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Barkat Rice Mills

Attaullah Tarar, delegation arrives Liaquat Bagh to negotiate with JI leadership

According to a news statement issued late on Saturday, Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar has arrived in the sit-in of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) at Liaquat Bagh along with a delegation of the government to negotiate with the leadership on their demands.

Aleem Khan for ensuring privatization of listed entities within given time frame

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharram-ul-Haram 21, Sunday, July 28, 2024

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Sit-protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are sleeping early morning at Murree Road on second day of sit-protest (Dharna)



№ PM-Israel-Condemnation

PM strongly condemns ongoing violence by Israeli forces in Gaza's Khan Younis city

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned the ongoing violent acts of the Israeli forces in Khan Younis city of Gaza, causing the displacement of around 150,000 Palestinians.

a statement, said that the

siege of Khan Younis city had suspended the supply of food and other commodities to the

He said the Israeli forces were carrying out the genocide of Palestinians leading to a human catastrophe for which the international community should fulfill its responsibilities.

statement at the International Court of Justice, had also effec-

He said that Pakistan, in its lutions adopted by the United Nations.

He said that Pakistan had

Palestinian medical students in Pakistani medical colleges to help them continue their

Calling upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in Palestine, he reiterated that the government and the people of Pakistan stood beside their

dispatched around 1200 tons tively raised its voice for the education. Palestinians' right to self-deof relief goods to Palestine termination and against Israeli through Pakistan Air Force oppression. planes and another 1500 tons through three ships. Prime Minister Shehbaz reit-The prime minister said that erated his call for the imple-The prime minister, in including the United Nations mentation of the recent decihe had issued special instrucsions of the ICJ and the resotions for the enrollment of

Palestinian brothers and sisters. nel embraced martyrdom.

Saudi envoy calls on Deputy PM Ishaq Dar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad tion who participated in the Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf al Maliki here to in Islamabad. discuss the positive trajectory of fraternal relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom.

In the meeting, the two

especially enhancing cooperation in different sectors including education, trade and investment. Secretary Educameeting, briefed on the forthcoming conference of Muslim countries on Girls' Education

Rawalpindi sit-in: JI refuses to sit with govt for talks until release of workers

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Jamaat-e-Islami rejected on Saturday negotiations with the government and presented its 10 demands to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi as the religiopolitical party's Rawalpindi sit-in against exorbitant bills enters its second day.

"The party has decided not to participate in the negotiation process with the government," JI spokesperson Qaisar Sharif said in a statement. "The JI will not engage in talks with the government until the release of its workers."

However, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi says the government is keen to engage in talks with Jamaate-Islami in a serious manner.

Sharif added that JI Deputy Ameer Liaqat Baloch has informed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi about their demands. He reiterated the negotiation process would not

fulfilled its promises and released the people, he added.

JI Rawalpindi Murree Road sit-in

The Jamaat-e-Islami sit-in protest against expensive electricity agreements and overbilling at the Murree Road in Rawalpindi entered its

Islamabad too completely sealed off, while in Quetta, the district administration set up containers around the Red Zone area and deployed a heavy police force. Similar scenes were observed in other cities.

The JI has launched a nationwide protest, which mainly focused on Islamabad and Rawalpindi. After it was not allowed to gather at the D-Chowk in the federal capital, JI workers began a sit-in on Murree Road in Rawalpindi, blocking one of the main arteries in the city.

The Islamabad administration did not grant Jamaat-e-Islami permission to protest in the

President Zardari summons NA to meet on July 30

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday summoned the session of the National Assembly to he be held on July 30.

The National Assembly will meet at the Parliament House on Tuesday at 1700 hours, according to a President House

The president summoned the session in exercise of the under Article 54 (1) of the powers conferred on him Constitution.



Four Kharji terrorists sent to hell after 'indirect' operation in Tank District

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 27 July 24, Security Forces conducted a joint intelligence based operation in Tank District on reported presence of terrorists.

During conduct of the operation, after intense fire exchange, four Kharji terrorists of Fitna Al Khawarij were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed Kharji terrorists, who against Security Forces as well as abduction & target killing of of terrorism from the country.



innocent civilians.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji terrorist remained actively involved in found in the area as Security numerous terrorist activities Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace

PM strongly condemns terrorist attack on Police **Station in Kurram**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police station in district Kurram in which a Frontier Constabulary person-

Paving tribute to the martyr, the prime minister expressed his heartfelt condolence to his family members.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah.

The prime minister also prayed for speedy recovery of those injured in the incident and directed that all possible medical assistance be provided to them.

He emphasized that such cowardice acts will not shake our resolve against terrorism, the prime minister said.

US Senate bill proposes to cut Pakistan aid over actions against India

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The United States (US) Senate has introduced a bill seeking to cut off aid to Pakistan if it takes action against India.

The bill titled "US-India Defense Cooperation Act", was tabled by Republican Senator Marco Rubio in the US Senate.

bill The emphasizes strengthening ties with New Delhi as if it were of the same status as U. S. allies such as Japan, Israel, Korea, NATO allies regarding technology transfers and in case of a threat, the US will provide necessary security assistance to India.

The Republican Senator Marco Rubio urged to expedite excess defense articles to India for two years, grant India the same status as other allies and expand International Military Education and Training Cooperation with New Delhi.

The bill asked US to provide a limited exemption for India from CAATSA sanctions for purchases of Russian equipment that are currently used by the Indian military.

It is pertinent to mention here that Russia is a vital supplier of cut-price oil and weapons to India, but Moscow's isolation from the West and growing ties with Beijing have impacted its partnership with New Delhi.

Western powers have in recent years also cultivated stronger relations with New Delhi as a hedge against China and its growing influence across the Asia-Pacific, while pressuring New Delhi to distance itself from Russia.

The United States also urged Modi to make clear in his talks with Putin that "any resolution to the conflict in Ukraine must... be one that respects the UN Charter with respect to Ukraine's territorial integrity".

sides discussed various issues ties between the two countries.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral

start until the release of workers. The government has not yet

enters its second day

second day on Saturday.

Red Zone on Sunday, and several workers were taken into custody. Protests driven by political gains, not



Khawaja Asif Saturday said that ongoing sit-ins and protests were driven by personal interests rather

channel, he said a party claimed ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister to be on hunger strike but was not genuinely dedicated, often returning home after a few hours. The defense minister also critithan national welfare. cized the nature of the protests,

Talking to a private news describing them as symbolic and external interests.

lacking people's support. The Minister said there is a broader conspiracy to destabilize Pakistan, particularly in terms of its economic progress, which he claims threatens both internal and

people's welfare: Khawaja Asif

Acknowledging the impact of

recent budgetary measures on inflation, he was confident that the economic and political situation would stabilize in the coming months. He criticized the previous

mismanagement, suggesting that recovery from this period would take time. Regarding the political climate,

government of PTI for economic

he said that he does not foresee an immediate path to new elections.

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference holds successful rally in Neelum valley

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/NEELAM: Successful rally was Organized by the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the grand Kashmir will become Pakistan (Kashmir Banega the atmosphere of the Neelum Valley witnessed by slogans of Kashmir Banega Pakistan, long live the Pak army, long live the Mujahid e Awwal chanted of Sardar Attique Zindabad

Pakistani flags like a bride. Central Muzaffarabad. Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed led from Khawra.

with Raja Saqib Majeed, District the convoy, where Muslims at Chil-Council members Yasir Geelani, pani. Muzaffarabad District Presi-Mohsen Majeed Raja, Gaddafi Altaf Raja Bashir Khan, Raja Liaquat, Constituency President Rafiq Abbasi Khan and other central leaders

Ayesha Munsif, Faza Sajid Raja Vidgar welcomed the convoy along with participated in a large number of candidates from Muzaffarabad.

Chairperson of Women's Section Samia Sajid Raja, Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Syed Fanwak Mousavi, Colonel Retired Arif Abbasi, Pres-Pakistan)rally in the Neelum valley, ident President Sheikh Maqsood, large number of people's came out, Raja Waqar, Assembly Candidate Sajjad Anwar Abbasi, Members Local Council Munib Ishaq Qureshi, Nasreen Akhtar Raja, Sardar Azhar Ali Shah Abida Munir Qureshi, Zeeshan Anwar Abbasi Maryam Jahandad, Jahandad Abbasi, Mubasher Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan partic- Jahandad, Sajjad Qureshi, Ghiyasipated with a large convoy along with uddin Khokhar, MSF, youth wing offi-Major Retd Nasrullah Khan. The cials and a large number of political Neelum Valley was decorated with workers in the form of a convoy from

Khan left under the leadership. Hundreds of vehicles, motorcycles and A large convoy participated along high-speed vehicles were included in dent Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Lachhrat

a large number of people. President Shamim Ali Malik, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Student Board Chairman Syed Saqlain Fida Kazmi Advocate, Student Wing Chairperson Maimoona Kayani Advocate, District Council Members Syed Fayaz Shah, Syed Sabir Shah, Yasir Kazmi, Malik Zafar, Sadiq Janjua. Apart from Advocate, members of Majlis-e-Amaila, Hilne Taubat from Upper Neelum, Jandarsiri, Sharda, Commander Shafiq from Dudhaniyal, Matiullah Lon, Malik Abdul Rasheed, Sikandar Habib and others gave a grand welcome to the President Muslim Conference and showered them with flowers.

On the way, the caravans were welcomed and flowers were showered in Chalhana Bariyan, Leswa, Jura, Bandi, Kundalshahi, Sandaq, Shahkot.

The rally took the form of a public meeting where President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed



addressed the rally

Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman public relations campaign and to the The success of this rally goes to Ali Khan who Continued vigorous people of Neelam.

