



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ کہتے ہیں نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے سب سے چکیا بات جو کوئی شاعر کہہ سکتا تھا وہ لیدر شاعر نے ہی کہا اور اسے ہاں اللہ کے سوا ہر چیز باطل ہے۔ اور امیہ بن ابی الصلت (جاہلیت کا ایک شاعر) مسلمان ہونے کے قریب تھا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3841)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Population control possible with incentivized NFC award, says Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday stressed the need for reviewing the formula of resources distribution under the NFC award, giving incentives to provinces for the successful execution of the population control programme. (Report on Page 8)



Mushaal Husseain Mullick releases message on her husband's confinement

Mushaal Husseain Mullick releases the video message in Urdu and English to mark one year of illegal life imprisonment of her jailed husband, Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik in Indian Tihar Jail's death cell. #ReleaseYasinMalik

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Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Members of Christen Community hold rally at G-7 Markaz to show solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

President message on the occasion of Martyrs Reverence Day on 25 May 2023



ISLAMABAD: Today we observe Martyrs Reverence Day to pay tribute to the unprecedented courage and sacrifices of our ancestors and personnel of our security forces who have rendered great sacrifices for the motherland. The nation owes to the heroism and sacrifices offered by the jawans and officers of our Armed Forces, including Pakistan Army, Rangers, Air Force, Navy, Police, and other security institutions that made Pakistan's defence impregnable. The integrity and security of our country would not have been possible without their valuable services.

defeated the menace of terrorism. Pakistan single-handedly contained the scourge of terrorism due to the bravery and sacrifices of its forces. We should not forget that even during natural calamities and pandemics, our security forces stood shoulder to shoulder with their people and provided timely relief and assistance to their fellow countrymen.

Being the President of Pakistan, I regularly contact the families of the martyrs to pay homage and convey my feelings for the them. During my interactions with them, I feel proud over their spirit of patriotism towards the motherland. The entire nation acknowledges their contributions towards the defence of the nation and salutes them for laying down their lives for the motherland.

Pakistan is facing various challenges and we need to forge unity among our ranks to overcome the challenges being faced by the country.

The entire nation is proud of our valiant martyrs who displayed the spirit of patriotism and fearlessness in testing times throughout our history. Apart from defending the frontiers of the country, our security forces successfully

Let us pledge on this day that we will never forget our valiant martyrs and reiterate our commitment to always honour them and express our undying love for these brave sons and daughters of the nation. Pakistan Paindabad!

Nation can't tolerate May 9 like 'barbaric incidents': PM

Spokesman News

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the miscreants of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) did not deserve any exemption as they crossed red line on May 9th. Addressing to the Shuhada Convention at Jinnah Convention Centre, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that he felt proud to address this convention because today we gathered here to pay homage to the martyrs. These are the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the soil of this country and its defense, he asserted. The Prime Minister said that these martyrs were our heroes and no compromise would be

made on their honour. The peace and stability in the country came as a result of more than 86,000 sacrifices, but what happened on May 9th could never be forgotten. It will always be remembered as a dark day. Shehbaz Sharif said that the miscreants of the PTI and its leader Imran Khan orchestrated a plan that inflamed the people. Imran Khan, who was the mastermind behind this planning, cannot acquit himself of blame. He asked if any political party could attack the state in case of arrest of its leader. When this government came to power, it did not resort to any aggression against the entire opposition. We



did not create any chaos. We were arrested, went to jail, but did not cause any damage to the state and defence institutions. Mr Sharif said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged, Benazir Bhutto was martyred, and Nawaz Sharif was forced into exile, and then his government was overthrown, but no political party

caused harm to the country or its flag. The Prime Minister made it clear that no offender will go unpunished, and we will not apprehend any innocent person. We will take strict action against such people so that no one dares to do it in the future. Even if I recommend, the wrongdoers will be punished, he asserted. On this occasion, federal ministers Aminul Haque and Shireen Rehman also addressed, saying that no attacker on the state can be a patriot in any way. It is necessary to bring those who did this to justice. They demanded of the PM that the responsible individuals of May 9th should not be left under any circumstances.

