to a CCP statement, logo-branded notebooks

were found to be up to 280% more expensive than market alternatives, leaving parents unable to purchase cheaper options and making them "captive consumers." The Commission noted that such conditional sales violate the Competition Act, affecting millions of students

and parents nationwide. Private schools operate thousands of campuses, and families often cannot switch schools due to high admission costs and travel difficulties. Small stationery and uniform businesses are also suffering due to these restrictive policies.—RT

KMC Fast-Tracks Overhaul of Jahangir Road and Natha Khan Bridge

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has initiated swift action to improve the deteriorating conditions of Jahangir Road and the Natha Khan Bridge, following the special directives of Mayor Murtaza Wahab. In an official statement, shared across KMC's media platforms, the organization confirmed that both long-pending projects have now been included in the city's development plan.



According to KMC, the documentation process for the Jahangir Road stormwater drain has been completed, and the tender has already been issued. The reconstruction of the drain is estimated to cost Rs 29 crore 74 lakh

29 thousand 406. Similarly, the long-standing concerns surrounding the Natha Khan Bridge have been addressed, with its tender also finalized.—RT/Agency

Keamari Police Nab Ice Supplier Accused of Targeting Students

KARACHI: Karachi's Keamari Police have arrested a suspect involved in selling drugs to students of educational institutions. According to SSP Keamari, Touheed

Rehman, the suspect was apprehended from the Mewa Shah graveyard area during a targeted operation. Police recovered half a pound of crystal meth

(Ice) from his possession. Officials confirmed that the suspect has more than seven drug-related cases already registered against him.—RT/Agency

Karachi Police Launch E-Challan No-Parking Regime in Fresh Enforcement Push

KARACHI: Karachi police have begun preparations to introduce no-parking fines as part of the city's expanding e-challan enforcement system. According to officials, specialised "robot cars," equipped with modern cam-

eras and sensors have been developed to detect illegal parking across major roads and commercial areas. These vehicles will automatically capture images of unlawfully parked vehicles, record their number plates,

and generate e-challans, which will be sent directly to the violators. Police officials said the technology aims to reduce traffic congestion, improve road discipline, and eliminate the need for manual checks.—RT/Agency

MQM Legislator Rallies Behind Sindh Governor

KARACHI: Reacting to remarks about the Sindh Governor, MQM MPA Moazzam Mehmood said that Mayor Murtaza Wahab should first advise his own party, noting that acting President Yousaf Raza Gilani and three other gover-

nors regularly attend CEC meetings, while the Punjab Governor participates in functions at the Governor House. He criticized Wahab, saying he suffers from "Governor phobia" and constantly references the Sindh Governor. Mehmood em-

phasized that the Sindh Governor is a public representative and will be present wherever the people need him. He added that if the PPP invites the Governor to an event, he will attend, as no door is closed to anyone.—RT/Agency

Karachi Commissioner Orders Sweeping Anti-Encroachment Crackdown Citywide

KARACHI: Karachi authorities have launched a major operation against illegal encroachments in various city areas. According to officials, under the directives of Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi, strict action was taken in

Saddar, Gulzar-e-Hijri, and Gulshan-e-Iqbal. The Commissioner stated that encroachments were removed from areas stretching from Balochistan Saji to Kamran Chowangi in Gulistan-e-Jauhar. In Saddar, another targeted

operation led to the arrest of two individuals, with cases registered against them. Operations were also conducted in the Musammat area, and roads were cleared to ensure smooth traffic flow.—RT/Agency

Sindh Moves to Grant ICCBS Full Autonomy, Breaking Away from Karachi University



KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to separate the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) from the University of Karachi, granting it autonomous status. According to media reports, a bill formalizing this deci-

sion is likely to be presented in the upcoming Sindh Assembly session. Under the proposed legislation, ICCBS will gain the authority to confer its own degrees, enhancing its academic and administrative independence.—RT/Agency