Roads opened

ISLAMABAD: Traffic in the Federal Capital started after roads opened by the city Administration.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to carry out upcoming anti-polio drives synchronized, says Coordinator NEOC

B Rafiullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: Coordinator National Emergency Operation Center Captain (R) Muhammad Anwar ul Haq has said that effective anti-polio campaigns and improved vaccination coverage can lead to the complete eradication of poliovirus. Beside the polio cases, but Pakistan is fully committed to win the battle against polio.

polio eradication meeting at the Commissioner Zhob Division office during his visit to Balochistan

Provincial Coordinator EOC

Balochistan Inam ul Haq Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Mehboob Ahmed Achakzai, Technical Focal Person Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Dr. Najeebullah Marwat, Area Coordinators World Health Organization Dr. Ayaz Chandio, Dr. Ibrahim Kakar, DHO Dr. Muzaffar Shah, Immunization Officer WHO positive environmental samples have Dr. Nayyar Luni, Communication also increased five times this year, Officer ComNet Samad Hariphal, N-Stop Officers Dr. Amin, Dr. Jan Inayatullah, and journalist Rafiullah He was speaking at a high-level Mandokhail attended the meeting. The National EOC Coordinator was briefed about the recent polio case in

the Sohrab Got area of Zhob. The NAOC chief said that

improving the quality of campaigns important province of Pakistan but is their top priority. Negligence on the part of polio workers and misconceptions that persist in society lead to polio cases. Poliovirus is unlikely to survive in areas where routine immunization is better. Three more anti-polio campaigns will be carried

"The steps taken in neighboring Afghanistan regarding anti-polio are worth emulating. We are in close coordination with the Afghan authorities to carry out synchronized campaigns." He said.

out this year.

(R) Muhammad Anwar ul Haq said that Balochistan is the most

faces numerous challenges, Limited sources, scattered populations, and cultural barriers are the major issues, but we will utilize all the resources and capabilities to ensure the complete eradication of poliovirus.

"The children who remained deprived of the vaccine are vulnerable to a poliovirus that cripples them for their entire life. Inattention and misconceptions of the parents are also the contributing factors. Parents should ensure that their loved ones are vaccinated against Replying to a query, Captain polio to save them from lifelong disability and burden," he urged the

CM Sindh Advises PTI to come up as a proper political party

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: "We have to fulfill the needs of the people of Sindh, as it is the vision of the Pakistan People's Party," said Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah while talking to local reporters in Raj Malik village, district Sujawal, on Saturday.

The Chief Minister of Sindh visited Raj Malik to offer condolences to District Council Chairman Danish Khan Malkani on the demise of his father, veteran politician Raees Ghulam Qadir Malkani, who passed away in Karachi late Wednesday night.

'The Provincial government, as well as the Federal Government, is taking the issue of prolonged power outages seriously," claimed Murad Ali Shah. "President Asif Ali Zardari and



to resolving this issue, and they have issued special directives to work on the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are committed solar energy project."

former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Government; we still remember the to deal with the electricity crisis, he way Asif Ali Zardari, Fariyal Talpur, said, "The former PM launched a and other leaders of PTI and PML-N private sector policy to address the electricity crisis, which was later followed by countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka." "It has been quite unfortunate that the previous governments have not chalked out effective strategies to resolve this issue once and for all," he mentioned, adding that the capacity in Sindh is 40,000 megawatts, while its need is 20 to 22 thousand megawatts.

During the media talk, the provincial chief executive advised PTI to avoid creating political chaos in the country. "Despite some reservations, we wholeheartedly accepted the decisions of the Supreme Court; now the members of PTI should choose the right path." "The trend of political

Recalling the contributions of victimization was started by the PTI were victimized by them," recalled the CM, adding that they wanted PTI to come up as a complete political party.

He underscored the importance of the oath taken by an assembly member, saying, "Defending the constitution is equal to defending the country." The PTI leadership wanted to hold talks with the establishment, which was a positive move. CM praised the role of Ghulam Qadir Malkani in the politics of Sindh and said that his death has left a vacuum in the politics of Sindh.

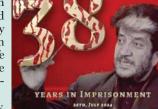
During the visit, he was accompanied by provincial ministers Riaz Shah Shirazi, Fariyal Talpur, Jam Khan Shoro, Shafqat Shah Shirazi, among

Saghar salutes Shah for scripting new history of resistance in Tihar jail

Abdul Majeed Tahir
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ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR: Former Convener All Parties

Hurriyat Conference and acting chairman Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has saluted the party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah on completion of 38 years of his life in prison and eight consecutive years of captivity in India's notorious Tihar jail.



SHABIR SHAH

In a statement issued here today, Saghar, while highlighting the incarcerated party chairman's indomitable role in the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle, said, "Shah has become an icon of the ongoing movement by completing 38 years in prison from time to time and eight consecutive years of captivity in the notorious Tihar jail".

He said that in his 68 years of his life Shah Sahib had to spend 38 years in prisons, detention and interrogation centers within and outside the Kashmir valley because of his political beliefs.

Saghar said that being a strong proponent of Kashmiris' right to self-determination, Shah has always sought a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in line with UNSC resolutions. He said that Shah had never accepted India's forcible control on Kashmir and he never changed that ideology.

Hailing his perseverance and steadfastness, the the DFP leader said that Shah had chosen the path of struggle as his way of living and he was steadfastly writing a new history of political resistance.

Bus stuck with passengers safely evacuated in landslide accident



MUZAFFARABAD: Director General SDMA Masoodur Rahman has said that the bus stuck in the landslide at Dulai has been pulled out as a result of the joint operation of various departments. The bus coming from Karachi to Muzaffarabad got stuck in the Dulai Landslide at five o'clock on Saturday morning. The passengers of the bus that suffered the accident were safely evacuated earlier. Due to the continuous movement of the slide and the pressure of the debris, the bus sank into the ground. To remove the bus from the slide, the Highways Department, SDMA, NHA conducted a joint operation using heavy machinery. During the operation, Director General SDMA Masoodur Rahman, Chief Engineer Abdul Basit, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Mudassar Farooq, DSP. Ishtiaq Geelani, Director SDMA Moazzam Zafar, SDO Shahrat Kashif Gurdizi, Tehsildar Qamar Aziz A, SHO Zahid Umar and Shahriar Aziz were present on the spot. Alternate route Mansehra Abbottabad can be used, local people can come to Muzaffarabad using Sahib Than route. Heavy machinery is working to open the road. It may take time for the road to open and advised passengers to avoid unnecessary travel.

Power load shedding sparks protest in Dadu



Azad Baloch

DADU: A large number of residents staged a demonstration on katchahri road in protest against prolonged loadshedding of electricity non-supply to several areas in Dadu city on Saturday.

The demonstrators Giyas Shahani, Nabi Bux Unar, Qurban Punar, Dost Ali and others from Najam Colony, Mazdoorabad, Mallah Chowk, Gharibabad, Mondar Naka and several areas came out on the streets and blocked the main katchahri road Dadu.

Carrying placards and clubs, the protesters raised charged slogans against Sepco officials for making their life miserable.

The affected residents told reporters that they lashed out at Sepco for

unscheduled 18 hours loadshedding of electricity in Dadu city areas. The protesters also said that on the one hand there was no water while on the other the long power outages had made their life miserable. They said that hours long load shedding of electricity had also compelled them to stage protests.





SERVICES		
Namaz	Timings	
	3:40 am	
Zohr	12:14 pm	
Asr	5:08 pm	
Maghrib	7:12 pm	
Isha	8:48 pm	

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20
Women Police

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20
ENOUII	RY

ENQUI	KY
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
$\Gamma \Lambda \Lambda$	0281002

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

(DA	9221334-43
(DA	9208301-04
١	Met Office	9250360-6
F	RDA	5555864
1	ГМА	5770886
(antonment Board	0270151-3

First female Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University in Punjab appointed Prof. Mehnaz Khakwani



MULTAN: Regular Vice-Chancellor has been appointed in Nishtar Medical University Multan and in this regard a formal notification has been issued to the Governor of Punjab. Prof. Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani has been appointed the Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University for four years and thus Prof. Mehnaz Khakwani has also got the honor of being the first female Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University The decision has been welcomed by medical and social circles. It should be noted that Prof. Mehnaz Khakwani is a renowned Gynecologist with an excellent academic record with many Gold Medals. She has also served as the chair person of the Department of Gynecology, Nishtar Medical, the President of the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and other important positions as well as the services of Pro Vice Chancellor and Acting Vice Chancellor in Nishtar Medical University.

Export policy for 2024-25: Anjum, Minister discuss steps to boost exports

ISLAMABAD: Group Chairman Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum recently met with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad to discuss the export policy for 2024. The meeting focused on strategies to improve the country's export sector, aiming to promote economic growth and increase foreign exchange

Chairman Anjum emphasized the need for a comprehensive export policy that addresses current challenges and leverages the strengths of Pakistan's various industries. He highlighted the importance of providing incentives for exporters, reducing bureaucratic obstacles, and improving infrastructure to facilitate trade. He also stressed that industrialists should pay their taxes, while the government should fully support them to play a vital role in economic development.

Finance Minister Senator Aurangzeb expressed the government's commitment to supporting exporters and outlined

several key measures planned for 2024-25. These measures include tax relief. easier access to finance, and the establishment of export processing zones. Both leaders agreed on the need for public-priand competitiveness in the global market.

At the end of the discussions with the Finance Minister, there was a reaffirmation of mutual cooperation towards a robust export policy that will not only improve Pakistan's trade but also signifivate partnerships to enhance innovation cantly contribute to its economic stability

Beautiful view

ISLAMABAD: A view of Bharakau Flyover in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Dejavu for Tractor parts industry in a FBR created crisis: PAAPAM

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The tractor manufacturing and parts industry faces a significant crisis, threatening the stability and future of a sector that plays a crucial role in the national economy. With a substantial export value of \$20 million, a robust vendor base of 200, and an employment figure reaching 200,000 the industry has achieved an impressive 95% localization.

The imposition of a 10% sales tax on tractors, effective from the budget announcement in June 2024, has exacerbated the situation. Previously, tractors were exempt from sales tax until June 2024, ensuring smooth operations and financial stability for manufacturers like Millat Tractors Limited (MTL). The new tax policy has pushed MTL back into the refund regime, reminiscent of the challenges faced received due refunds, causing



post-2012 when SRO 363 established a refund mechanism that processed refunds

efficiently within three months. In 2022, the introduction of SRO 563 (1)/2022 complibuyer of tractors. The refund owning land with valid documentation, excluding many who could not meet these stringent requirements. Since then, despite fulfilling the stipulated conditions, the industry has not

severe financial strain. A delegation from the Paki-

stan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM). led by Chairmen, Mr. Abdul cated matters further by Rehman Aizaz, Senior Vice imposing conditions on the President Mr. Mumshad Ali, along with Mr. Irfan Qureshi, benefit was limited to farmers Mr. Rehan Riaz, Mr. Shahab Saleem, Mr. Jawaid Hafeez, and Mr. Anas Haroon visited the Millat Tractors Sheikhupura Plant to address these pressing issues.