SC adjourns hearing on ECP's plea seeking review of Punjab elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea asking the top court to revisit its April 4 order of holding elections to the Punjab Assembly on May 14 till Thursday (May 25). A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case. During the course of proceedings, Attorney

General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan said the bench during the previous hearing had questioned why points raised by the ECP in its review petition were not raised earlier. He said the government had also mentioned the majority judgment in its response. The CJJ said the court was here to hear all parties. If a reasonable point was raised, the court would review it and take a decision. He said the court had discussed the jurisdiction of review petition during yesterday's hearing. The

PTI's Asad Umar resigns from party positions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General and member of PTI core committee Asad Umar has resigned from party positions. Addressing a press conference PTI leader Asad Umar said that there is no pressure on him, it's his own decision to resign from the party position. He said that according to all surveys, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is the most popular political party currently in Pakistan and the PTI's win in by-election is a proof party's popularity. Asad Umar maintained that two months back, the Chief Justice of Pakistan also suggested the polit-



ical parties to hold solve problems through talks and the Core Commander conference said that problems can be solved through dialogue. Earlier, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Asad Umar. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), senior vice president Fawad

Chaudhry earlier today announced that he was resigning from the party position and parting ways with chairman Imran Khan. It is pertinent to mention here that several PTI lawmakers and members have parted their ways with the party following the May 9 violence, where in military installations including General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and Corps Commander House Lahore were attacked after the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan. A day earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) suffered two huge blows as former human rights minister Shireen Mazari and former Punjab minister Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan quit the party over May 9 violence.

ECC allows SNGPL based fertilizer plants to operate till August 31

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet allowed Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Based fertilizer plants to operate beyond May 31 to August 31 on indigenous gas with no subsidy. The ECC met with Minister for Finance and Revenue Sena-

tor Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a chair, adding that SNGPL-based fertilizer plants include Fatima Fertilizer (Sheikhupura) and Agritech, said a press release on Wednesday. Ministry of Industries and Production submitted a summary of Urea Fertilizer requirements for the year 2023 and briefed on the urea fertilizer situation in the country.

Convention being held today to pay homage to martyrs: Marriyum



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that "Azmat-e-Shuhada Con-

vention" will be held at Islamabad Convention Center today to pay homage to the martyrs of the country and show solidarity with them by the entire nation. In a tweet, the minister said that the families of martyrs will also participate in the convention. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will condemn the May 9 tragedy and pay homage to the martyrs and Ghazis.

95 pc miscreants involved in May 9 incidents identified; 60 pc arrested: Cabinet told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday was apprised that about 95 percent miscreants involved in violent incidents on May 9 were identified whereas 60 percent among them had been arrested.

The cabinet directed for expediting the identification process and arrest of people involved in May 9 incidents, stressing that no innocent citizen should be arrested in the backdrop of such incidents, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Addressing the participants, the prime minister said that the entire nation was standing with its

shuhada and their families. These martyrs had sacrificed their lives and left their orphan children behind to save the future of young generations. 95 pc miscreants involved in May 9 incidents identified; 60 pc arrested: Cabinet told. The prime minister also stressed that all legal requirements should be fulfilled during proceedings

against the elements involved in the criminal incidents. Only those people were arrested who had been involved in the incidents, he added. A detailed briefing was given over the damages inflicted upon the private and public properties during the unfortunate incidents of May 9. The meeting was apprised that miscreants of Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf had attacked civilians and personnel of law enforcing agencies on May 9 and damaged properties, besides torching vehicles of the armed forces, police, ambulances and other public transport. Sensitive installations, police stations, Jinnah House Lahore and Radio Pakistan, Peshawar were attacked and burnt to ashes, it was added.