Aawaz II Blasts Onto Sindh Scene with New Provincial Forum to Shake Up Community Policy

By Agha Fakhur Hussain

The Aawaz II Provincial Forum, launched in Sindh on November 20, 2025, creates a formal channel for community voices to inform provincial policymaking. Operating in five districts with 75 Village and five District Fo-



rum, it addresses gender-based violence, child marriage, social inclusion, and citizen-state engagement. Supported by the Sindh government and SHRC, the initiative links grassroots insights to policy, enhances protection systems, and fosters inclusive, rights-based governance and social cohesion.—RT/Agency

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

—Oscar Wilde

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 2025

War with India Still Looms, Defence Minister Warns

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that the risk of another war with India persists, emphasising that proxy conflicts remain an ongoing threat decades after they began. "The proxy war has never truly ended; it has intensified in recent years," said Defence Minister Asif during a talk show on a private television channel. He explained that the proxy war started in the 1980s and has become a tool of modern warfare. Lahore and Rawalpindi have recently experienced explosions linked to these tensions, he said. Asif added that the immediate threat of war was



high following the May conflict, stating: "After the May engagement, the possibility of another war existed, and that risk has not disappeared." Highlighting Pakistan's defensive successes, he said the United States

reaffirming that despite these measures, the danger of conflict with India remains a serious concern for Pakistan's security establishment. The four-day war between the two nuclear-armed nations was triggered by India's unlawful missile strikes inside Pakistan, which resulted in the martyrdom of several civilians and security personnel. Pakistan, in addition to downing multiple Indian fighter jets, then launched a retaliatory strike, targeting over 20 Indian military sites across multiple regions. The hostilities ended on May 10 after the two countries agreed to a US-brokered ceasefire agreement. Months after the conflict, a report submitted to the United States Congress acknowledged Pakistan's military success over India. The report, submitted by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, noted that Pakistan deployed advanced Chinese weaponry during the conflict to enhance its military edge over India. The report mentioned the successful use of China's modern weapons systems in active combat for the first time, including the HQ-9 air-defence system, PL-15 air-to-air missiles, and J-10C fighter jets.

KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has moved to the Peshawar High Court (PHC), challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) summon over alleged violation of the electoral "Code of Conduct." In his petition, Afridi argued that the ECP had no valid reason or justification for summoning him, as he claimed to have neither participated in nor conducted any election campaign.

The controversy centers around Afridi's attendance at a political gathering near Havelian, linked to the upcoming by-election for National Assembly seat NA-18. The seat is contested by Shehraz Khan, the wife of former opposition leader Omar Ayub, with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backing her candidacy.

The ECP issued the summons, alleging Afridi violated

KP CM Challenges ECP Summon in Peshawar High Court



the election code by engaging in campaign activities. However, the chief minister vehemently denied the accusations, arguing that his presence at the event was purely ceremonial and did not constitute active campaigning. He further contended that the ECP's action infringed upon his constitutional rights, specifically citing violations of Articles 9, 10A, 17, and 25 of Pakistan's Constitution.

Afridi's legal challenge has sparked a new round of tension between the provincial government and the ECP. The CM has asked the court to declare the notice issued by the election body as "null and void," while the ECP continues to uphold its stance on his alleged code violation. As the case unfolds in court, the political implications of the dispute are significant, with PTI's influence in the region on the line during the by-election. The outcome of this legal battle could set a precedent for how the ECP handles similar cases in future elections.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Army to Oversee By-Elections Amid CM Controversy

KP: In a major security move, the Ministry of Interior has approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces to assist with security duties during the upcoming by-elections, following a request from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The forces will be stationed from November 22 to 24, specifically to maintain law and order during the high-stakes by-election on November 23.



The Pakistan Army will serve as second- and third-tier responders in designated constituencies, with military personnel granted special powers under the Anti-Terrorism Act. This will enable them to take decisive security measures if necessary. In addition, the deployed officers will have First Class Magistrate powers, allowing them to act swiftly in case of any violations during the elections.