Mr. Abdul Rehman Aizaz and Mr. Mumshad Ali high-

lighted the urgency of the situation, stating, "Since the budget announcement, the mechanism for processing sales tax refunds has not been notified by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) despite numerous letters and appeals. Consequently, MTL operations have been halted since July 1st with no orders or invoices issued, causing significant financial losses as compared to the last Year sales of 30,000

The delegation urges the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to intervene and ensure that the FBR establishes an efficient refund process, similar to the one under SRO 363(i)/2022. The failure to address these issues promptly could have detrimental effects on Pakistan's agriculture sector, which heavily relies on the timely availability of tractors and related machinery.

Shazia Rizwan Chaired BOM meeting



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The meeting of the Board of Management of the Punjab Arts Council was held under the chairmanship of Member Punjab Assembly, Shazia Rizwan. The Executive Director of Punjab Arts Council, Ghulam Saghir Shahid specially attended the meeting. Member Punjab Assembly Shazia Rizwan mentioned that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has issued special instructions for the preparation of the Independence Day floats. The floats will ensure the representation of all four provinces, and statues of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Poet of the East Allama Iqbal, and the Mother of the Nation Fatima Jinnah will be part of the floats. While briefing the participants, Executive Director Ghulam Saghir Shahid stated that for the first time in the history of Punjab, the Punjab Arts Council is preparing two floats for the Independence Day celebrations. One float will travel from Rawalpindi to Lahore via GT Road, while the other float will entertain the citizens from Dera Ghazi Khan to Multan. The floats will pay tribute to the heroes of the Pakistan Movement and will also feature music and folk dances. Shazia Rizwan also chaired a meeting with poets and writers. The meeting was attended by Ali Asghar Thamar, Naseem Sehar, Dr. Farhat Abbas, Arif Baloch, Saleem Shahzad, Anjum Salimi, Akbar Niazi, Ittifaq Butt, Ziauddin Mari, and Irfan Jameel. The participants informed Member Punjab Assembly Shazia Rizwan about the literary organizations of Rawalpindi-Islamabad and their services. At the conclusion of the meeting, a painting exhibition was inaugurated in collaboration with the Punjab Arts Council and Rawalpindi Women University. The exhibition was inaugurated by Member Punjab Assembly Shazia Rizwan, accompanied by Executive Director of Punjab Arts Council Ghulam Saghir Shahid, Director Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor, and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman. At the end of the exhibition, the guest of honor also distributed certificates of appreciation among the students.

CTD Operation in Punjab: 38 terrorists arrested from banned organizations



Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: CTD Punjab Spokesman Said The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 38 terrorists linked with a banned and Terrorists Organizations during operations in different areas of Punjab.

According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 449 intelligence based operations in different Punjab districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 449 suspected persons were interrogated and 38 terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. Among the arrested terrorists are Muhammad Faheem, Ramdad, Waheedullah, Saudul Rehman, Muhammad Tahir Rashid, Rawalpindi, Sulaiman Tariq, Shahidullah, Rehman Gul, Rehman Gul, Sherjan, Ijazur Rehman, Subhanullah, Umra Yaz, Abdul Razzaq, Abdul Samad, Muzaffar Nazir, Raqib. Shabbir, Dr. Iftikhar, Muhammad Zubair, Sikandar Osman, Zubair Nazir, Ghulam Sarwar, Muhammad Imran, Zakaullah, Ali Fateh, Taj Muhammad, Shah Wali Khan, Ehsan-ur-Rehman Jagranwi, Ghulamullah, Umar Hayat, Muhammad Saleem, Muhammad Waseem, Asad Rehman. Muhammad Shah, Mufti, Muhammad Sabraz, Mudassar Khan, Rizwan Ahmed and Atif Rehman, he said and added that the terrorists belong to banned organizations Sipah Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar Jhangvi, Tehreek Taliban Pakistan and

The arrest was made during an intelligence-based operations in Narowal, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sargodha, Jhang, Wahari, Khaniwal, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Lahore, Rahim Yar Khan, Nankana Sahib, Lodhran, Pakpattan, Dera Ghazi Khan Khan, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Bhakkar and Attock Areas, he said and added that one IED bomb, Explosives 7691 grams, Hand Grenade 01, Detonators 29, Safety fuse wire 50 feet, Prima Card 2.8 feet, Pistol. 03 and 23 bullets, rifle 01 including 15 bullets, banned books 14, banned magazines 11, pamphlets 266, stickers 234, flags 02, receipt boxes 05, mobile phones 06 and Rs.69470 in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

Ground-breaking of Al-Shifa Trust's GB Eye Hospital held

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Saturday, the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan broke ground on the cutting-edge Gilgit-Baltistan Eye Hospital, which will be run by the Al-Shifa Trust and offer free, high-quality eye care to everyone in the area.

Parliamentarians, Chairman of the Rupani Foundation, Force Commander FCNA Major General Kashif Khalil, dignitaries, local notables, and donor representatives attended the ceremony.

Al-Shifa Trust President Maj. Gen. (retired) Rehmat Khan, Chief of Medical Services Dr. Wajid Ali Khan, Project Director Brig. (retd) Arshad and others were also present at the event.

Chief Minister Gulbar Khan, Naseeruddin Rupani, Chairman of the Rupani Foundation, and other dignitaries commended the trust on this occasion for their concern for the people's lack of access to high-quality

eye care in the isolated region. They said that in the past, those with eye issues had to go to Islamabad, but many of them could not afford to do so. They also mentioned that things will get better now, which will help

Speakers noted that this hospital would cover 18 lakh people living in 14 districts of GB, of whom 10 to 15 percent face eye issues due to poverty, extreme weather, and improper living conditions.

They said the hospital will be

established in a 20-kanal area on the Karakoram Highway. which is within reach of locals because it is just three kilometres from the city.

President of Al-Shifa Trust, Maj. Gen. (retired) Rehmat Khan, thanked the GB Government and donors for their cooperation. He said that the GB hospital will be able to treat 150 OPD patients per day and conduct 50 surgeries daily.

He announced that the area's first modern hospital, estimated to cost 355 million rupees, would be completed by the end of 2026. He said that the Rupani Foundation would pay half of the cost, while the trust will arrange the remaining half through donations.

He pointed out that eve

diseases, particularly cataracts, severely affect people in GB, necessitating the provision of a facility at their doorstep.

We will initially provide OPD facilities and cataract surgeries but later include other more sophisticated procedures such as retina, glaucoma, cornea, and oculoplastic treatments.

According to Maj. Gen. (retired) Rehmat Khan, a special feature will be an OPD facility for people suffering from depression.

He added that the Rawalpindi Eye Hospital has started training the paramedics who will work in the GB hospital, and the GB students have preferential access to a diploma course

He said that the outreach



specialised eye care services in would keep organising free eye Gilgit-Baltistan.

would provide isolated places, and the trust camps and school screenings in

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz. Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.

Gulshan-e-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

WHO sending one million polio vaccines to Gaza to protect children

■ he United Nations (UN) World Health Organization (WHO) is sending more than a million polio vaccines to Gaza after the discovery of the highly infectious disease in sewage samples in the battered

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that the vaccines will be administered to children in the coming weeks.

He noted that no cases of polio have been recorded yet but without immediate action, it was just a matter of time before it reaches the thousands of children who have been left unprotected.

Humanitarians have expressed deep concerns about the impact of a possible polio emergency in Gaza, amid disastrous sanitary conditions marked by outbreaks of hepatitis A and myriad other preventable diseases, along with a lack of access to healthcare, because of the war.

Earlier this week, Dr. Ayadil Saparbekov, Team Lead for Health Emergencies at WHO in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, warned that the spread of polio and other communicable diseases could lead to more people dying of preventable illness than from war-related injuries currently 39,000, according to the local health authorities.

On 16 July, the WHO said that vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 had been identified at six locations in sewage samples collected last month from Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah – two Gaza cities left in ruins by nearly 10 months of intense Israeli bombardment.

WHO said that polio virus can emerge in areas where poor vaccination coverage allows the weakened form of the orally taken vaccine virus strain to mutate into a stronger version.

Before the outbreak of the war on Oct 7, Gazan youngsters had access to robust routine vaccination services, the UN health agency said Friday.

But while an estimated 99 per cent of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory received their third dose of polio vaccine in 2022, this fell to 89 per cent in 2023, according to the latest routine immunization estimates by WHO and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

As part of collective efforts to combat circulating variant polio virus type 2 in Gaza and beyond, the WHO convened health ministers from across the Eastern Mediterranean region on Thursday.

I witnessed at first hand living conditions that are highly favourable for the spread of polio and other diseases, said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, who called the meeting. This is an important time... to come together to act swiftly and decisively to contain this outbreak, for the children of Gaza.

Measures agreed upon at the meeting included intensified surveillance and multiple mass polio immunization campaigns that can be integrated with other crucial health service delivery, when feasible.

Paris Olympics-2024: Games Wide Open

Minister in September 2016, and I had the unique opporawarded the hosting rights for the 2024 Summer Olympics on September 13, 2017, during the 131st IOC Session in Lima, Peru. From that pivotal moment until our return to Pakistan after four years, we experienced firsthand the dynamic and transformative efforts of the French National Olympic management committee to turn the historic city of Paris into a vibrant Olympic city. The meticulous planning and extensive preparations were aimed at hosting 32 sports with 329 events. This unique ceremony, set against the picturesque backdrop of the Seine River and Parisian landmarks, promises to deliver an unforgettable experience unlike any other in Olympic history.

What we did not anticipate, however, was a sabotage attack in Paris that shocked the world as it targeted key infrastructure and disrupted planned events. The coordinated attack involved multiple explosive devices planted along the Seine River, where the historic ceremony was set to take place. The incident caused significant damage to several bridges and disrupted the transportation network, creating chaos and widespread panic among spectators and participants. Fortunately, emergency services, already on high alert and prepared for any emergency, responded swiftly to contain the situation, prevent further damage, and ensure the safety of the public.

Despite the attack casting a shadow over the opening ceremony, it failed to dampen the enthusiasm, anticipation,

was posted in France as Press and excitement for the highly awaited, glittering event. The ceremony, with its delicate and romantic French touch, tunity to witness France being proceeded and left an indelible mark on the hearts of those present and the millions watching worldwide.