Khawaja Asif reiterates Pak desire to strengthen partnership with Azerbaijan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of General Staff of Azerbaijan Colonel General Karim Valiyev called on Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Khawaja Muhammad Asif reiterated Pakistan's strong desire to strengthen its partnership with Azerbaijan in all fields including defense cooper-

ation, said a news release issued here on Wednesday. The defense minister further said that both countries share common religions, cultures, and history. Both countries would thus continue to support each other on various international fora, he added. The visiting dignitary said, "Azerbaijan desires to work closely with Pakistan."

Turkish Cuisine Week

Unique recipes from local dishes of Hatay province

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: As part of Turkish cuisine week, an opening ceremony took place in Islamabad. The event was hosted by the Turkish Embassy. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Saad Ahmad Warraich, Director General (Afghanistan, Turkey & Iran), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mrs. Dil ad enol, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) & her husband, large number of media persons and Turkish citizens living in Islamabad.

Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Paçacı here inaugurated "Turkish Cuisine Week", featuring unique recipes from local dishes of Hatay province.

Addressing the audience, the Ambassador said, "Shaped by more than a thousand years of cultures and traditions, social heritage, and stories, Turkish cuisine presents its distinctive and diverse flavors to the world during 'Turkish Cuisine Week' from May 21-27.

"In its second year, the cuisine introduces Türkiye's rich gastronomic culture to a broad audience at home and abroad through the



representations of the Republic of Türkiye," he added. **Türkiye Ambassador inaugurates 'Turkish Cuisine Week'**

Talking about the similarity of foods between Türkiye and Pakistan, he said, "The food in some regions of Türkiye is similar to Pakistani food, especially the food of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and

northern regions." Unique examples from Turkish cuisine are presented within the scope of "Turkish Cuisine Week."

"This year's special menu consists of local dishes from the cuisine of Hatay," he said.

Included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in gastronomy, the city of Antakya in Hatay

province has long been world-renowned for its diverse cuisine. Featuring More Than 650 dishes, Hatay Gastronomy is a Mediterranean Cuisine Characterized by Fresh Vegetables, quality olive oil, and legumes and cereals. Hatay menu, showcased in this year's international events, includes flatbread with red pepper paste,



olive salad, hummus, kısır (fine bulgur salad), oven-baked kebab and rose syrup.

During Turkish Cuisine Week, numerous dishes reflecting timeless and sustainable Turkish cuisine will be prepared with local ingredients and traditional cooking techniques. Event shields across Türkiye's 81 provinces will

showcase aspects of Turkish cuisine, including Turkish coffee, Turkish tea, and Turkish delight.

During "Turkish Cuisine Week", numerous dishes reflecting timeless and sustainable Turkish cuisine will be prepared with local ingredients and traditional cooking techniques. Events held across Türkiye's 81 provinces will show-

case all aspects of Turkish cuisine, including Turkish coffee, Turkish tea, and Turkish delight.

Turkish cuisine, also an essential component of Türkiye's intangible social heritage, guarantees the transfer and sustainability of cultural heritage generations in this respect.

Photos by Raja Farid

Nawab of Bahawalpur to promote education, health, infrastructure and democratic values: Zubair Rabbani

Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: To pay tribute to the services of Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi Khamis, the last ruler of Bahawalpur, on the occasion of his 57th birth anniversary, an exhibition of the Nawab of Bahawalpur's photographs and the items used by him is being organized at the Bahawalpur Museum. Done at Bahawalpur Gallery. Apart from photographs, state coins, medals, stamps, speeches signed by the Nawab, letters and cards, various letterheads, royal caps, state monogrammed buttons, badges and other rare items were displayed in the exhibition. Director Bahawalpur Museum Muhammad Zubair Rabbani while visiting the exhibition said that His Highness Sir Sadiq Khan Abbasi has rendered valuable services



to the state and the nascent state of Pakistan.

