



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

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. The minister presided over the meeting of the Privatization Commission Board .... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sit-protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are sleeping early morning at Murree Road on second day of sit-protest (Dharna) against the country's rising inflation, at Murree Road, in the city.



Photo: Online

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 be held on July 30.

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

The president summoned the session in exercise of the powers conferred on him



under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution.

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

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 remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against Security Forces as well as abduction & target killing of innocent civilians.



Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji terrorist found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

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.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the

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

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

He said that Pakistan, in its statement at the International Court of Justice, had also effectively raised its voice for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and against Israeli oppression.

Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his call for the implementation of the recent decisions of the ICJ and the resolu-

tions adopted by the United Nations.

He said that Pakistan had dispatched around 1200 tons of relief goods to Palestine through Pakistan Air Force planes and another 1500 tons through three ships.

The prime minister said that he had issued special instructions for the enrollment of

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

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 Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Saudi envoy calls on Deputy PM Ishaq Dar



City Desk

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

In the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues

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

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral ties between the two countries.

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

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Jamaat-e-Islami rejected on Saturday negotiations with the government and presented its 10 demands to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi about their demands. He reiterated the negotiation process would not start until the release of workers.

The government has not yet fulfilled its promises and released the people, he added. JI Rawalpindi Murree Road sit-in enters its second day

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

Islamabad too remained

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 Red Zone on Sunday, and several workers were taken into custody.



Protests driven by political gains, not people's welfare: Khawaja Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif Saturday said that ongoing sit-ins and protests were driven by personal interests rather than national welfare.

Talking to a private news channel, he said a party claimed to be on hunger strike but was not genuinely dedicated, often returning home after a few hours.

The defense minister also criticized the nature of the protests, describing them as symbolic and 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

external interests. 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

government of PTI for economic mismanagement, suggesting that recovery from this period would take time.

Regarding the political climate, he said that he does not foresee an immediate path to new elections.

government of PTI for economic mismanagement, suggesting that recovery from this period would take time.

Regarding the political climate, he said that he does not foresee an immediate path to new elections.

# 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 Pakistan)rally in the Neelum valley, large number of people's came out, 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 echoed.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan participated with a large convoy along with Major Retd Nasrullah Khan. The Neelum Valley was decorated with Pakistani flags like a bride. Central Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed led from Khawra.

A large convoy participated along with Raja Saqib Majeed, District Council members Yasir Geelani, Mohsen Majeed Raja, Gaddafi Altaf Raja Bashir Khan, Raja Liaquat

Ayesha Munsif, Faza Sajid Raja Vidgar 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, President President Sheikh Maqsood, 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 Jahandad, Sajjad Qureshi, Ghiyasuddin Khokhar, MSF, youth wing officials and a large number of political workers in the form of a convoy from Muzaffarabad.

Khan left under the leadership. Hundreds of vehicles, motorcycles and high-speed vehicles were included in the convoy, where Muslims at Chilpani. Muzaffarabad District President Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Lachhrat Constituency President Rafiq Abbasi

welcomed the convoy along with 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, Shakkot.

The rally took the form of a public meeting where President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and other central leaders



addressed the rally. The success of this rally goes to

Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan who Continued vigorous public relations campaign and to the people of Neelum.

## Roads opened

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

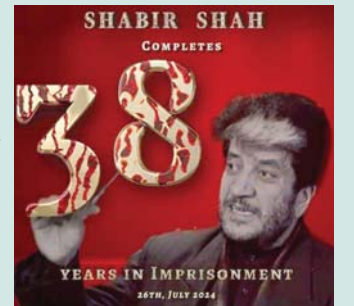


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

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

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

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.



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



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

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 Manshehra 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.

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

**Rafullah 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, positive environmental samples have also increased five times this year, but Pakistan is fully committed to win the battle against polio.

He was speaking at a high-level polio eradication meeting at the Commissioner Zhub 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 Dr. Nayyar Luni, Communication Officer ComNet Samad Hariyphal, N-Stop Officers Dr. Amin, Dr. Jan Inayatullah, and journalist Rafullah Mandokhail attended the meeting. The National EOC Coordinator was briefed about the recent polio case in the Sohrab Got area of Zhub.

The NAOC chief said that

improving the quality of campaigns 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 out this year.

"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.

Replying to a query, Captain (R) Muhammad Anwar ul Haq said that Balochistan is the most

important province of Pakistan but 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 polio to save them from lifelong disability and burden," he urged the parents.

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

**Kamran Khamiso Khawaja**

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 Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are committed



to resolving this issue, and they have issued special directives to work on the solar energy project."