> These preparations, though impactful, added much excitement and dynamism to

our sojourn in Paris from 2016 to 2020. The road closures, street upliftings, metro refurbishments, and river water cleaning and filtering were all part of the grand effort to get the city ready for the Olympics. The construction of new venues, such as the Paris Aquatics Centre

and the Olympic and Paralympic Village in Saint-Denis, alongside the renovation of existing sites like Stade de France, were significant milestones.

We also witnessed the construction of temporary structures for events like beach volleyball at the Eiffel Tower and archery at Les Invalides, showcasing a commitment to minimizing long-term environmental impacts. Transportation upgrades, including the commencement of the Grand Paris Express project to extend and modernize the metro system, and the enhancement of existing public transport services like the metro, RER, tram, and bus networks, ensured efficient and sustainable travel for athletes, officials, and spectators. These developments transformed Paris into a vibrant Olympic city, reflecting the meticulous planning and effort behind the scenes.

The opening ceremony was held at

10:30 PM last night, and our entire family was glued to the TV to watch. Ninety-four boats carrying 200 delegations, mostly clad in their national dresses, paraded down the Seine River, waving flags, bunting, and hands under the dazzling lights and fireworks. The event took place under the watchful eyes of 45,000

police personnel and a contingent of 10,000 army troops, with strict security protocols bolstered by AI-powered high-definition video surveillance.

The hallmark of the Paris 2024 Olympics was a spectacular procession that began at the Austerlitz Bridge and traveled

six kilometers, with 10,500 athletes representing 206 nations on boats passing iconic landmarks like Notre-Dame, the Louvre, and the Pont Alexandre III. Spectators enjoyed performances from 3,000 artists and 400 dancers stationed on bridges, creating a festive atmosphere. The ceremony culminated at the Trocadéro, across from the Eiffel Tower, where the Olympic cauldron was lit, highlighting Paris's beauty and history in a memorable start to the Games.

The parade was enhanced by stunning singing and dance performances featuring Kelly Clarkson. A Grammy-winning artist, Clarkson brought her vibrant energy and powerful voice to the event, marking her first time hosting an Olympic broadcast. Their performance captivated the spectators, adding an unforgettable experience to the already spectacular opening ceremony.

The hosting of Olympics-2024 Paris gave the unique honor of hosting the Olympic Games three times. The first time was during the 1900 Summer Olympics, which marked the first occasion Paris hosted the Games, Paris hosted the Olympics for the second time in 1924. Now, in 2024, Paris will have the distinction of hosting the Olympic Games for the third

The ceremony culminated in a spectacular display of fireworks that turned night into day, filling the hearts and souls of the spectators. This heartwarming show was a testament to shared humanity, diversity, and unity, reflecting the spirit of sportsmanship and the gathering of nations from across the globe. Athletes from diverse cultures, languages, and backgrounds came together to showcase

human resilience and shared objectives. The city of Paris was filled with a rich tapestry of cultures and colors, celebrating equality and upholding human values. Setting aside bilateral and multilateral disputes, conflicts, and wars, the event demonstrated that when countries, races, and languages unite, they create a powerful force of positive energy, love, friendship, and tolerance. These athletes conveyed a message to the world that working in harmony, supporting one another, and caring for each other can lead to peace, allowing us to realize our full potential and share our riches and wealth to make the world a better place for everyone, regardless of means.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



India Initiates a New Era of brutality in IIOJK - IV

n addition to these killings, there have been numerous instances of arbitrary arrests and detentions of Kashmiri political leaders and activists. Mehbooba Mufti, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and leader of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act governor of HOJK since August 2020. (PSA) following the abrogation of Article 370

in August 2019. She, along with other political figures like Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah, remained under house arrest for months. India's treatment of its Kashmiri allies underscores a broader pattern of skepticism and disregard toward Kashmiri sentiments.

Nations The United and various countries have

IIOJK. The lack of transparency in legal proceedings and the denial of access to independent observers have heightened apprehensions about the human rights situation in the region. The repercussions of these killings and arrests extend beyond the immediate victims, deepening distrust between the local population and security forces and perpetuating a cycle of violence and retaliation. The environment of fear and uncertainty has suppressed political dissent and dialogue, undermining the prospects for a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir conflict.

The Indian government has solidified its decision to revoke the special status of IIOJK nullifying IIOJK's special status, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs recently amended the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, Directorate of Prosecution, and the Forensic 2019, thereby expanding the powers of the Science Laboratory, requiring the Adminis-

lieutenant governor of IIOJK. Indian President Droupadi Murmu has authorized these changes under section 55 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, which introduce new provisions aimed at enhancing the authority of the IIOJK lieutenant governor. Manoj Sinha has served as the lieutenant These amendments, titled the Transac-

tion of Business of the UT of IIOJK's Government (Second

Amendment) Rules, 2024, were recently published in the Indian Official Gazette. They hold particular significance in light of the upcoming assembly elections in IIOJK, as they grant the IIOJK lieutenant governor increased discretion in various administrative domains. A newly

expressed concerns over the situation in introduced sub-rule, 2A, specifies that proposals concerning 'Police,' 'Public Order,' 'All India Service,' and 'Anti-Corruption Bureau' must be routed to the IIOJK lieutenant governor via the chief secretary for the Finance Department's concurrence. Another addition, rule 42A, mandates that the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs submit proposals for the appointment of the Advocate-General and other law officers to the IIOJK lieutenant governor through both the chief secretary and the chief minister. Rule 42B dictates that proposals related to prosecution sanctions or appeals must also be channeled to the IIOJK lieutenant governor through the chief secretary by the Department by approving a contentious notification. After of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs. Additionally, amendments to rule 43 introduce new provisions concerning Prisons, the

trative Secretary of the Home Department to forward these matters through the chief secretary to the IIOJK lieutenant governor. Furthermore, proposals regarding the posting and transfer of Administrative Secretaries and All India Services officers must be presented to the IIOJK lieutenant governor by the Administrative Secretary of the General Administration Department through the chief secretary. These controversial revisions signal a significant shift in IIOJK's administrative structure, indicating a trend toward heightened central control. This action bypasses UN resolutions on Kashmir and further consolidates the annulment of IIOJK's special status. The detailed notification from the Indian ministry ensures that all proposals in specified domains follow proper channels before reaching the IIOJK lieutenant governor's office, laving the groundwork for substantial changes in IIOJK's governance and administrative dynamics. These amendments suggest India's lack of confidence in the elected civilian government of IIOJK and may exacerbate human rights violations. This move has been vehemently criticized by Kashmiris on both sides of the LOC. The UN and the international community should take note and urge India to halt these actions and grant the people of IIOJK the right of self-determination.

India must acknowledge the reality that Kashmiris do not wish to remain part of India, and India's ongoing actions to integrate IIOJK further exacerbate Kashmiri resentment. India's attempts to suppress Kashmiri aspirations for self-determination are unlikely to succeed, and India is obligated to grant Kashmiris the right to determine their own future. India's recent and historical actions violate UN resolutions that recognize Kashmir as a disputed issue, requiring global attention and condemnation of India's actions

Federal System and Balochistan - I

Muhammad Ahmed Kamil

akistan's federal system is based on a bicameral legislature, where the Senate serves as the upper house and the National Assembly functions as the lower house. However, unlike in many countries, the National Assembly holds significantly more power in Pakistan for several reasons.

Primarily, it possesses extensive financial legislative powers, allowing it to approve fiscal decisions, such as budgets, and to pass money bills. The National Assembly comprises 342 seats, all of which are filled through direct elections by the people. This direct mandate from the populace grants it the authority to elect the Prime Minister and form the government through a vote of confidence, as well as to dissolve the government via a vote of no confidence. Consequently, the National Assembly exercises substantial control over the execu-

The Senate, in theory, is intended to serve as a bulwark against the tyranny of the majority, embodying an anti-majoritarian ethos by providing equal representation to all federating units. However, in Pakistan, the Senate is largely perceived as a forum for ineffectual discussions, rendering it virtually powerless and ineffectual.

The institution that is supposed to foster national cohesion by counterbalancing the numerical dominance of certain regions through equal representation has failed in its mandate. This failure necessitates the institutionalization of concentrated power and the hegemony of a particular province or federating unit. Consequently, the Senate's inability to effectively counteract regional disparities undermines its foundational purpose and exacerbates the imbalance of power within the

federal structure.

The federal system in Pakistan is designed to favor provinces with larger populations, rather than considering factors such as size or economic contributions. This design is evident in the fact that the representation in the National Assembly is directly proportional to a province's population. As a result, Balochistan, which geographically spans over half of Pakistan, is allocated only 19 seats out of the 342 in the National Assembly. In the political arena, these 19 seats are a mere fraction of the total, rendering them almost insignificant.

For political parties, investing in and developing Balochistan is not a viable strategy. Even if they choose to invest, the likelihood of securing even half of these 19 seats is minimal. This is due to the deeply ingrained allegiance of the populace to their traditional leaders, the Sardars and Maliks, within the tribal system. Moreover, Balochistan's ethnic diversity, comprising Baloch, Brahui, Pashtun, Hazara, and Sindhi groups, alongside the various tribes such as Bugti, Marri, Mengal, Rind, and Jamali, underscores the political fragmentation and identity politics prevalent in the province. These dynamics, centered around ethnic and regional grievances, make it challenging for any political party to gain a significant foothold.

Consequently, from a political investment perspective, allocating resources to a smaller city in Punjab, such as Gujranwala, might yield comparable, if not superior, results compared to investing in Balochistan. This strategic consideration underscores the inherent flaws in the federal system, which disproportionately benefits more populous provinces, further entrenching regional disparities and exacerbating the marginalization of less populous but geographically significant regions like Balochistan.

To be continued

Uzbekistan: A New and Technological **Approach to Elections Begins**

Spokesman Report

Commission of the series of events on July 26. The primary agenda item was the the majoritarian system, where preparation and high-level accomplishment of the upcoming elections for the Legislative Chamber of will be elected based on votes cast for the Oliv Majlis and the Councils of People's Deputies in full compliance with the Constitution and laws.

According to Article 128 of the Uzbekistan, elections for the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis ties are scheduled to take place on the first Sunday of the third ten-day period of October in the year their term expires. Considering that the term of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and the Councils of People's Deputies ends election campaign will begin on July 26th, as decided by the Central Election Commission.