During his tenure, he made reforms in education and health, judiciary, police and other administrative institutions according to the contemporary requirements and took historic steps for the welfare of the people. The

reign of Huzayin was a peaceful period of patriotism, welfare and unfettered justice. He said that the steps taken by Nawab to promote education, health, infrastructure and democratic values are still beneficial to the people. The political vision of Amir Bahawalpur made this state unique in the subcon-

continent. His golden achievements are a beacon for all of us

Muhammad Zubair Rabbani said that in Bahawalpur Museum, the newly constructed galleries of the museum have been dedicated to display many rare items including two vehicles of Nawab Sahib, Shahi Baghi, Saman Harb in a better way. A one-of-a-kind Ford Woody station wagon has been removed from the entrance gate and made part of the gallery to preserve it for future generations.

While to pay tribute to Nawab Sahib's services, the Sir Sadiq Memorial Hall in the museum is also named after him. Meanwhile, Fatiha was recited for the soul of Nawab Sahib. Educationist Riaz Motha, well-known journalist Nazir Abbas Ghalo, students, museum staff and visitors were also present on this occasion.

Chief Justice AfK High Court inaugurated the hearing of online cases in the High Court

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja inaugurated the hearing of online cases in the High Court. Under the auspices of IT Board Azad Kashmir, Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court headquarters have been connected to all Circuit Benches in Azad Kashmir through video link. Now Cases can be heard online from the circuit benches at Kotli, Mirpur and Rawalkot to provide speed justice the people at earliest.



The inauguration ceremony was held at the apex High Court Headquarters, Muzaffarabad, in which Judges High Court Justice Syed Shahid Bihar, Justice Muhammad Ejaz Khan and Justice Khalid Rashid Chaudhry from Mirpur Circuit through video link, Senior Judge High Court Justice Mian Arif Hussain and Justice Sardar Liaquat Hussain from Rawalkot Circuit through video link participated.

The Chief Justice and judges of the agenda High Court also conducted of hearing online cases from Kotli, Mirpur and Rawalkot. Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal, Director General IT Board Dr. Khalid Rafiq, Member Bar Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bar Council Chaudhry Shaukat Aziz Advocate, President Central Bar Association Raja Aftab Advocate were present in the opening ceremony while Vice Chairman from Mirpur, Kotli and Rawalkot through video link. Bar Council Raja Nadeem Khan Advocate, President High Court Bar Association Hamid Raza Advocate, President Kotli Bar Sardar Ghulam Mustafa Advocate and President Poonch Bar Sardar Khalid Mehmood Advocate and other lawyers participated.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Chief Justice High Court Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja said that today is an important day in the history of judiciary, the distance will be narrowed with modern technology, circuit benches will not end with this system but will become more active and dynamic. Under e-Courts, there will be an option for lawyers who want to take their cases online, rules have been framed and procedures have been laid down in this regard.

He said that the IT Board has taken great interest in the initiation of online cases in the High Court for which he is thankful. The Chief Justice said that the District Courts are being further improved. Judge High Court Justice Khalid Rasheed Chaudhry said that with the efforts of the Chief Justice High Court, the hearing of online cases has started in the Supreme Court, for which he is grateful. Chief Justice is using his best skills as the team captain.

Regular cases will be heard through this technology. Vice Chairman Bar Council Raja Nadeem speaking on video link from Circuit Bench Mirpur said that the legal profession is grateful to the Chief Justice for the initiation of online cases in the High Court. This important step in the history of judiciary will be written in golden letters. Member Bar Council Chaudhry Shaukat Aziz said that the start of online hearing of cases will provide convenience to both lawyers and civilians, I congratulate the Chief Justice of the High Court.

President High Court Bar Association Sardar Hamid Raza while addressing Wedlink from Mirpur Beach said that I pay tribute to the Chief Justice for starting the online system. President Center Bar Association Raja Aftab, President Poonch Bar Association Sardar Khalid Mehmood and President Kotli Bar Association Sardar Ghulam Mustafa also paid tribute to the Chief Justice for starting the online system in Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court and his Thank you.