Recalling the contributions of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to deal with the electricity crisis, he said, "The former PM launched a 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

victimization was started by the PTI Government; we still remember the way Asif Ali Zardari, Fariyal Talpur, and other leaders of PTI and PML-N 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, Shafiqat Shah Shirazi, among others.









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

**Xinhua**  
CHATEAUXROUX, 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 Chateauxroux Shooting Center. Earlier on Saturday, Kazakhstan's Alexandra Le and Islam Satpayev beat Germany's Anna Janssen and Maxi-

milian Ulbrich 17-5 to claim the bronze 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 points.  
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 Huang, who secured the victory with

a 10.8.  
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 at the 2023 World Championships

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 Paris 2024.



Sheng, meanwhile, is participating in 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 days.  
In the qualification round, Huang demonstrated remarkable stability, averaging 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 record.

# Olympic Games return to Paris with spectacular waterborne opening ceremony

**Xinhua**  
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 performances.  
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, 1x4) in the third over after Bangladesh 'A' looked to build on their 79-run first-innings lead late on day two.  
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



crease for Bangladesh 'A' when they resume batting on day three.  
Earlier, Pakistan Shaheens could only add 140 runs to their overnight total of 39-2 before getting bowled out for 179 in 67.2 overs with a 79-run deficit.  
Omar Bin Yousuf was the first casualty of the day two when Rejaur Rehman Raja removed him for just seven off 38 balls in the 18th over.

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 three batters while Hasan Murad (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 finals.  
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 top three.  
Notably, Indian shooters Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema also failed to qualify for the next round.  
Meanwhile, Kishmala Talat



also suffered the same fate as she failed to qualify for the 10m women's air pistol final after finishing 31st out of the 44 shooters. She scored a total of 567 points out of across six series.  
Pakistan will compete in shooting, athletics and swimming in the Paris Olympics. Out of the seven athletes four of them earned direct qualification 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 officials: 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, Rehman Abdul Basit (Coordinator, Sports for Life) and Hafsa Ilyas (HR Head, Sports for Life) was graciously received by Consul General Alexis Chahatahtinsky. Consul General Chahatahtinsky expressed appreciation for the efforts of Sports for Life and the Sindh Olympic Association in promoting sports in Sindh.  
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 Rehman Abdul Basit and Hafsa Ilyas 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 [hosting 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 tournament.  
"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.

## 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

Agencies

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.

"Since the beginning of the Israeli military operation in the Khan Yunis area, we are talking of approximately 170 martyrs and hundreds of

wounded," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

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

"The questions is where will these residents go?" Basal said.

"Anyone who sees the situation in Khan Yunis will witness thousands of people spread out on the ground, on the roads, in areas that unfortunately are not suitable for

living. "With no other options available, they are exposing themselves to death."

Earlier on Saturday the military issued new evacuation orders for residents of the southern city, after retrieving the bodies of five Israelis and warning of new operations.

The United Nations said more than 180,000 Palestinians have fled Khan Yunis since the Israeli operation

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 fighting earlier this year.

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.

## 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 employment.

## 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 Punjab," 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 development 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 economy.

Huawei Deputy Chief expressed his commitment to support Punjab's technical initiatives.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Additional Secretary Sara Hayat and other relevant officers were also present.

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

City Desk

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.

The minister presided over the meeting of the Privatization Commission Board which discussed issues related to the privatization of DISCOs and other insti-



tutions including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), said a press release. The minister said that the restoration and strengthening of the country's

economy depends upon the privatization of those countries being run in deficit. He said that the process of privatization will practically reduce the burden on

the national exchequer and there is a strong possibility of making the enterprises that are being transferred to the private sector to make them profitable.

He indicated that privatization 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 final recommendations will be sent to the Cabinet Committee for final approval.

## Awami Pakistan Party announces protest against K-Electric

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 loadshedding.

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 readings on the 31st day and resolu-



tion 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

tax on furnace oil and liquefied 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, criticising the government for

increasing expenditures. He also suggested reducing MNAs' development budgets to provide relief in electricity.

Miftah Ismail emphasised the need for a change in the system, prioritising public interest.

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

Participants have vowed to continue the sit-in until their demands are met. "We are prepared to hold the sit-in for a month and will establish a settlement at Liaquat Bagh if necessary," said Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman.

## Hafiz Naeem demands cut in power bills, curb on IPPs



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 Saturday.

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 (IPPs).

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

## JIT formed to probe 'anti-state' social media campaign

City Desk

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 Act.

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.