These elections mark a significant departure from the past, taking place in a new socio-political environment as stipulated by our Constiunique features of these elections, which include:

1. For the first time in Uzbekistan's

history, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis elections will be he Central Election conducted using a mixed electoral system, combining majoritarian and Republic of Uzbekistan proportional systems. This signifiheld a meeting and a cant change will see seventy-five deputies elected directly through voters vote for specific candidates. The remaining seventy-five deputies political parties under the proportional system.

2. One of the most significant advancements is the full digitiza-Constitution of the Republic of tion of election commissions' activities at all levels and their interactions with participants in the election and the Councils of People's Depuprocess. This development significantly reduces bureaucracy, time, and document handling in election procedures, ushering in a new era of efficiency in our electoral system.

3. Our election legislation has been fundamentally improved to align with advanced democratic standards. These in 2024, the elections will be held improvements include introducing a on October 27th of this year, and the new system for election bodies led by the Central Election Commission and requiring political parties to ensure that at least 40% of their candidates for deputy positions are women. Additionally, a candidate must receive a relative majority of votes to be elected. If a candidate gets more votes than tution. The meeting underscored the other candidates in their respective electoral district, they will be elected without needing a repeat vote.

4. The elections are taking place in important state issues, 33 powers



conditions of significantly strengthened parliamentarianism and the powers of representative bodies at the local level, as established by the Updated Constitution. Specifically, the absolute powers of the Legislative Chamber have increased from 5 to 12, and those of the Senate from 12 to 18. The parliament's oversight functions over the activities of executive, judicial, law enforcement agencies, and special services have been expanded. The institution of hokims leading

local Councils of People's Deputies is

being abolished. To enhance the role

of representative bodies in resolving

previously held by hokims have been transferred to local Councils.

The meeting underscored the significance of these elections as a vivid example of democratic statebuilding in our country and an essential means for citizens to exercise their constitutional rights to vote and be elected to democratic state bodies. The elections will involve the election of 150 deputies to the Legislative Chamber, 65 members to the Senate, 65 deputies to the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, deputies to 208 district (city) Councils in the regions and Tashkent city,

actively participating. Over 120,000 election commission members and more than 70,000 citizens and international observers are expected to participate in the election process.

Considering the important role of elections in state life and with the aim of widely engaging citizens in this process, the Central Election Commission announced that the elections will be held on October 27th under the slogan "My Choice - My Prosperous Homeland."

The "E-Saylov" information system is a key tool in making the election process more transparent and accessible. It facilitates around 60 interactions between election commissions, political party candidates, observers, and the media entirely electronically. Integrated with other electronic platforms, the system automates many procedures in the election process without human intervention. This system forms an extensive database of nearly 400,000 participants in the election process, including election commission members, candidates, and observers. Around 32,000 participants will professionally use the information system, which includes communication through 40 types of SMS notifications.

For citizens, the "E-Saylov" information system introduces several conveniences in obtaining election-related information. Specifically, with around 30,000 candidates and it provides statistical data on voters Commission.

nearly 90,000 trusted representatives and polling stations, information on candidates for various elections, and interactive maps to learn about candidates and their biographies.

The meeting emphasized that the "E-Saylov" information system represents a new level of technological advancement and transparency in elections.

It was also noted that according to Article 37 of the Election Code, political parties have the right to nominate candidates for deputies to the Legislative Chamber and local Councils.

To participate in the elections, political parties must have been registered by the Ministry of Justice at least four months before the announcement of the election campaign and collect at least 40,000 signatures supporting their partic-

Additionally, the meeting approved a calendar plan to ensure that the activities related to conducting the elections are carried out step-bystep within the timelines specified by election legislation. The Central Election Commission, as an impartial and independent constitutional body, will take all necessary measures to prepare for and conduct the upcoming elections in full compliance with national legislation and international election standards, ensuring

the process is open and transparent. A Press Center has also been established under the Central Election















ISLAMABAD: As many as twenwildlife of Pakistan captured by Paki-



the National Art Gallery No. 2 from Monday. The exhibition is being ty-nine large size photos of the exotic organized by the Snow Leopard Founstan Wildlife Protection Awards on dation and Devcom-Pakistan (Develstan's Wildlife Ambassador and former opment Communications Network) senator, Sardar Muhammad Jamal in collaboration with the Pakistan guards, watchers, and rangers who



Khan Leghari will go on display at National Council of the Arts (PNCA). A formal ceremony to honor this exhibition will be a part of the Paki-July 31. This ceremony will recognize the extraordinary efforts of wildlife

'Exotic Wildlife Pakistan' photo-exhibition to go on display at PNCA

have shown remarkable courage and inhabits Pakistan's diverse ecosysto conservation and environmental dedication in protecting Pakistan's

Dr. Muhammad Ali Nawaz, Director and CEO of the Snow Leopard Foundation: "We are thrilled to collaborate with Devcom-Pakistan and PNCA to bring this exhibition to life. The photographs not only capture the splendor of our wildlife but also underscore the critical need for continued conserva-

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director bition aims to highlight the breathshowcase the country's rich wildlife opportunity for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and the general public

tems. "Our partnership with the Snow Leopard Foundation and PNCA is a significant step towards raising awareness about wildlife conservation.

wildlife photographer, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari is an honorary Wildlife Ambassador of Pakistan, member of Pakistan National Long-range Rifle seek to protect and preserve. Team, former Senator and former Curator of the exhibition, chairman BOD, Multan Electric Power Pakistan's wilderness, my photographs Company and the owner and manager will serve as a call to action, igniting

taking biodiversity of Pakistan, cation defines his quest to show- are fortunate enough to glimpse the featuring captivating images that case Pakistan's exotic wildlife in beauty and wonder of the country's heritage. The event will provide a rare photography. "Travelling across the tireless efforts, creative vision, and a deeply personal mission, a testato appreciate the stunning wildlife that ment to my unwavering commitment for generations to come, he concludes.

Jamal Leghari says: "Through my lens, I have brought to life the grace of the soaring raptors, the stealth of Pakistan's internationally known the prowling big cats, and the vibrant colors of the endemic bird species that call Pakistan home. Each photograph is a testament to my artistry, skill, and deep connection with the wildlife I

As I continue my journey through Munir Ahmed says: This unique exhi- of "Jamal Leghari Wildlife Sanctuary". a passion for conservation and envi-Mr. Leghari believes that his dedi- ronmental stewardship in all who their natural habitats through his exotic wildlife through my lens. My country at my own expense has been unwavering dedication are aimed at preserving Pakistan's natural heritage

Imaad Khan: The First Pakistani to Graduate from Real Madrid Graduate School

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation consistently makes headlines for its remarkable efforts to elevate the sports landscape in Pakistan. In its latest endeavor, the foundation has provided invaluable support to Imaad Khan, a skilled foot- popularity extends to Pakistan, dreams. I am profoundly grateful ball player, who has achieved a where it is admired for its iconic to everyone who supported groundbreaking milestone by

becoming the first Pakistani to studded roster. secure a masters degree from the renowned Real Madrid Graduate School in Football Coaching &

Management Real Madrid is one of the most prestigious and renowned football clubs globally, celebrated for its legendary players and storied history. The club's immense

Graduated with distinction, Imad reflects on his journey, stating, "Realizing this dream took me five years, from securing admission in 2019 to overcoming numerous challenges and finally graduating in 2023 with high accolades-an achievement that was beyond my wildest footballing legacy and star- me along the way, especially

Dawood (BARD) Foundation, which provided me with the

opportunity to fulfill my dream." Abdul Razak Dawood says, "At our Foundation, we are deeply committed to enhancing Pakistan's image on the global stage, particularly through sports. Every project we undertake is aimed at proving the talent and sportsis not just to change perceptions

The Bilquis and Abdul Razak but to create a lasting impact by nurturing young athletes and promoting international sports

collaborations. "I am incredibly proud of the progress and impact our Foundation has made, especially in supporting remarkable talents like Imaad Khan. His success in graduating from the Real Madrid Graduate School as the manship of Pakistan. Our goal first Pakistani in football and to see our young generation excel local communities", says Mehreen



coaching management sets a on such prestigious platforms, Dawood.

shining example for other young enhancing the global perception athletes to follow. It's heartening of Pakistan and empowering our

Opening ceremony shows Paris to world under rain, did it work?

The Paris Olympics staged a historical opening ceremony on the River Seine with impressive shows.

Xinhua

PARIS,: A flash of red, white and blue of the French tricolor flag and the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris was underway, heralded by traditional accordion music.

Out of the smoke from under Austerlitz Bridge sailed the boat carrying Greece's delegation for the Games, as tradition dictates, with the Refugee team close behind receiving the biggest cheers of the night, giving reason to the words of IOC President Thomas Bach, when he said "sport is respect. Sport is empowerment. Sport is solidarity. Sport is peace."

Lady Gaga, surrounded by feathers, sang "Mon truc en plumes", a homage to the Moulin Rouge on steps at the banks of the River Seine and the great experiment, the never-



before-tried attempt to hold the opening ceremony to the Olym-The ceremony aimed to show pics along six kilometers of river, Paris to the world and it certainly

did that. There were Can-Can girls, a homage to the reconstruction of Notre Dame and of

course the French Revolution, sedately down the river and with fireworks, heavy metal and singers who appeared to have lost

Aya Nakamura, the mostin the world, gave a stomping performance along with 60 Guard and 36 choristers of the French Army.

a battle with the guillotine.

There were dancers on rooftops, homages to French fashion, references to the writer Victor Hugo and the mysterious torch holder making their way through the Louvre art gallery to the music of Claude Debussy, while British flagbearers Tom Daley and Helen Glover, on the prow of their boat, recreated Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet's famous scene from Titanic.

The entertainment and spectacle were mixed with images of the teams making their way

clearly mixed with the video interventions.

If there was a downside to the ceremony, it is that any event streamed French-speaking artist performed over such a long distance has to struggle with continuity, and the big differmusicians of the Republican ence between this ceremony and others is that the parade of athletes was mixed in with the performances.

> Other opening ceremonies have been able to tell a more continuous narrative, flowing seamlessly from one theme to another and telling their story before the athletes took center

> The fact artists such as Lady Gaga and Nakamura could only perform at one place on the river meant only a handful of people actually saw them in the flesh, with everyone else watching on

Does that mean it was the first multimedia ceremony or was it just too ambitious to completely succeed?