Presenting Shield

PESHAWAR: Advocate Sawal Nazir Minister Local Government Elections & Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presenting Shield to Madam Pang Chunxue Officiating Ambassador of China after a meeting to further enhance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & China relations.



FED increase on all sugary drinks to 50% requested

Pakistan at top with 31% diabetic adults and government requested to take urgent measures

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Civil Society and Health Professionals urged government to increase excise tax on all sugary drinks to minimum of 50% of the retail price through finance bill 2023-24. They also applauded the imposition of excise duty on the juices and other sugary drinks through Supplementary Finance Bill 2023 and requested a further increase to align with the evidence based recommendations.

"The several research studies confirm that the regular consumption of juices, sodas and other sugary drinks are among the major causes of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart diseases, sever-

al types of cancer, and liver and kidney diseases. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan has turned to top country globally with nearly 31% adults aged 20 -79 years living with diabetes," said by General Masuood Ur Rehman Kiani, President Pakistan National Heart Association. "The regular consumption of sugary drinks is putting serious threat to public health and economy of the country. The government should take concrete measures including urgent increase of excise tax on all sugary drinks" he added.

While Pakistan's Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel is attending 76th World Health Assembly at Geneva and briefing world on measures taken by the Govern-

ment of Pakistan to reduce risk factors of the non-communicable diseases. "We have been successful in increasing duties and taxes on sugary drinks through supplementary finance bill in 2023. Effective measures are being taken for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in Pakistan" he said.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that consumption of sugary drinks has imposed serious threat to economy of the country as well. "The estimated annual cost of managing diabetes was 2640 million USD in Pakistan in 2021. This is seriously hitting our economy and health care sector. The modelling study by the world

bank in 2022, confirmed that raising 50% FED on sugary drinks in Pakistan is very likely to improve population's health particularly the prevention of overweight/obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases". he said

There are substantial financial benefits both in form of tax revenue and added value of keeping people alive and healthy. The study also confirms that the average tax revenue for next 10 years will significantly increase than the current revenue. For example, the recommended 50% FED increase on all sugary drinks will achieved annual health gain of 8500 DALYs, create economic value of health impact on 8.9 million

US dollars every year and generate average revenue of USD 810 million per year for next 10 years in Pakistan. So there is no risk of financial loss to country rather the FED increase will support the economy and improve public health at same time. Hussain added.

Dr. Khawaja Masuood Ahmed National Coordinator Nutrition and NFA at Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination said "The per capita fruits and vegetable consumption is low in Pakistan as unfortunately the beverage companies promote their juices and other sugary drinks as an alternative of fruits which have high amount of sugars. The nutritionists and

public health experts recommend consuming fruits and vegetables in their original form as a healthier option but not in the form of juices which are harmful to the health".

Sana Ullah Ghumman, General Secretary at PANAHA said "The national opinion poll conducted by Pakistan Health Research Council in 2021 confirmed that 78% Pakistani adults supported increasing tax on sugary drinks to control obesity and other non-communicable disease". He further added "The research from Mexico, South Africa and Peru shows that taxing sugary drinks will reduce the consumption of unhealthy beverages but increase the consumption of healthier alternatives like water and unsweet-

ened milk. Research confirms that tax on sugary drinks have no net negative impact on economy or on the joblessness in the countries those who increased the taxes.

It is pertinent to mention that the beverage industry is using several tactics to escape the taxes. The government should prioritize the public health over corporate interest. Ghumman added.

Keeping in view of this potential and strategic nature of the intervention, civil society and health professionals urged Government of Pakistan to increase excise tax to 50% of retail price of all types of sugary drinks including juices, carbonated beverages, energy drinks, squashes, syrups, flavored milk and iced teas etc. he said.