The deployment aims to ensure a peaceful, secure environment for voters and polling staff, with the military's role focused on maintaining law and order throughout the electoral process.

The ECP's move reflects its commitment to ensuring the safety and integrity of the election amid growing concerns about the potential for unrest.

The announcement of the security deployment comes in the wake of a controversy involving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, whose recent remarks during a public gathering in Havelian have raised serious concerns at the ECP. Afridi's comments, which the commission considers threatening and hostile, were aimed at influencing government employees involved in election duties. Sources within the ECP revealed that Afridi's

Bangladesh Earthquake Tragedy: 9 Dead, Hundreds Injured



DHAKA: A powerful earthquake struck outside Bangladesh's crowded capital Dhaka on Friday, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 300, authorities said.

The 5.5-magnitude quake struck at 10:38 am (0438 GMT) near the city of Narsingdi, about 33 kilometres (16 miles) from Dhaka, according to the US Geological Survey.

The tremor sparked fear and chaos, with many in the Muslim-majority nation of 170 million people at home on their day off.

In Dhaka, people were seen weeping in the streets while others looked shocked.

The interim government's press office said at least nine

Deadly Bannu Attack: 7 Peace Committee Members Killed in Gunfight

BANNU: In a brutal assault on peacekeepers, at least seven members of a local peace committee were killed in a gun attack by terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Friday night, police confirmed. The attack occurred around 9 pm in the Hoveed area when armed militants launched an assault on the peace committee's office.



According to authorities, the militants opened fire, sparking a deadly exchange of gunfire. Seven peace committee members were killed in the attack, and one other was injured. The injured were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) for medical treatment, but the fatalities have left the community reeling.

This latest terrorist strike

comes just a day after security forces in the region achieved a major victory, eliminating 30 members of the Indian-backed militant group "Firma al-Khawarij" in multiple operations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The military's media wing reported significant successes, with at least 12 terrorists neutralized in Kurram district, and further killings in Tank, Mohmand, and Lakki Marwat, as part

of ongoing efforts to clear the region of terrorist elements. The deadly attack in Bannu is a stark reminder of the ongoing security challenges facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly with terrorist groups targeting peacekeepers and local security forces. While the military continues to push back against these threats, the latest bloodshed underlines the deepening crisis in the region.—RT/Agency

FO Slams Taliban Regime: Delay in Trade and Border Reopening 'Their Responsibility'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has asserted that the Afghan Taliban regime was responsible for the delay in reopening the border and the suspension of bilateral trade, urging the group to stop "supporting terrorist outfits".

"The onus of the delay in opening the border crossing rests with the Afghan Taliban. Similarly, the projects like TAPI and CASA-1000," he said.

Pakistan closed the Torkham and Chaman borders with Afghanistan on October 12 after the Taliban forces, backed by their affiliated militants, attacked multiple border posts of Pakistan's armed forces.

Since then, the crossings have remained shut, with the Torkham border briefly opened on November 1 to facilitate the repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees. In



today's briefing, the FO spokesperson urged the Afghan Taliban regime to prevent its soil from being used for terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. Andrabi noted Pakistan's repeated attempts to engage Kabul; however, he said that Islamabad "incurred loss of life" despite its sincere efforts.

He said that Pakistan had earlier segregated trade and security in the bilateral relations. "But then there is a threshold of patience. I think

Trump Administration Faces Shakeup: Cabinet Reshuffle Eyed After One Year



WASHINGTON: The White House is preparing for possible turnover in the cabinet after US President Donald Trump reaches the one-year mark of his term, CNN reported on Friday, citing multiple people familiar with the discussions. The report said possible changes were in store at the Department of Homeland Security and the Energy Department. Officials told CNN that no decisions have been made and no changes were expected until

COP30 Climate Summit Faces Showdown Over Fossil Fuel Future

BRAZIL: The COP30 climate summit in Brazil is heading for a dramatic showdown as host nation Brazil dropped key efforts to include a global plan for phasing out fossil fuels in its draft deal. Early Friday, a draft text for this year's UN climate summit revealed the omission of any reference to oil, gas, and coal, removing language from previous drafts that called for a transition away from fossil fuels.