Maybe, but the emotional torch relay with sporting heroes which ended with 100 year-old cvclist Charles Coste taking the flame shortly before the cauldron attached to a Montgolfier balloon into the Paris sky was impressive.

The Eiffel Tour also provided late beauty and drama and any ceremony that ends with Celine Dion singing the Edith Piaf song L'Hymne à l'amour deserves credit for its courage and willingness to embrace both past and present.

Whatever one's opinion, one thing is clear: everyone who stood at the side of the River Seine and cheered the contestants from start to finish also deserves a medal for their Olympic efforts.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index	Fluctuation
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index
Current	Prev. Close
78,029.50	78,469.33
Day's High	Day's Low
78,569.88	77,921.47
Index Value	Change
6,677,560,882	-439.83
Percentage	Time
-0.56%	26 Jul, 2024
•	5:00 pm
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index
Index Value	Change
8,285.71	+99.36
Percentage	Time
+1.21%	26 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average
Index Value	Change
40,749.11	+814.04
Percentage	Time
+2.04%	26 Jul, 1:28 pm
	GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average
Index Value	Change
37,667.41	-202.10
Percentage	Time

Open Market F	Seesy Dates
Olden Market F	orex Rates

-0.53%

26 Jul, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Open Market	I OICX I	
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.95	186.75
Bahrain Dinar	741.05	749.05
Canadian Dollar	203.85	205.85
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	301.85	303.95
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908	917
Malaysian Ringgit	58.85	59.65
NewZealand \$	169.15	171.15
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.90	74.63
Singapore Dollar	202.5	204.5
Swedish Korona	26.6	26.9
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.6
UK Pound Sterling	356.25	360.5
US Dollar	278.50	280.15

There are no facilities to international export cargo of mangoes from Multan: Dharija



Kiran Asim

There are no facilities to International Export of Mangoes Cargo from Multan. mango plantations are falling apart, no attention is being paid by the government, very soon Sirakistan is organizing mango conference.

These views were expressed by Zahoor Dharija, chairman of the Sri Lanka National Council, while talking to the mango farmers who came from Rahim Yar Khan. Saghir Khan was leading the delegation. Zahoor Dharija said that Saraiki Wasib is the first in the production of mangoes in Pakistan but it is behind in terms of facilities, the mangoes are our earnings and are being exported, according to a report, so far 50 billion rupees worth of mangoes have been exported from Pakistan. have been exported which benefited the foreign exporters, if the government paid attention, trillions of mangoes could

have been exported. He said that Saraiki Wasib was being ignored in every case, with Wasib on a daily basis. Billions of rupees are going to Takht Laho Rawar Takht Islamabad but Wasib is not getting anything in return, the people of Saraiki Wasib are being treated like slaves. Zahoor Dharija said that in the first week of August in Multan, Sri Lanka is organizing a mango conference, in which experts will discuss the Mango Research Center, the Department of Agriculture, the responsibilities of the provincial and central government and thus other issues related to agriculture. On this occasion, a mango exhibition and a mango savani will also be organized for the participants.

He said that it is cruel that 100% of mango production in Wasib, export and export is not even 1%, mangoes are produced in Sirakistan, mango juice factories are in Karachi and Punjab.

FPCCI to approach Supreme Court, SIFC on IPPs issue

LAHORE: Former Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) issue is the issue of the entire nation alongside the business community and that instead of point scoring on it we will find out a viable solution through dialogue.

He said this while addressing a business conference organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Conference and Industry (FPCCI) in Lahore as President of FPCCI's Economic Policy Business Development Think Tank.

Kakar said that the issue of Independent Power Producers is discussed in the Senate. "We fought for people's rights before, will fight this battle too and those spreading despair about the country's future on social media should know that the country's future is bright.

Former Federal Minister for Commerce and Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Chairman FPCCI's Economic Policy Business Development Think Tank said that the government's negligence towards IPPs is being borne by the people. An audit of IPPs should be conducted. The whole of Pakistan is saying in one voice that we are country to face a crisis but the policies should



be made to move Pakistan forward. There is electricity, but the problem is the cost of electricity. How can we compete with the world with expensive electricity, he questioned.

Chairman UBG SM Tanveer said that they will approach the Supreme Court and SIFC to affected by IPPs and we need to find a solution explain the real issue as well as the satisfactory to end the IPPs agreements. We never want our solution to pull the country out of the existing

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Anwar ul Haq Kakar's business friendly policies will definitely bear fruit and will enhance the prestige of the fraternity.

Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is full of investment and business opportunities but the only needed thing 25% of industries have already closed down. is to wisely formulate the economic policies in The country cannot run with such IPP agreeconsultation with the real stakeholders. He said ments.

that IPPs and the existing crisis are linked with the future of Pakistan, adding that the country is in an emergency situation and the leadership will have to take aggressive decisions to come out of the existing economic crunch.

Vice President FPCCI and Chairman Regional office Lahore Zaki Ejaz expressed gratitude to the participants by saying that we, unitedly, will take the country forward to make it a prosperous one.

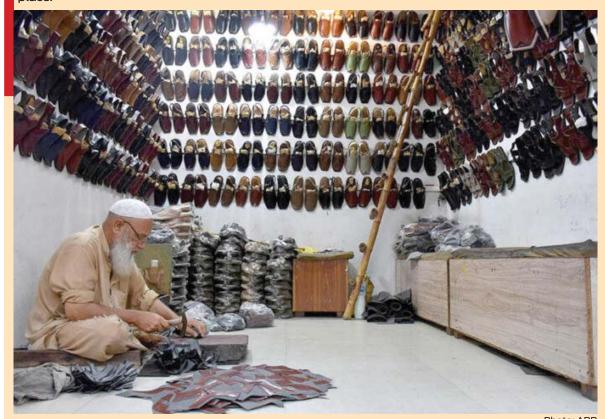
Shaikh Khalid Tawab former SVP, FPCCI and senior leader UBG Riaz ud Din Shaikh also highlighted the business community's difficulties vis-à-vis ease of doing business and impressed upon the government to resolve the grievances on urgent basis for the economic betterment of the country.

Earlier during the conference the business community demonstrated its unity against the agreements with Independent Power Producers and called for dialogue and policy changes to address the 'unbearable' electricity costs.

Due to wrong agreements, capacity charges have to be paid, and electricity prices are currently Pakistan's biggest problem. Annual capacity charges of Rs. 2,000 billion are being taken from the pockets of 24 crore people, and

Hard Work

LAHORE: A cobbler preparing traditional shoes (Peshawari Chappal) to the customers at his work-



SECP registers 27,542 new companies in FY 2023-24

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,542 new companies during FY 2023-24, raising the total number of registered companies to 222,697.

58% were registered as private limited companies, while 39 % were registered as single member companies. The remaining 3% registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, guarantee limited companies, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and foreign companies. Around 99.8% of

companies were registered online. Regarding incorporation, the information technology sector took the lead with 4129 companies, trading with 3666, services with 3302 real estate development & construction with 2992, tourism with 1346, education with 1177, food & beverages with 1103, ecommerce with 942, corporate agricultural farming with 780, marketing & advertisement with 620, textile with 589, mining & quarrying with 574, power generation with 560, engineering with 547, transport with 523, pharmaceutical with ceramics with 20, vanaspati & allied with in Pakistan during the financial year.

497, chemical with 457, healthcare with 434, fuel & energy with 376, cosmetics & toiletries with 352, logging with 268, communications with 257, auto & allied with 242, broadcasting & telecasting with 215, paper & board with 203, cables & electric goods with 169, steel & allied with 133, sports allied with 121, arts & culture with 111, wood & wood products with 97, leather & tanneries with 68, Parlor & other related services with 64, foot ware with 51, tobacco with 39, sugar & allied with 34, glass &

19, finance & banking with 17, carpets & rugs, cement, and insurance with 11 each, and 415 companies were registered in other

Foreign investment has been reported in 688 new companies by investors from China, Afghanistan, US, UK, Germany, UAE, Australia, Turkey, Nigeria, Norway, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Denmark, South Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain etc. The major chunk of investment was received from China with 393 companies, followed by US with 34, Afghanistan with 32, UK with 27, Germany with 20, UAE with 13, Australia, and Turkey with 10 each, Nigeria with 9, Norway with 8, Canada and Saudi Arabia with 7 each. Furthermore, Egypt, Malaysia, and Singapore with 6 each, Denmark, South Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain with 5 each. 75 companies received investment from other countries.

Moreover, 31 foreign companies from China, UAE, Turkey, Australia, Canada, Bahrain, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea South, Norway, Saudi Arabia and US have established places of business

CAT upholds CCP's penalty on trademark dispute

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has dismissed the appeal filed by M/s Baba Plastic against the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) order concerning fraudulent use of M/s ShajarPak (Pvt) Limited's registered trademark.

ShajarPak, a fabric manufacturer, filed a complaint with the CCP alleging that eight companies, including M/s Baba Plastic, were fraudulently using its trademark 'Pasha Fabrics' on their products' packaging and

the CCP confirmed that appeal for non-prosecution.

ShajarPak had not authorized any company to use its trademark. By copying the trademark and trade dress, these companies were deceiving consumers, which was capable of harming ShajarPak's business interests, in violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. Consequently, the CCP issued a Show Cause Notice and, after having heard the parties, imposed a penalty of PKR 750,000 on Baba Plastic.

Baba Plastic appealed the CCP's decision before the CAT. However, due to their repeated failure to appear at scheduled hearings, the Following an inquiry, Tribunal dismissed the

Minister announces launch of electric rickshaws in Mingora, across Swat

News Desk

SWAT: Provincial Minister for Live Stock, Fisheries, and Cooperative, Fazal Hakim Khan Yusufzai, has announced the launch of electric rickshaws in Mingora city and across Swat, prioritizing the elimination of environmental pollution.

During a conversation with media and members of the Dispute ResolutionCommity (DRC), the Minister expressed his thoughts, saying that environmental pollution has made people's lives miserable, and various diseases are spreading due to pollution.

Therefore, a comprehensive plan has been devised, and electric rickshaws and cars are being provided in Mingora city and across Swat. This initiative will not only increase the income of poor drivers but also reduce Naeem Khan, Qasim Khan, dependence on petrol, and Niaz Bacha.



resulting in a decrease in environmental pollution.

The Minister added that, in line with the vision of Imran Khan and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, all resources are being utilized to address the problems faced by the people of the province. He expressed his commitment to making the province a model province, for which a strong economic team is working tirelessly.

Present at the occasion were former chairman of Swat Press Club, Rashid Iqbal, Fiaz Zafar, president of Malakand Division Journalists, Shehzad Alam, chairman of DRC Mingora,

Throw and Grow: PTC and CDA join forces to enhance Margalla hills' greenery

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) Limited and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) have launched a collaborative initiative, 'Throw and Grow', to promote the greenery of Islamabad's iconic Margalla hills.

This campaign aims to engage hikers and visitors in contributing to the region's ecological growth. At the



entrance points of Trail 3 and Trail 5, native species like Sukhchain, Pine staff will guide participants on how stalls offering seedballs made from and others, have been set up where to disperse the seedballs as they hike,

taking advantage of the favorable Monsoon season for rapid germination.

PTC has a proven track record of community-focused activities. It operates six nurseries across Pakistan, with two in Islamabad. It

has planted and distributed over 150 million saplings since 1981 through its afforestation program. This year, PTC aims to donate and plant over 2.5 million saplings across Pakistan to support afforestation efforts.



Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) continues to encourage people from all sections of the society to join the Throw and Grow' movement and contribute to the Margalla hills' beauty and biodiversity.

Olympics | China's Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao earn 1st Paris Olympics gold in 10m air rifle mixed team

👺 Xinhua

CHATEAUROUX,: World champion shooters Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao set off China's Paris Olympics campaign to a golden start, winning the Games first gold medal with victory in the 10m air rifle mixed team event here on Saturday.

The Chinese teenage duo defeated Keum Ji-hyeon and Park Ha-jun of South Korea 16-12 in the gold medal match at the Chateauroux Shooting Center, Earlier on Saturday, Kazakhstan's Alexandra Le and Islam Satpayev

milian Ulbrich 17-5 to claim the bronze a 10.8. medal.

The gold medal match was intense

with China taking a 6-2 lead, but South Korea gawped closely behind. Chinese sharpshooters were once one-step away from the title at 14-8, but the South Koreans refused to give up, closing the gap to 14-12, thanks to a double 10.7

Seeing the chance to equalize, Keum shot 10.5 and Park 10.6, putting pressure on the Chinese team. Sheng responded with a 10.7, leaving the final shot to beat Germany's Anna Janssen and Maxi- Huang, who secured the victory with at the 2023 World Championships

The victory echoed China's triumph in the event's Olympic debut three years ago in Tokyo, where Yang Qian and Yang Haoran were crowned. After the win, the Chinese teenagers allowed themselves a moment of celebration, with Sheng raising his fist in response to their excited coach Yao Ye.

Despite their young age, 17-year-old Huang and 19-year-old Sheng entered the Paris Olympics as hot favorites, having been nearly unbeatable as a pair since 2023. They claimed gold

in Baku, Azerbaijan, and at the Asian Games in Hangzhou. They also set a new world junior qualification record with 635.1 points on their way to their fourth consecutive World Cup victory in Munich, Germany, in June before coming to Paris.

"The Olympic Games is a rare opportunity in life and also a chance. I must move forward bravely and seize this opportunity, staying persistent, determined, and not giving up during the process, leaving no regrets for myself," Huang said after securing her berth for



Sheng, meanwhile, is participating demonstrated remarkable stability, averin his second Olympic Games, having become the youngest Olympic medalist with a silver in men's 10m air rifle in Tokyo at the age of 16 years and 233

In the qualification round, Huang record.

aging more than 10.5 points per shot. Sheng managed to overcome early fluctuations after a time-out, and the pair finished first with 632.2 points, just one point shy of the Olympic qualification

Olympic Games return to Paris with spectacular waterborne opening ceremony

PARIS:— After a century-long wait, Paris welcomes back the Olympic Games with a splashy and "Seine-sational" opening ceremony, making itself a truly moveable feast.

French President Emmanuel Macron declared the Games open before the waterborne ceremony reached its climax when Teddy Riner and Marie-Jose Perec lit the cauldron with the Olympic flame.

The iconic River Seine glistened with cheers and shouts around 7:30pm when the audacious Paris Olympics opening ceremony, featuring global sports stars parading on a flotilla, was finally brought on stream.

The French capital, dubbed by Ernest Hemingway as "a moveable feast," was in full flow, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the city's previous Olympic Games and the last edition under the presidency of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics.



"One hundred years on, the Games are back in our country. And for us, it's a historic opportunity to reinterpret the great hallmarks of the Games to show the world the best of France: its boldness, creativity, avant-garde spirit, and

openness," said Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet.

For the first time in Olympic history, the opening ceremony took place outside the host city's main athletics stadium. From the Austerlitz Bridge to

the Trocadero, around 6,800 athletes, assembled behind their flagbearers, cruised down a 6km stretch of the Seine on 85 boats.

Despite rainy conditions, the parade allowed athletes to bask in the beauty of Paris' most famed monuments, including the Louvre, Place de la Concorde, the Grand Palais and the Eiffel Tower, with some hosting the opening ceremony's musical perfor-

Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the Seine's banks to catch a glimpse of the athletes and revel in the festive atmosphere, while many more in Paris immersed themselves in the gala on 71 giant screens, embodying the slogan "Games wide open."

A number of Parisian landmarks have been transformed into venues for an unprecedented fusion of sports and heritage, welcoming people from all over the world to an open-air sports arena during the fortnight of competition.

Batters falter as Bangladesh A dominate Pakistan Shaheens

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Khurram Shahzad and Faisal Akram's late strikes helped Pakistan Shaheens finish the day on a strong note as Bangladesh 'A' stood tall with a 163-run lead at the stumps on day two of the second four-day match at the DXC Arena in Darwin.

Khurram also struck with the new ball as he removed Parvez Hossain Emon (7, 9b, 1×4) in the third over after Bangladesh 'A' looked to build on their 79-run first-innings lead late on

Mahmudul Hasan Joy (39 not out, 78b, 7x4s) and Amite Hasan (25, 61b, 4x4s) put on a 57-run second-wicket partnership before left-arm wrist spinner Faisal pinned Amite leg-before in the 24th over.

An over later Hasan Murad was sent packing for a seven-ball duck by Khurram. Aich Mollah (8 not out, 7b, 2x4s) and Mahmudul will be on the of 39-2 before getting bowled out for seven off 38 balls in the 18th over.



crease for Bangladesh 'A' when they 179 in 67.2 overs with a 79-run deficit.

resume batting on day three. Earlier, Pakistan Shaheens could only

Omair Bin Yousuf was the first causality of the day two when Rejaur three batters while Hasan Murad add 140 runs to their overnight total Rehman Raja removed him for just

For the next 13 overs, nightwatchman Mohammad Ali and Umar Amin added 30 runs before they both were dismissed in back to back overs with Shaheens in a spot of bother at 69-5.

At this point, Tayyab Tahir (30, 73b, 3x4s) and Kamran Ghulam joined forces to stitch a healthy 78-run sixth-wicket partnership off 137 balls. Kamran top scored with 48 off 75 balls, hitting eight fours and one six.

With Pakistan Shaheens 147-5 in 53.5 overs, Bangladesh A shot their way back in the game by dismissing Kamran, Muhammad Irfan Khan (9, 9b, 2x4s) and Tayyab, all within five overs. Khurram's slight resistance which included 16 off 35 balls came to an end in the 68th over as Shaheens were bowled out for 179.

Ripon Mondol returned figures of 4-71 in 24.2 overs. Rejaur dismissed (2-32) and Maruf Mridha (1-31) were also among wickets.

Pakistan shooters Joseph, Kishmala fail to qualify for 10m air pistol final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan had an unwanted start to their Paris Olympics 2024 campaign as their shooters Gulfam Joseph and Kishmala Talat failed to qualify for the 10m air pistol

Joseph, one of seven Pakistan athletes competing in the games, had to finish in the top eight to make it into the next round.

But he was left far behind the other competing shooters and could finish 22nd out of 33 with 571 points out of 600.

Meanwhile, Serbia's Damir Mikec topped the leaderboard of the Paris Olympics' Men's 10m air pistol competition with 584 points while Italy's Federico Nilo Maldini and Christian Reitz were the other shooters in the

Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema also failed to qualify for

the next round.



also suffered the same fate as finishing 31st out of the 44

Pakistan will compete in Notably, Indian shooters she failed to qualify for the 10m shooting, athletics and swimwomen's air pistol final after ming in the Paris Olympics. Out of the seven athletes four of shooters. She scored a total of them earned direct qualification Meanwhile, Kishmala Talat 567 points out of across six series. while sprinter Faiqa Riaz and

swimmers Jehanara Nabi and Mohammad Ahmed Durrani will feature in the biggest sporting event on the basis of the universality places.

Meanwhile, star javelin

thrower Arshad Nadeem and swimmer Jehanara Nabi have been chosen as Pakistan's contingent flag-bearers for the prestigious event.

Among the 11 officials, six are the officials of the contingent, including the chef de mission, deputy chef de mission and an admin officer.

Pakistan contingent for Paris Olympics:

Athletics: Arshad Nadeem, Faiqa Riaz, Salman Iqbal Butt (support staff), Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa (support staff).

Swimming: Mohammad Ahmed Durrani, Jehanara Nabi, Lt Col (retired) Ahmed Ali Khan (support staff).

Shooting: Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, Gulfam Joseph, Kishmala Talat), Col Junaid Ali (support staff), Gennady Solodovnikov (support staff)

Contingent Mohammad Shafiq (chef de mission), Javaid Shamshad Lodhi (deputy chef de mission); Zainab Shaukat (admin officer).

$Sports for Life and Sindh \ Olympic Association$ commemorated the forthcoming Olympic Games 2024



Sports Desk

KARACHI: A delegation representing Sports for Life and the Sindh Olympic Association visited the French Consulate in Karachi to discuss and celebrate the upcoming OLYMPICS GAMES 2024 in Paris. The delegation, headed by Shahzad Qazi, CEO of Sports for Life, and Muhammad Khalid Rehmani, Deputy General Secretary of the Sindh Olympic Association, Rehma Abdul Basit (Coordinator, Sports for Life) and Hafsa Illyas (HR Head, Sports for Life) was graciously received by Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky. Consul General Chahtahtinsky expressed appreciation for the efforts of Sports for Life and the Sindh Olympic Association in promoting

The Consul General was presented with a painting of the Paris Olympic Arena painted by renowned artist Masood Akhtar. The Consul General appreciated the painting and welcomed the gesture of the delegation. He expressed hope that Pakistan would win a medal in the Olympics and extended his best wishes to the team.