The decision has sparked outrage, with over 30 countries sending a letter to the COP30 presidency, demanding a commitment to developing a roadmap for fossil fuel phase-out be included in the final deal. These nations warned that they could not accept a deal that ignored the urgent need to address the global reliance on fossil

fuels. The issue has been one of the most contentious at the two-week conference, which is being held in Brazil's Amazon city of Belem. Environmental groups and smaller nations have pushed hard for stronger commitments to tackle climate change by transitioning away from fossil fuel dependence. The summit, which is scheduled to conclude at 6 p.m. local time (2100 GMT), is

now facing a race against time to reach a compromise.

With tensions running high, the final hours of the conference are likely to see intense negotiations, with past COP summits often extending their deadlines before a last-minute deal is struck. The outcome could significantly shape the future of global climate action, especially in relation to fossil fuel dependency.

White House Stuns: US Skips G20 Talks in South Africa

US: The United States is not taking part in this weekend's G20 summit in Johannesburg, the White House said Thursday, denying comments from South Africa's president who had said Washington wanted to participate.

"The United States is not participating in official talks at the G20 in South Africa," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

"I saw the South African president running his mouth a little bit against the United States and the president of the United States earlier today, and that language is not appreciated by the president or his team," she said.

United States has had a "change of mind" about boycotting the G20 summit in Johannesburg this weekend and wanted to take part in



some form, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday.

Washington had said it would not take part in the November 22-23 summit because it objected to the priorities for the meeting set by South Africa, which holds the G20's rotating presidency this year.

"We have received notice from the United States, a notice which we are still in dis-

Zelensky Signals Openness to US Plan to End Ukraine War



UKRAINE: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's top security official denied on Friday that he had agreed to a Trump administration peace plan, and European leaders hastily sought a response to a draft that endorses most of Russia's key wartime demands. Washington has presented Kyiv with a 28-point plan that would require Kyiv to give up additional territory, scale back the size of its military and forever abandon hope of joining the Nato alliance. Ukraine's European allies said they had not been consulted over the plan and scheduled an urgent phone call to discuss the situation. Britain and Germany said their leaders

Justice Aminuddin Calls FCC Creation a Landmark in Constitutional Journey

ISLAMABAD: In his maiden message as the Federal Constitutional Court's (FCC) top judge, Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan called the creation of the newly established court under 27th Amendment a landmark in Pakistan's constitutional journey, "reinforcing the nation's commitment to the rule of law." The FCC CJ's statement was published on the court's newly launched website. CJ Aminuddin, who was appointed following the establishment of the FCC under the recent 27th Constitutional Amendment, described the institution's mandate as "of great significance to interpret the Constitution with clarity, independence and fidelity; to safeguard the fundamental rights guaranteed to the people, and to ensure that the constitutional order remains a source of stability, justice and balance for all institutions of the state."



He added that the court's work carries profound implications for the lives, liberties and aspirations of Pakistan's citizens. "Each matter brought before this court will be approached with an unwavering commitment to fairness and restraint, guided solely by the Constitution and the principles of justice that lie at its heart," he said.

The chief justice also highlighted that the new website aims to enhance transparency and accessibility. It will provide the public, the Bar, and state institutions with accurate information on the FCC's jurisdiction, procedures, and decisions. "In an

age where the effective delivery of justice is inseparable from the free flow of information, we hope that this platform will serve as a meaningful bridge between the court and the people it exists to serve," he noted. Justice Aminuddin expressed hope that the FCC will become "a guardian of constitutionalism and an enduring symbol of justice for generations to come." He concluded his message by invoking guidance to fulfil duties "with wisdom, humility and unwavering commitment to the Constitution."—RT/Agency