Shahzad Qazi also requested the Consul General to support young talent in sports and environmental issues. The Consul General thanked the delegation which also included Rehma Abdul Basit and Hafsa Illyas and confirmed his support for the betterment of society. Ms Reema Sukhiani, Press Attache, French Consulate Karachi was also present on the occasion.

ECB CEO backs Pakistan as Champions Trophy 2025 host



A Sports

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) CEO Richard Gould backed Pakistan as the host of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled in February-March.

Gould, in an interview with the BBC Test Match Special, expressed his interest in facilitating to host a long-awaited Test between arch-rivals Pakistan and India.

Notably, Pakistan and India have not played a Test since 2007/08 and a bilateral series in any format since 2012/13 due to the long-standing political tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

The fierce rivals, however, only came face to face in multi-national events like Asia Cup and ICC World Cups.

Earlier this year, a number of renowned stadiums in England, including Lord's, The Oval and Edgbaston said that they would be "open to exploring" the potency of hosting the bilateral Test series between arch-rivals Pakistan and India.

"Everybody would love that. I wouldn't say it's Chosting and India v Pakistan Test] impossible. The politics between the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board are long known, as are the politics between governments. And I find that fascinating," Gould said.

We were in Sri Lanka over the weekend for ICC meetings, and you see Pakistan cricket supporters and India cricket supporters getting on so well, but as soon as the political element is put in, it creates issues," he added.

Richard Gould further confirmed that the ECB is committed to the Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan despite the uncertainty surrounding India's participation in the eight-team tour-

There's a great deal of determination to make sure it [Champions Trophy is [hosted in Pakistan next year]," said Gould. "Particularly from the PCB and the ECB," Gould concluded.

The Spokesman

Israeli Aggression

An injured woman is rushed to the al-Aqsa hospital, after a school where she had taken refuge was hit by an Israeli strike, in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on July 27, 2024, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas



170 killed in days-long Israeli operation, says Gaza civil defense

GAZA: Gaza's civil defense agency said Saturday that Israel's military operation around Khan Yunis has killed about 170 people and wounded hundreds since it started on Monday.

the Khan Yunis area, we are

wounded," agency spokesman living. Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

He said many people had been displaced again on Saturday as the Israeli operation continued.

"Anyone who sees the situ-

"Since the beginning of the ation in Khan Yunis will Israeli military operation in witness thousands of people spread out on the ground, on more than 180,000 Palestalking of approximately 170 the roads, in areas that unfortinians have fled Khan Yunis martyrs and hundreds of tunately are not suitable for since the Israeli operation fighting earlier this year.

"With no other options available, they are exposing themselves to death." Earlier on Saturday the

military issued new evacua-The questions is where will tion orders for residents of the these residents go?" Basal said. southern city, after retrieving the bodies of five Israelis and warning of new operations.

The United Nations said

began on Monday.

The evacuation orders and "intensified hostilities" have "significantly destabilized aid operations," it added, reporting "dire water, hygiene and sanitation conditions" across the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli military said it launched the operation to halt rocket fire from the area, which already saw heavy

On Wednesday, it said troops had retrieved the bodies of five Israelis from the area.

They had been killed during the Hamas attacks of October 7 and their bodies taken back to Gaza, the military said.

On Saturday, it ordered residents from more parts of Khan Yunis "to temporarily evacuate to the adjusted humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi" — the second such adjustment made to the safe zone within a week.

Hafiz Naeem demands cut in power bills, curb on IPPs



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: We don't have any personal agenda and want a bright future of the country, for which the IPPs should be rein in, Jamaat Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeem said on Satur-

JI chief speaking with media said," those subjecting Pakistan with oppression won't be allowed more and will get the rights of 250 million countrymen back". "The sit-in will not be ended without achieving its objective", he further said.

He said, the people have pinned hopes on us, "We will not disappoint them", JI Ameer said.

"We will carry the sit-in to entire country if electricity bills would not

reduce," Hafiz Naeem said.

He announced to hold a historic gathering at Murree Road tomorrow and a public meeting of women on Monday.

Criticizing Punjab's government Hafiz Naeem said that hundreds of the party's workers have been arrested in the province. "Massive arrests made and FIRs registered in Lahore," he said.

He blasted the Punjab government and claimed that in Okara, Multan and other cities of the province elderly persons have also been arrested.

"I warned the government to release our workers immediately. We have option and could direct the sit-in to any side," he added.

He said the government has contacted for talks but fascism and talks could not go side by side.

Govt mulls ending free electricity for judges, parliamentarians

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Planning Commission has started working on reducing expenditures, including considering the elimination of free electricity provisions for judges, parliamentarians, and other institutions, amid the opposition's campaign against the power projects signed with independent power producers

Sources within the Energy Division told that the government has decided to work on an emergency plan to deal with the IPPs. The initiative imate concessions and facilities, as has already been extended to other the government aims to prioritise ministries as well, where efforts are cost-cutting measures across various underway to cut down on expendi-sectors to address the country's tures, they added.

The plan includes terminating the free electricity facility for all institutions, including judges and parliamentarians, they added.
In the second phase, the free fuel

facility may also be discontinued. The performance of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority would be reviewed while the proposal to reduce maximum demand indicator charges for factories was also considered.

Only the industry and business sectors would be provided with legitenergy crisis, sources added.

Government offers olive branch to PTI

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik has invited the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to talks to sort out the issues as Imran Khan's party prepares for anti-government protests.

"We are saying, let's sit down, talk, and discuss. Don't complicate things. We were asking for talks before, and we are asking for it today as well," he said at a press conference in Islamabad on Saturday.

Malik went on to reiterate the government's offer, however, he also mentioned that the PTI was stuck to its position to hold a sit-in.

This offer for dialogue comes amidst the ongoing political tensions in the country. The PTI has been staging protests and demanding early elections, while the government has resisted these calls. On Friday, the

PTI called off its protests planned for Friday. "We approached the deputy commissioner of Islamabad on July 23 regarding our protest in Islamabad, but there was no



decision taken. On July 24, we appealed to the [Islamabad] high court following which the honourable judge suggested [the local administration allow our protest on Monday," PTI Islamabad President Amir Masood Mughal said.

The PTI had sought permission for its protest from the Islamabad High Court, which urged the capital administration to allow it on July 29.

The petroleum minister added that the prime minister has three main goals - to eliminate poverty in this country, to immediately end inflation, and to provide employ-

My Vision is to Transform Punjab into Digital Technology Hub: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: "We are committed to provide favorable environment for technological innovation and investment in Pinjab," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Pakistan Yu Shaoning to discuss strategic cooperation for Punjab's digital growth. She added,"we are determined to use modern technologies for governance, public services, and economic develop-

ment of people." Madam Chief Minister

reviewed various suggestions and recommendations for leveraging Huawei's technical expertise in the field of digitisation. She discussed cooperation in possible sectors including Smart City, and explored various options for investment in the digital

Deputy Chief Huawei expressed his commitment to support Punjab's technical initi-

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Additional Secretary Sara Havat and other relevant officers were also

JIT formed to probe 'antistate' social media campaign

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Saturday constituted a five-member joint investigation team (JIT) to investigate an organized anti-state social media campaign deemed "malicious" and "detrimental" to country's national interests

The JIT, formed under Section 30 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, will identify and prosecute individuals responsible for creating chaos and disorder in Pakistan through online propaganda.

The JIT comprises Islamabad police chief as its convener, two senior Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials, director of cybercrime (FIA), director of the counter-terrorism wing (FIA), deputy inspector general

(Investigation), and senior superintendent of police (Counter Terrorism Department).

The development comes days after the establishment of special courts by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government to conduct trials of cases under the Peca

The move underscores the government's commitment to combating online threats to national security and stability.

Recently, the federal government has designated special courts in Islamabad under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca). 2016, to try "digital terrorists" and those allegedly involved in spreading "anti-state propaganda" through digital content in the virtual world, it emerged on Tuesday.

Aleem Khan for ensuring privatization of listed entities within given time frame

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Saturday directed the Privatization Commission Board to ensure the completion of the process for the institutions entrusted to them for privatization as soon as possible and ensure a transparent manner in this regard.

zation Commission Board said a press release. which discussed Issues of DISCOs and other insti-ening of the country's cally reduce the burden on



The minister presided over tutions including Pakistan economy depends upon the the meeting of the Privati- International Airlines (PIA),

related to the privatization restoration and strength-

privatization of those countries being run in deficit. The minister said that the He said that the process of privatization will practi-

the national exchequer and there is a strong possibility of making the enterprises that are being transferred to the private sector to make them He indicated that privati-

zation of PIA is very important as it would express the seriousness of the private sector regarding privatization and it will make it easier for other institutions to be privatized. He expressed satisfaction with the overall performance and observed that all the targets should be achieved on time while recommendations will be sent to the Cabinet

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Awami Pakistan Party announces protest against K-Electric increasing expenditures.

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: Newly-formed Awami Pakistan Party has announced a protest outside K-Electric's (KE) office in the metropolis tomorrow against inflated power bills and prolonged loadshed-

Addressing a press conference, Miftah Ismail – former PML-N leader – announced the development and said his party would present their demands to the government and K-Electric representatives.

The demands include abolition of income and sales tax for domestic consumers for four months, an end to overbilling and meter read-Committee for final approval. | ings on the 31st day and reso-



lution of loadshedding and

overbilling issues. Miftah Ismail alleged that overbilling is occurring across Pakistan and urged National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) to investigate it.

He also called for the removal of 18 per cent sales cising the government for Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman.

tax on furnace oil and liquified National Gas (LNG), which according to him would reduce consumer bills by 30pc.

Awami Pakistan Party leader also demanded relief for consumers by abolishing income and sales tax, criti-

On the other hand, the Jamaat-e-Islami's sit-in against rising inflation and increased electricity bills continues for a second consecutive day at Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi.

He also suggested reducing

MNAs' development budgets

to provide relief in electricity.

the need for a change in the

system, prioritising public

interest.

Miftah Ismail emphasised

Participants have vowed to continue the sit-in until are prepared to hold the

their demands are met. "We sit-in for a month and will establish a settlement at Liaquat Bagh if necessary," said Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami