

Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



President summons Senate session on Monday

President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned a session of the Senate, at the Parliament House, on Monday. The president summoned a session of the upper house of parliament on August 5, at 5:00 p.m., under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing, on Saturday, said in a press release



Ahsan Iqbal stresses boosting exports to overcome economic challenges

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal has emphasised that increasing exports is the only way out for Pakistan to achieve economic growth. Addressing the 28th Textile Asia International Trade Fair 2024, organised by Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) at Expo Centre Lahore on Saturday, he said Pakistan had vast resources ... (Details on Page 8)

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Meting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Youm-e-Istehsal on Saturday.



Photo: Online

PM chairs meeting to finalize Youm-e-Istehsal Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday chaired a meeting on the occasion regarding the Youm-e-Istehsal Day to be observed as a special day against India's illegal action to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 and to support Kashmiris right to freedom.

On this day, the Jammu and

Kashmir dispute, basic rights violations of Kashmiris and the broken promises of India would be highlighted.

A main event to be attended by the Pakistani and Kashmiri leadership was also approved. The prime minister is expected to visit Muzaffarabad to express solidarity with the Kashmiris on August 5.

He would strongly condemn the unilateral and illegal steps

Continued on Page 8

Mohsin Naqvi meets Commander of Iraq's Rapid Response Unit, Lieutenant General Dr. Tahmeir



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with a high-level Iraqi delegation led by Commander of Iraq's Rapid Response Unit Lieutenant General Dr. Tahmeir Ismail here on Saturday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, including not taking passports from Pakistani pilgrims in Iraq and providing more facilities to them were discussed in detail. Moreover, training of Iraqi police in Pakistan, cooperation in the Safe City project, enhancement of mutual cooperation to prevent illegal immigration and human smuggling were also discussed.

The Iraqi delegation invited Minister of Interior Mohsin Naqvi to visit Iraq.

The Interior Minister emphasized that the proposal of not taking passports from pilgrims traveling to Iraq requires immediate action added that hopefully, the Iraqi

Government will soon make a final decision in this regard.

The Commander of the Iraqi Rapid Response Unit said that they will discuss the issue of not taking passports from Pakistani pilgrims with the DG Passport, and hoped that the issue will be resolved.

He added that the brothers and sisters coming from Pakistan are our respectable guests.

He highlighted that Pakistan has decided to provide visa-free facility to Iraqi citizens, which will be implemented soon.

He added that all possible cooperation for the training of Iraqi police and in the Safe City project will be provided.

The Iraqi delegation included Brigadier General Commander of Protection Regiment Aqeel Kazim, Brigadier General Abdul Hussain, Muhammad Suhail, and others.

Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha and MD NRTC Brigadier Muhammad Asim were also present on the occasion.

Iranian Acting FM calls DPM Dar, shares anguish over Haniyeh's assassination

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Bagehri Kani on Saturday called Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and shared the Iranian nation and its leadership's deep anguish on the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran on the occasion of the inauguration of the President of Iran.

"The Deputy Prime Minister conveyed that the people of



Pakistan shared these senti-

ments. He shared that the

Prime Minister of Pakistan had condemned the develop-

ments in Gaza and the atrocious assassination of Ismail Haniyeh Shaheed in the strongest possible terms," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Moreover, the National Assembly of Pakistan had unanimously condemned the heinous act which was against international law, established diplomatic norms and acceptable behavior amongst the comity of nations, the DPM Dar added.

During a telephone call, the Iranian acting foreign minister

also requested the deputy prime minister to participate in the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC being convened on this matter at the Foreign Ministers level. The meeting has been requested by Iran and is likely to be held in the near future.

"The Deputy Prime Minister fully supported the call for an Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers and confirmed that Pakistan would actively participate in the important meeting," it was further added.

Reserved seat case: Dissenting note of justices Aminuddin Khan, Naem Afghan surafces

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan issued a dissenting note in the reserved seats, maintaining that providing relief to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is beyond the jurisdiction of Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution as it was not a party in the case.

In a 29-page dissenting note, the two judges maintained, "For creating and carving out relief in these proceedings for PTI, we would have to travel beyond the jurisdiction conferred by Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution and would also have to suspend Articles 51, 106 and 63 of the Constitution and section 104 of the Elections Act, 2017 along with the relevant rules."

Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan disagreed with the majority decision, stating that the Sunni Tehreek Council did not participate in the general elections as a political party and even its Chairman Shaibzada Hamid Raza contested the elections as an independent candidate. "Any order of the Court which is not in consonance with the constitutional provisions is not binding upon any other constitutional organ of the state," the dissenting note read. The two judges maintained that Election Commission of Pakistan had allocated reserved seats to other political parties in accordance with the Constitution and law. Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan in their dissenting note also raised questions over the non-issuance of a detailed verdict despite the lapse of many days.

The two judges also listed 'hurdles' before them which forced us to disagree with the majority decision.

"Not only SIC has not been granted relief claimed by it but all those who have joined it have been taken off and for the rest of the tenure of the National as well as Provincial assemblies SIC has been kicked out from the assemblies. The relief granted to PTI will be self-created and has been carved out relief by the majority, as none has claimed this relief in these proceedings," the dissenting note read.

PTI founder stands by his statement of 'talks with army'

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan said on Saturday that he is ready to hold talks but only within the constitutional limits.

"I will hold talks while staying within the Constitution," the PTI founder said while speaking to reporters inside the Adia jail.

Imran Khan's remarks came days after he expressed his willingness to hold negotiations with the military as he asked the latter to nominate a representative to hold a meeting.

"We are ready to hold talks with the military. The army should nominate their representative for negotiations," Khan had said. Continuing on the prospects of negotiations, the former prime minister reiterated the party's longtime demand for their allegedly stolen mandate to be returned.

Responding to a question Mahmood Khan Achakzai has allegedly refused to talk with the army, Khan said: "Achakzai will only [hold] talk with political parties."

On a question regarding the termination of Sher Afzal Marwat's party membership, the former prime minister initially gave no response.

It is to be noted that PTI on Friday suspended the basic party membership of Sher Afzal Marwat for "gross violation/breach" of discipline, but party chairman Barrister Gohar termed the notification "fake".

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and numerous party workers are facing multiple charges related to the violent riots that erupted on May 9 last year, following Khan's arrest.

The riots resulted in the vandalism of several military installations, including the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Corps Commander's House in Lahore, and other facilities, at the hands of rampaging mobs.

Israeli agency used Iranian agents to kill Ismail Haniyeh, claims British media

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Palestinian carries a picture of late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in Iran, during a march to condemn his killing, at Burj al-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon July 31. Reuters

Israel's Mossad intelligence agency recruited Iranian security agents to plant explosives in a building in Tehran where Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of the Palestinian group Hamas, was staying, The Telegraph reported.

The British newspaper report states that the initial plan was to assassinate Haniyeh when he visited Tehran in May to attend the funeral of former president Ebrahim Raisi.

However, two Iranian officials told the newspaper that the operation was ultimately called off due to the large number of people in the building and a high possibility of failure.

Despite this, the report says the agents still went ahead and planted explosives in three rooms of the compound. They then reportedly left Iran and detonated the bombs remotely from abroad.

The Mossad enlisted Iranian security agents to plant explosives in the Tehran guesthouse where Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh was staying, according to a report in the Telegraph.

The report said that the initial plan called for assassinating Haniyeh when visited Tehran in May to attend the funeral of President Ebrahim Raisi. Still, two Iranian officials told the newspaper that the operation was called off due to the large number of people in the building and seeming high possibility of failure.

The British daily says the agents nevertheless went ahead and planted explosives in three rooms at the compound, and later left Iran. They reportedly detonated the bombs from abroad.

Karachi: JI holds sit-in outside governor house

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Following the protest call by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir Hafiz Naemur Rehman, the party's Karachi leadership on Friday staged protest outside Governor House against the inclusion of taxes on the electricity bills, slab system and IPPs issues.

Addressing the protest participants, the JI Amir of Karachi - Munam Zafar Khan - affirmed that despite the hot weather and rain the protest has initiated, and will be held until the

demands doesn't met.

"Despite the hot weather and rain, the sit-in has started, and we will stay here till our demands are not met," he said.



Zafar stated that the Governor is the representative of the Federal administration, and the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) is in coalition with the federal government."

IRSOA Management Board takes oath at FBR HQs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Oath Taking Ceremony of the Management Board of IRS Officers Association was held on Friday, 2nd Aug, 2024 at FBR (HQs).

Chairman FBR, Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana took oath from the newly elected office bearers of IRSOA's management board comprising Mr. Waseem Hayat Bajwa, President, Mr. Naib Ali Pathan, Senior Vice President, Ms. Nafeesa Satti, Executive Vice President, Mr. Ali Saleh Hayat Kalyar, Secretary General, Ghulam Mustafa Dogar, Joint Secretary, Mr. Sohail Anjum, Press Secretary, Ms. Riffat Aziz, Treasurer and Muhammad Zarar Irshad, Coordinator.

After swearing Oath, Chairman FBR congratulated the newly elected IRSOA Management Board and addressed to the officers present in the auditorium as well as participating through ZOOM Link. He acknowledged the performance of officers in revenue collection and resolved to address the issues and to take up matters at proper forums.

President IRSOA in his speech shared the recommendations to meet the challenges currently being faced by IRS officers.

He highlighted the issue of inad-



equate human resource vis-a-vis the population and number of taxpayers. UK, US, Canada and Japan has tax workforce four times that of FBR, with their population less than half of Pakistan. To meet this deficiency, 3200 vacancies in BS (1 to 15) are to be filled, 1500 to 2000 new inspectors are to be recruited and 100 to 125 new seats are to be created in BS 20 & 21.

He added that FBR has limited outreach across the country with not more than 100 offices as compared

to 525 in Japan and 100 in Tokyo alone. 145 District Tax Offices are to be established across the country with the necessary infrastructure, HR and logistics.

He mentioned that only 0.43% of revenue is being spent on FBR which is the lowest in the world. As per international best practices, the expenditure on tax authority ranges from 1.5% to 2.5% of revenue. Even the Punjab Revenue Authority is getting 2% of revenue targets. Financial autonomy

of FBR with single line budget up to 1.5% of revenue target is the most viable solution of this problem which will provide FBR the fiscal space to improve its working conditions and streamline its operations.

At the end, Member PR, Mr. Bakhtiar Muhammad conveyed best wishes for IRSOA to play positive role in promoting the welfare of IRS officers and pledged support to make best possible efforts for the betterment of service in coordination with IRSOA.

Takht Pari Forest to be revived by DHA Islamabad-Punjab Forest Department



City Desk

A joint plantation drive was carried out by the DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi administration and the Punjab Forest Department to revive Takht Pari Forest, located in DHA Rawalpindi-Islamabad. Over 200,000 saplings were planted and 100,000 seed balls were sprinkled via helicopter. The purpose of reviving Takht Pari Forest was to mitigate the impact of climate change. More than 7000 individuals from all walks of life participated including veterans, students, minorities, local residents ladies and children.

Singer Maheboob Khaskeli's health issues worsen amidst poverty and neglect*

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja



SUJAWAL: Maheboob Khaskeli, a renowned singer from Sindh, is struggling to cope with multiple health issues, including liver and kidney complications, due to poverty and the culture department's sheer ignorance.

Khaskeli's family has a rich legacy in classical music and Ghazal singing. His father, Ustad Muhammad Ali Khaskeli, and Allah Dino Khaskeli, were celebrated singers in Sindh, receiving widespread acclaim for their melodious voices. Maheboob followed in their footsteps, establishing himself as a distinct singer in the 1990s.

The bedridden singer revealed to our correspondent that he was diagnosed with Hepatitis-B four years ago, which severely damaged his liver. He later developed kidney complications, leaving him weak and unable to walk. Financial constraints have prevented him from seeking proper treatment.

The culture department's neglect of Maheboob Khaskeli's health issues has raised concerns about the welfare of artists in the province. As the singer continues to struggle with his health, his family appeals for support and assistance to ensure he receives proper treatment.

Admission drive for 1st year is on its peak in Govt Associate College Chhab

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: As else where in the district, admission drive for 1st year is on its peak in Govt Associate College Chhab. To achieve the given Target by the Higher Education Department the Principal of the college, Professor Dr Shaukat Mahmood Shaukat said this while talking to this journalist. He said that two teams had been constituted to motivate and guide the parents to send their kids to the college for admission in 1st year and said that those students having third division in matriculation will also be accommodated. He stressed upon the values and importance of education and said that through better education we can prepare young lot to shoulder future responsibilities.

Police arrests 12 drug dealers in Attock district after seizure of 12 kg hashish

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: According to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab and IG Punjab, the Attock Police under the leadership of District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan is determined to eradicate the drug dealers.

Many suspects were arrested from across the district and more than 12 kg of hashish was recovered, separate cases were registered under the Narcotics Act.*

According to the details, according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab and IG Punjab, the Attock Police under the leadership of District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan is eager to eradicate the drug dealers. 2400 grams of Charas from the possession of drug dealer Kamran Shah son of Rafan Shah r/o Mansar and 1500 grams of Charas from Maroon Khan son of Haroon Khan r/o Hasan Abdal were recovered. Failing the attempt, 2100 grams of Charas was recovered. Likewise, the Jund police station arrested the drug dealer Zahid Iqbal, son of Javed Iqbal and Intiaz Khan, along with the drugs. In another operation, Hazro police recovered 600 grams of Charas from drug dealer Akram Ali son of Ansar Shah r/o Musa, while Sadar Attock police recovered drug dealer Anil Masih son of Salim Masih/o Qutba Mor Kamra and Muhammad Khan son of Ghulam Murtaza r/o 530 grams of Charas was recovered from Anil Masih and 600 grams of Charas from Muhammad Khan on checking in Faqirabad. Fateh Jang police station recovered 1600 grams of Charas from the possession of Sohail Anjum, son of Mohammad Parvez, resident of Fateh Jang. The Attock police registered separate cases against the accused under the Narcotics Act and arrested them#

Below the poverty

FAISALABAD: A senior citizen is collecting household items from garbage, at Ghulam Mohammadabad, area of the city.



Photo: Online

Multan Police arrested most wanted 69 members of 18 criminal gangs and recovered 20 millions rupees

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Senior Superintendent Of Police (SSP) Operations Multan Rana Arsalan Zahid, SSP Investigation Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf, DSP Mumtazabad Syed Azhar Raza Gillani and DSP Organized Crime Unit Multan Rao Tariq Pervez while addressing the press conference in Police Line Multan He said that Multan Police Organized Crime Unit (CIA) and AVLS teams carried out the murder. 69 members of 18 gangs wanted in other incidents including attempted murder, kidnapping for ransom, robbery, house robbery, forced robbery, car and motorcycle robbery, and shop robbery were arrested and property worth more than 20 million rupees was stolen. In which 01 tractor, 09 cars, 03 rickshaws, 28 motorcycles, 36 solar plates, 08 mobile phones and 33 lakh 86 thousand rupees in cash were recovered. 02 repeaters were recovered from the accused. 01 Kalashnikov 44 bore and



14 pistols 30 bore were also recovered, 135 cases trace*

The Organized Crime Unit* arrested 41 suspects including 10 gangs and stole property worth more than 01 crore 23 lakh rupees, including 01 tractor, 02 cars, 36 solar plates, 03 rickshaws, 08 motorcycles, 02 mobile phones, Cash 29 lakh 86 thousand and 01 Kalashnikov, 01 repeater and 10 pistols 30 bore were recovered. 72 cases trace

AVLS team arrested 28 accused including 08 gangs and recovered

stolen goods worth 98 lakh rupees including 07 cars, 20 motorcycles, 06 mobile phones and 04 lakh cash in 63 cases. Trace

Under the special direction of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali SSP Operations Multan Arsalan Zahid, SSP Investigation Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf under the supervision of DSP Organized Crime Unit Rao Tariq Parvez, DSP AVLS Syed Azhar. Special teams were formed under the leadership of Raza Gilani. In which the in-charge Organized Crime Unit Inspector Mirza

Hasnain, in-charge AVLS Nasrullah Sambal along with his teams traced the wanted gangs and recovered them. The police teams used police apps and advanced technology to arrest the accused and recovered the stolen goods from the accused by showing all their professional skills.

SSP Operations Multan Arsalan Zahid while holding a press conference along with SSP Investigation Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf, DSP Organized Crime Unit Rao Tariq Parveza and DSP VLS Azhar Raza Gilani said that the police teams worked very hard. traced important cases for which he deserves credit. He said that more operations are being conducted to eliminate crimes from the city and soon more accused will be arrested. SSP Operations Multan Arsalan Zahid handed over the recovered property to the original owners who were very happy to get their property back. He appreciated the performance of the police teams and thanked CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar

Population Council call on central, provincial governments to provide disaggregated data on population

Rafiullah Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Media Coalition Meeting organized by the Population Council with the support of UNFPA in the federal capital called upon the media to play a pivotal role in urging both central and provincial governments to ensure the availability of inclusive, disaggregated data. This data is essential for crafting informed policies and implementing them effectively, ultimately achieving

sustainable population growth and fostering a resilient and equitable future for all citizens. By advocating for the regular collection and dissemination of such data, the media can contribute significantly to the nation's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and improve the overall well-being of the masses.

Dr. Ali Mir, Senior Director Programs Population Council, in his welcome remarks emphasized the pivotal role of

the media in advocating for the regular availability of disaggregated data based on age, sex, disability, geography, and economic status.

"With targeted interventions based on robust data, we can ensure that everyone is counted and accounted for, as each individual plays a vital role in national development."

He stressed the importance of data utilization for effective policymaking, highlighting the need for a nuanced

approach to address diverse population needs. Dr. Mir also introduced this year's World Population Day theme, "Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future for All," underscoring the significance of comprehensive and accessible data in formulating effective population policies.

Deputy Manager Communication Population Council, Ikram ul Ahad presented the latest Census 2023 data,

emphasizing the need for Pakistan to follow the example of neighboring Muslim countries that have successfully lowered their fertility rates. He said,

Communication Officer, Population Council Ummi Kalsoom, shared data on Pakistan's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Population growth and SDGs are intrinsically linked, with 12 out of 17 SDGs directly related to population growth. A decline in fertility and

sustainable population growth could significantly help Pakistan achieve all the SDGs," she explained.

Kalsoom stressed the need for consistent media coverage to highlight data gaps and urged Media Coalition members to ensure periodic data availability.

Dr. Jameel Ahmed, Program Specialist at UNFPA, called for a comprehensive strategy prioritizing family planning to achieve the SDGs.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:47 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:06 pm
Isha 8:40 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
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

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249

Waleed Rasool exposes Indian political parties' true face in Kashmir

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An academician, multi-disciplinary scholar and Peace Activist Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool on Saturday criticized Indian political parties for their handling of the situation in Kashmir, accusing them of bullying and deceiving the Kashmiri people.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, he argued that the Indian government has sought to erode the property rights of Kashmiris and undermine their ability to self-govern, adding that despite these challenges, many Kashmiris continue to aspire for independence and self-determination.

He exposed the true face of Indian political parties in Kashmir and Dr. Rasool believed that the Indian government's actions would not extinguish the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom and autonomy. He said that Youm-e-Istehsal will be observed to express the Kashmiri people's rejection of India's alleged illegal occupation and to protest the Indian government's decision on August 5, 2019, to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Romina Khurshid to table draft HIV prevention & protection legislation at NA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday vowed to table the draft legislation on prevention and protection of HIV AIDS in the National Assembly to get the law enacted for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the UN AIDS jointly organised a consultative dialogue for drafting HIV legislation in ICT here which has been participated by a diverse number of participants hailing from civil society, officials from the Ministry of Health, National Services Regulations and Coordination, National Highways and Motorway Police, health experts, academia and media.

Speaking as chief guest on the occasion, the PM's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam extended her gratitude to UNAIDS and SDPI for the endeavour and shared her arduous experiences while enacting HIV legislation for the transgender community which is considered as a taboo in the society.

She while volunteering to table the legislation at the lower house of the Parliament demanded the forum to develop synergies and collaborations with the provincial governments to come up with a holistic piece of legislation that could be made model at the national level to be replicated by the provinces.

In his special remarks, Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said the Insti-

tute is welcoming and beneficial in catalyzing the efforts for sustainable development. He hoped that with the lead role of PM's aide on Climate Change in taking forward to the legislation at the forum of National Assembly would help drive the process further.

National Coordinator, Strengthening Common Management Unit (CMU) for TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria, Dr Razia Kaniz Fatima said the HIV Aids has been always a priority for the government which is no more a taboo as many milestones have been achieved in addressing disease spread and prevention.

UN AIDS Country Director, Yuki Takimoto, on the occasion, said the draft legislation marked a crucial step towards growing HIV epidemic in Pakistan. UN AIDS in support of the govern-



ment and other relevant quarters is improving responses to reduce discrimination hindering HIV response, she added.

Former DG Health ICT, Dr Hassan Arooj, Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Nafes Zakaria and Former Justice

Lahore High Court and Member Supreme Court Bar Council, Hassan Raza Pasha also speak in the event

Youm-e- Istehsal

ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling yellow melon at Fruit and Vegetable Market I-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam protest against killing of Palestinian Leader Ismail Haniyeh

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Protest Organized by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Multan District, on the orders of Jamiat Leader, a massive demonstration was held against the Israeli aggression on the martyrdom of Palestine Leader Ismail Haniya at Madrasah Islamia Jamia Masjid, Jalal Baqeri Sarwar Road, which was led by the District Chief Maulana Qari Muhammad Tehseen and the District Nazim Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Umar, District General Secretary Qari Muhammad Yasin, District Finance Secretary Maulana Muhammad Yusuf Madani, Deputy General Secretary Qari Muhammad Qasim Jami, Sheikh Hadith, Maulana Ata-ul-Rehman Haqqani,



Qari Muhammad Aslam, Qari Muhammad Sadiq, Qari Saifullah Gujjar, Qari Fayazur Rahman, Qari Muhammad Bilal, Mian Amjad Zia, Qari Rahim Bakhsh, Maulana Muhammad Asim Aziz, Muhammad Samiullah, Qari Mukhtiar, Maulana Arshad, Haji Muhammad Akram Vance, Qari Muhammad Sajjad and hundreds of others participated.

Tribute to Ismail Haniyeh. District Election Coordinator Sheikh Muhammad Umar said the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh will lead to the liberation of Palestine, God willing.

Punjab Arts Council organized Art Exhibition



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Rawalpindi Women University organized an art exhibition. The chief guest of the exhibition was Dr. Anila Kamal, Vice Chancellor of Rawalpindi Women University. Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, and renowned curator Dr. Arjumand Faisal also attended the exhibition as special guests. In her address to the participants, the chief guest, Dr. Anila Kamal, said that each painting is unique and holds hundreds of emotions within it. Art is a very powerful medium to convey messages and influence people. Using colors effectively, the artist has adorned the canvas with their thoughts and ideas through the beauty of art in a distinctive manner. Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, stated that encompassing various themes in one exhibition is also an art. The Arts Council has always provided a platform for the youth to showcase their work to the world. The government's initiatives for the welfare of art and artists in Punjab are exemplary. Curator Dr. Arjumand Faisal remarked that colors do not need a language; they speak for themselves. Artists always play a positive role in society. We should encourage the younger generation towards art along with traditional education. Letters of appreciation was distributed among the participants at the end of exhibition. A large number of people from the twin cities attended the exhibition.

Sardar Sohail meets with social media activists on Kashmir Exploitation Day

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Secretary Information and Food, Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Sohail Azam, met with social media activists/vloggers in the context of Kashmir Exploitation Day and Pakistan Independence Day. In the meeting, Director Relations Raja Shahid Hussain, Director Information Amjad Hussain Minhas, Deputy Secretary Information Raja Imran Saleem, Social Media Activists Asif Raza Mir, Javed Iqbal Hashmi, Raja Amjad Khan, Basharat Mughal, Raja Aftab Siddique, Syed Nadeem Hussain Shah, Waqas Kazmi, Raja Shoaib Mehmood and Faiza Gilani were present. The participants gave suggestions regarding creating a narrative and promoting it on social media. Secretary Information Sardar Sohail Azam said that the grip of social media has become very strong in the formation of public opinion, social media is the most powerful tool of the present age, which has made a deep impact in all spheres of life. We have highlighted the human rights violations committed by India in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the world through pen as well as social media. Secretary Information welcomed the views of social media activists and thanked them.



Concerned citizens raise alarm over transfer of IWMB to interior ministry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Concerned citizens, environmentalists, and conservation groups have expressed grave concerns following the Prime Minister of Pakistan's directive to transfer the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) under the Ministry of Interior. The IWMB, which is currently responsible for the protection and management of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP), plays a crucial role in safeguarding the biodiversity of this vital ecological area.

Citizens have termed this move as a malafide decision and a significant threat to the biodiversity of the MHNP while speaking at a webinar organized by Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) here Saturday.

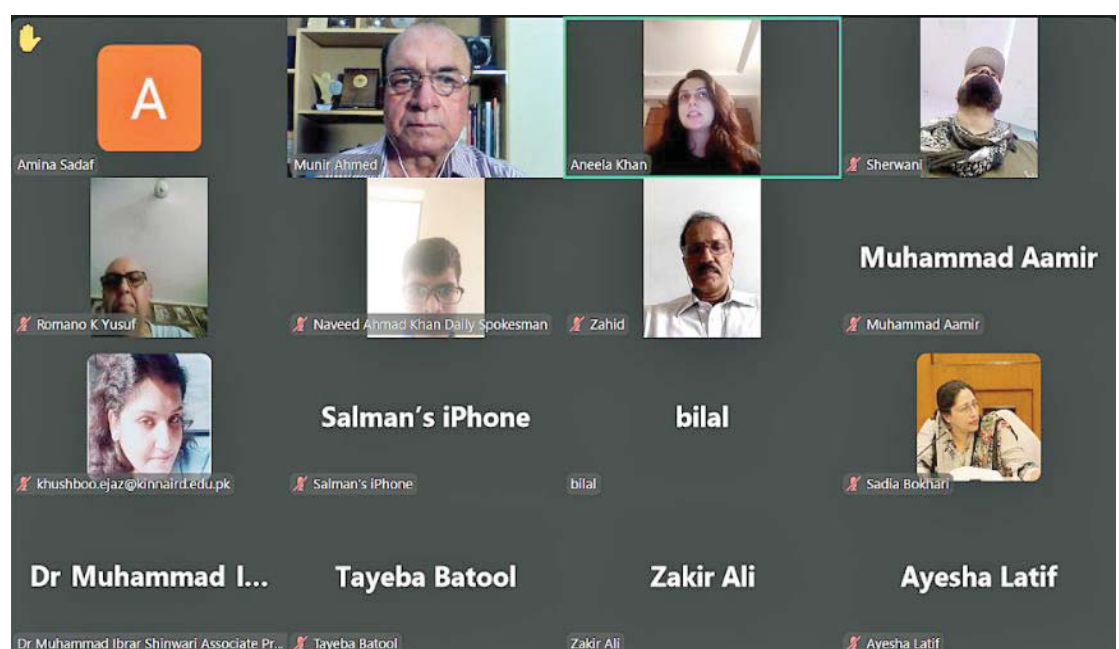
The speakers said that the park, which is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, is already under pressure from urban encroachment and illegal activities. The IWMB has been at the forefront of efforts to conserve the park's unique ecosystem under the ministry of climate change and environmental coordination, and its transfer to the interior ministry that primarily focused on law and order rather than environmental conservation is seen as a dangerous shift in priorities.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said: There is a growing concern that the Prime Minister may not have been adequately informed about the implications of this decision or may have been influenced by powerful groups with vested interests. These groups

are reportedly eyeing the acquisition of over 3,000 acres of land within the Margalla Hills National Park and the adjacent land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Citizens fear that the transfer of the IWMB could pave the way for these powerful entities to grab this land, undermining the integrity of the park and its surrounding areas.

Environmentalist Aneela Khan said: Transferring the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board to the Ministry of Interior is a severe blow to the ongoing conservation efforts in the Margalla Hills National Park.

Salman Khan, a member of the Friends of Margalla Hills Park, said: The transfer of the IWMB has sparked fears that the focus on biodiversity conservation will be diminished, leading to increased threats



from illegal construction, deforestation, and habitat destruction in the Margalla Hills National Park. Human rights activist Sadia Bokhari said: "We appeal to the prime minister to reconsider this directive and ensure that the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board

remains under the Ministry of Climate Change, where its mandate to protect the Margalla Hills can be upheld without interference. Dr. Ibrar Shiwari said: IWMB was reestablished in 2015 on the verdict of Islamabad High court, and placed under the Ministry of Climate

Change for its adequate functioning. Another objective of placing IWMB under the climate change ministry was to work as a watchdog on the environment unfriendly development in the park that was overlooked by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) or done by its own "agents".

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Rise and Risks of Pakistan's Snacks Industry

In recent years, Pakistan's snack industry has seen significant growth, contributing not only to the strengthening of the economy but also to the creation of job opportunities. With rapidly changing consumer tastes and busy lifestyles, the consumption of snacks is increasing. The demand for various types of snacks, such as Nimko (savory snacks), papar, potato chips, and other processed foods, has risen, providing new opportunities for both local and international companies. This industry has played an important role in Pakistan's economy, not only in the local market but also through immense exports.

The size of Pakistan's savory snack market was estimated at \$610.28 million in 2023, and it is expected to reach \$956.79 million by 2028, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.41% from 2023 to 2028. Various types of chips, nimko, and packaged snacks are frequently seen in markets. Children are particularly fond of these snacks, often insisting on purchasing them when visiting shops, malls, or stores. Both adults and children enjoy these snacks, so compromising on quality is akin to putting human lives at risk. The quality of the spices, frying oils, and other ingredients used in the snack industry is crucial for producing high-quality snacks. The quality of ingredients used in savory snacks is extremely important for the safety and taste of these

products. Choosing the best ingredients ensures that the snacks are not only delicious but also beneficial for health. Using high-quality ingredients enhances the nutritional value and taste of these products. Additionally, top-quality ingredients consist of healthy components and fewer harmful elements, making them better for consumers' health. Therefore, selecting good-quality ingredients is essential to present savory snacks of the best quality in the market.

It is necessary to monitor the raw materials and their products used in this industry. Recently, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) directed a private company to immediately remove its 11 packaged snack products from the market because a laboratory declared them unfit for human consumption. Under Section 24 of the Sindh Food Authority Act 2016, Director-General Muzamil Hussain Halipot ordered the private company to recall these snacks from the market. Approximately two and a half months ago, the company submitted 24 products for registration. The SFA sent samples to the Food Testing Laboratory at the University of Karachi's Department of Food Science and Technology, where 11 products were deemed unfit for human consumption.

The question arises why have snacks

that have been consumed for years suddenly become harmful? Either these products were not properly tested initially, or food safety authorities have not paid attention to the production of such industries until now. There might have been lapses in testing. Possible reasons for the harmful nature of these snacks include substandard ingredients or faulty

processing methods during production. Moreover, inappropriate packaging and storage can introduce harmful chemicals into the products, making them dangerous for human consumption. Violations of food safety laws can also lead to health issues. Whatever the reason may be, any lapse in quality in food-related industries can adversely affect public health.

The use of substandard spices and oils in savory snacks can lead to various health problems. These may include heavy metals, bacteria, and toxic chemicals that cause infections and severe diseases. Poor-quality oils contain trans fats, which increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and cancer. Continuous consumption can lead to digestive problems, nutritional deficiencies, and weakened immunity. For better health, it is essential to use quality spices and oils.

To maintain the quality of savory snacks, it is important to use food-grade

ingredients. The Punjab Pure Food Regulations 2018 lists standards for all types of spices. Additionally, food departments in other provinces also provide similar lists outlining the standards for various ingredients, which is crucial for every industry to follow. Only then can a proper standard be established and help mitigate situations that could affect public health.

Since high-quality pure spices are available at high prices, many manufacturers illegally and unethically mix cheap and harmful substances. Statistics show that India is the largest producer of premium spices and it exports these spices to all over the world.

Adulteration and deceptive practices in snack manufacturing are often carried out for economic gain. The goal is to reduce production costs and increase profits by using lower-cost ingredients or artificial (non-food grade) colors instead of expensive raw materials. Sometimes, adulteration is done due to shortages or price fluctuations of original spices that we encounter off and on. The lack of legal actions and less consumer awareness also promotes these illegal activities. Intense market competition and unethical processing practices of some companies also lead to adulteration. To prevent adulteration, it is necessary to enforce food safety laws strictly, increase transparency, educate consumers about which ingredients are substandard and harmful to health, and promote standards in industries.



Analysis

Jibrán Ahmed

US sending warships, fighter jets to Mideast

American warships and fighter jets are headed to the Middle East to help defend Israel, the US' closest ally, in case Iran responds militarily to this week's assassination of Hamas' top political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran who is widely believed to have been executed by Israeli intelligence agencies.

In a statement, Pentagon said Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also ordered additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers and destroyers to the European and Middle East regions and is taking steps to send more land-based ballistic missile defence weapons there.

The US moves include sending the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East, along with naval cruisers and destroyers capable of shooting down ballistic missiles. In addition, the US is sending an additional fighter squadron to the region and is taking steps to allow for the deployment of land-based missile defence capabilities.

The Pentagon did not say when the various ships and aircraft will be in place, but in a statement Friday it described the moves as necessary to "mitigate the possibility of regional escalation by Iran or Iran's partners and proxies."

The statement also said the movement of more military capabilities to the region aims "to improve US force protection, to increase support for the defence of Israel, and to ensure the United States is prepared to respond to various contingencies."

The new orders came just hours after Austin pledged additional support to Israel during a call with Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

"The secretary reiterated ironclad support for Israel's security and informed the minister of additional measures to include ongoing and future defensive force posture changes that the department will take to support the defence of Israel," Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said during a briefing.

Tensions in the region have escalated significantly in the past week, following an Israeli strike in Lebanon that killed Fouad Shukur, Hezbollah's top military commander, and the subsequent assassination of Haniyeh, who was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iran's new president.

Israel has not publicly claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's death, but Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, named Israel and called for retribution.

"The criminal, terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our territory and has caused our grief, but it has also prepared the ground for a severe punishment," Ayatollah Khamenei posted on the X social media platform.

"It is our duty to take revenge," he added in a separate post.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Cult Politics - IV

In South Asian nations such as Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, politicians have been observed leveraging patronage networks and clientelistic practices to secure political backing. This includes allocating public goods and services based on loyalty rather than need, perpetuating inequalities and undermining merit-based governance.

In Pakistan, as in many countries, the phenomenon of unwavering loyalty to charismatic personalities often eclipses critical thinking and reasoned analysis in public discourse and governance. Pakistan has seen the emergence of political leaders who cultivate strong personal followings, sometimes bordering on cult-like devotion. Throughout its political history, leaders have garnered fervent support primarily through personal charisma rather than through substantive policy or institutional reform. Notable figures such as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and more recently, Nawaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Imran Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), have all commanded significant personal followings. These leaders have capitalized on charisma, promises of change, and emotional appeals to mobilize support, often deflecting critical examination of their policies and actions.

The culture of blind allegiance to personalities carries profound implications for governance and accountability in Pakistan. When leaders are elevated to near-mythical status, scrutiny of their decisions, policies, and governance practices can take a back seat to loyalty or perceived loyalty to the leader. This diminishes the role of institutions meant to provide checks and balances, such as the judiciary, media, and legislative bodies. Additionally, a lack of critical thinking can exacerbate issues like corrup-

tion, nepotism, and inefficiency within government institutions. Decision-making may prioritize short-term political gains over long-term national interests, leading to policy instability and missed opportunities for sustainable development.

In a democracy, an informed citizenry and critical thinking are crucial for holding leaders accountable, protecting civil liberties, and fostering inclusive governance. However, in Pakistan, dominance of personality-driven politics has sometimes undermined these democratic ideals. Political discourse can become polarized, dissenting voices marginalized, and media freedoms restricted when criticism of the leader is equated with disloyalty to the nation or its ideals. The erosion of democratic values underscores the need to promote a culture of critical thinking and civic responsibility. Citizens must be empowered to engage in informed debate, question authority when necessary, and advocate for policies that benefit society as a whole, rather than just the followers of a specific leader.

Charismatic leaders possess the ability to inspire, persuade, and mobilize masses with their vision, rhetoric, and persona. Their appeal often transcends traditional political divisions, striking a chord with supporters seeking decisive leadership and solutions to complex challenges. However, raising charismatic personalities to near-heroic status can foster blind allegiance, where loyalty outweighs critical assessment of policies and actions. When citizens unquestioningly follow political figures, numerous challenges arise that undermine democratic governance.

To counteract the risks of blind allegiance and cultivate a robust democratic ethos, promoting critical thinking is crucial. Introducing critical thinking skills early in education empowers

individuals to analyze information, identify biases, and assess the credibility of sources. Media literacy programs further enhance this ability, enabling people to navigate the intricacies of media content and distinguish between factual reporting and misinformation. Highlighting the importance of diverse perspectives and constructive debate encourages individuals to consider various viewpoints before forming opinions or decisions. This fosters a culture where dialogue, compromise, and well-informed discussions prevail over divisive rhetoric and partisan divides. Active engagement in civic life, including voting, community activism, and advocacy for social justice, reinforces the significance of informed citizenship. Engaged citizens hold leaders accountable, advocate for policy reforms, and contribute to shaping a more inclusive and responsive democracy. Countries that prioritize critical thinking and civic education demonstrate resilience against the dangers of blind allegiance and personality cults.

Renowned for its robust education system that emphasizes critical thinking, Finland consistently achieves high rankings in global education indices. This approach nurtures a society where citizens are equipped to engage critically with political discourse and actively participate in democratic processes. Similarly, Canada promotes media literacy and civic engagement initiatives to encourage citizens to question political narratives and engage meaningfully in public affairs. Such proactive measures enhance democratic resilience and safeguard against manipulation by political figures.

The selection of political leadership should consider essential traits that define effective politicians. Politics demands a unique skill set and qualities necessary for navigating its challenges successfully. Despite the often-negative perception of politicians, certain traits distinguish effective leaders. These individuals play pivotal roles in shaping policies, representing constituents, and driving societal advancement.

To be continued

Article 62: bridging the gap between theory and practice - I

In discussions about the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, criticisms often focus on perceived loopholes, particularly in the context of the nation's political and constitutional complexities. However, such criticisms may overlook a crucial point: the constitution itself is meticulously designed, but its effectiveness is often undermined by a significant gap between its theoretical framework and practical implementation.

Article 62 provides a detailed outline of the qualifications required for individuals aspiring to become members of the parliament or the cabinet. These requirements encompass a range of criteria, including age, citizenship, loyalty to the state, and knowledge of Islam and its teachings. This framework is intended to ensure that those in legislative positions are well-qualified and aligned with the values and responsibilities expected of them. The article's intent is to cultivate a legislative body composed of individuals who are not only competent but also uphold the ethical and moral standards that align with the nation's principles.

Despite these clear stipulations, the practical application of Article 62 often falls short. Numerous issues have been observed in the political arena, including the presence of individuals with fraudulent degrees, misrepresentation of qualifications, and involvement in social and ethical misconduct. These discrepancies highlight a critical issue: it is not the constitution itself that is flawed, but rather the system's failure to enforce its provisions effectively. The widespread nature of these issues undermines public confidence and trust in the legislative process and the individuals who occupy these positions of power.

The public's growing distrust of legislative bodies reflects a broader frustration with this disconnect between constitutional ideals and the realities of

governance. Citizens frequently express their dissatisfaction with how qualifications are vetted and how legislative duties are performed. While it is easy to place blame on the legislative system or the constitution, this perspective overlooks the essential role of implementation. The constitution lays out a robust framework, but it requires a dedicated and transparent system to bring its principles to life. Without a rigorous enforcement mechanism, the

lofty ideals enshrined in Article 62 remain aspirational rather than operational.

Addressing these issues requires a shift in approach from mere criticism to a focus on effective implementation. This means enhancing mechanisms for verifying qualifications, ensuring accountability, and promoting transparency in the legislative process. For instance, the establishment of independent oversight bodies could ensure that candidates meet the constitutional requirements outlined in Article 62. These bodies would be responsible for conducting thorough and impartial investigations into the credentials and conduct of prospective legislators. This approach could include regular audits, public disclosure of qualifications, and stringent penalties for violations.

Additionally, the legislative system should integrate modern technologies and practices to improve the verification process. Implementing digital records, real-time verification systems, and robust data sharing between educational institutions and regulatory authorities can significantly reduce the incidence of fraud and misinformation. Public participation and feedback can also play a crucial role in maintaining transparency and accountability. Engaging civil society and the media in this oversight process can further enhance trust and ensure that the legislative framework operates effectively.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

Chairman Senate meets with British Speaker of the House of Commons

Zeeshan Hassasn

LONDON: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that Pakistan greatly values its bilateral relations with United Kingdom (UK) and desires to further expand the bilateral relations to new levels for mutual benefit. The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting with Speaker of the House of Commons H. E. Lindsay Hoyle during his visit to the UK. The Chairman Senate along with a delegation of Senators is visiting UK to explore opportunities for further strengthening bilateral, multilateral and institutional cooperation in diverse sectors.

Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators Agha Shahzab Durrani, Faisal Salim Rehman, Ashraf Ali Jatoi and Members of the National Assembly Syed Abdul Qadir Gillani and Syed Qasim Ali Gilani during the meeting.

During the meeting, in his opening remarks the Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani highlighted the historical and cultural ties both sides have enjoyed since long and said that the historical bond between the two has paved the way for deepening political, diplomatic, economic ties and people to people contacts. He further observed that these ties are further strengthened by Pakistani diaspora which is acting

as a bridge between Pakistan and UK thus providing solid foundation for a dynamic and prosperous partnership. He said that our historic legacy, shared values and mutual goodwill are the ingredients for a strong partnership between Pakistan and UK. The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani also acknowledged the significance of broad based parliamentary cooperation and said that Pakistan attaches a great importance to parliamentary diplomacy. He said that sharing democratic experiences and learning democratic values is central to Commonwealth as a family of nations. Both Pakistan and UK enjoy excellent cooperation at Commonwealth level and Pakistan is playing active role on this important platform. "As the representatives and voices of our people I believe we have a singular responsibility in acting as bridges between our peoples and institutions of governance", Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani observed.

The meeting also discussed enhanced strategic dialogue between Pakistan and United Kingdom which was established in 2011. The Enhanced Strategic Dialogue serves as the institutional mechanism guiding Pakistan-UK bilateral relations. It is pertinent to mention here that ESD was initiated

in 2011 during the tenure of Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani as the prime minister of Pakistan. The meeting discussed that Enhance Strategic Dialogue may be converted into Enhanced strategic partnership now.

The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani also highlighted the issue of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Pakistan values British MPs role in highlighting human right abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the UK Parliament.

Regarding Gaza, The Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that Pakistan is making all possible efforts through the relevant forums to bring an end to atrocities in Gaza. He also called upon UK to raise its voice against the human rights violations. During the meeting, the Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that interaction and exchange of views between the parliamentary leadership and the parliamentarians is a significant step towards broadening, deepening, diversifying and augmenting inter parliamentary relations. He proposed to maintain the momentum of high level visits, and exchange more frequently between the two government, parliaments and peoples.

British Speaker of the House



Commons appreciated Chairman Senate's remarks and called for a broad-based relationship between the two sides. He said that Pakistan is an important country for UK and both sides have historically enjoyed cordial relations.

Senators including Senator Faisal Salim Rehman, Agha Shahzab Durrani and Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi also held a separate meeting with Secretary General CPA Mr. Stephen Twigg and exchanged views to enhance institu-

tional cooperation between secretariats of the senate and CPA. They appreciated the collaboration between Senate and CPA. The meeting also focussed on discussions and debates on issues concerning CPA member states.

Solidarity

RAWALPINDI: Supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) party take part in Ghaza rally to express their solidarity with Palestinians, at Murree Road, in the city.



Photo: Online

A Day of Protest: Condemning the Martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh

The whole world people from all walks of life gathered in to protest the martyrdom of Ismail Haniya, a prominent figure in the Palestinian resistance movement. The day was marked by widespread demonstrations, rallies, and speeches, as individuals came together to condemn the brutal killing and demand justice.

This article provides an in-depth account of the events that transpired on that day. Ismail Haniya was a leading figure in the Palestinian resistance movement, known for his tireless efforts to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people.

His assassination sent shockwaves across the globe, sparking outrage and condemnation from human rights organizations, governments, and individuals alike. protests began with a massive rally in the all city center of the many countries, where thousands gathered to pay tribute to Ismail Haniya's life and legacy. Protesters held banners, placards, and flags, chanting slogans and demanding justice for the martyred leader. Speakers took

to the stage, delivering powerful speeches that condemned the killing and called for accountability. the rally, protesters marched through the streets, blocking traffic and disrupting daily life.

The marches were peaceful, with protesters adhering to non-violent principles. Demonstrations were also held in other cities and towns, with people coming together to show solidarity and condemn the martyrdom. Prominent figures and leaders addressed the crowds, paying tribute to Ismail Haniya's life and work. Statements were read from human rights organizations and governments, condemning the killing and demanding an investigation.

The Day of Protest was a powerful display of solidarity and condemnation, as people came together to demand justice for Ismail Haniya's martyrdom. The events of that day sent a clear message: that the international community will not tolerate such brutal acts and will continue to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people.



Analysis

Czechangez Khan Jadoon

JUI chief, in Qatar, to meet Hamas chief, to express condolences on martyrdom of Ismail Hani

Spokesman Report

DOHA: The Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the blood of martyr Ismail Haniyeh will not go in vain, the martyrdom of the deceased will strengthen the struggle for freedom of Palestine, the Palestinian people and the Muslim Ummah will never give up on the freedom of Aqsa Mosque and Palestine.

According to the spokesperson, the Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrived in Qatar directly from Jeddah last night. Maulana Fazlur Rehman met with the leaders of Palestine and Hamas in Qatar when he arrived last night. Maulana Fazlur Rehman was accompanied by Allama Rashid Mahmood Soomro and Mufti Abrar Ahmed. JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman

along with a delegation met Hamas leader Khalid Meshal this morning and condoled the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh on behalf of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and the people of Pakistan. He recited Fatiha and prayed for the martyrs of Gaza. According to the orders of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, strong protests against Israel were held across the country on the martyrdom of Ismail Haniya. Resolutions were

also presented in the Kpk and Balochistan Assembly. On the direction of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the Quran was recited in mosques and madrasas across the country for Shaheed Ismail Haniya.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman said in his important statement that the blood of martyr Ismail Haniyeh will not go in vain, the martyrdom of the deceased will strengthen the freedom struggle of Palestine. Maulana Fazlur



Rehman said that the entire Islamic world is saddened by the martyrdom of Ismail Haniya, it is the duty of Muslims to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Zionist usurpers. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the

morale of the Hamas leaders was very high, the Palestinian people and the Muslim Ummah will not give up the freedom of Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque in any case. He further said that the JUI and the entire Pakistani

nation are with the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom. We pray that Allah accepts the martyrdom of the deceased, bestows upon him the honor he deserves, and grants patience to the bereaved, Amen.

Health activists urged government to prevent export of kiddie packs to safeguard youth health

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), together with health activists, has expressed a deep concern over a proposal by Tobacco Industry that seeks to alter Pakistan's tobacco control regulations. This proposal by tobacco industry aims to allow the manufacture and export of 10-stick cigarette packs, commonly referred to as 'kiddie packs.' This move could have far-reaching implications for public health both within Pakistan and in other countries. The negative impact of this proposal on both Pakistani and Sudanese children was described in this way "The introduction of 10-stick cigarette packs, often referred to as 'kiddie packs,' poses a serious risk to young people. These smaller, more affordable packs



increase the likelihood that children and adolescents will start smoking at an early age, leading to higher addiction rates." Asiya Arif, Executive Director at Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), stated that Pakistan is already

grappling with a severe public health crisis. The economic burden of allowing 10-stick packs could reach up to 50 billion rupees annually. Additionally, there is a significant risk that these packs, although intended for export, could

eventually enter the domestic market, undermining Pakistan's robust tobacco control regulations and exacerbating the public health crisis. Public health advocates in Pakistan and in 25 African countries are asking the government not to

amend Pakistan's strong tobacco control law. Pakistan is a Party to the WHO FCTC, where Article 16.3 provides that "Each Party shall endeavor to prohibit the sale of cigarettes individually or in small packets which increase the affordability of such products to minors."

Dr. Madiha Siddiqui, Pulmonologist, Indus Hospital and Health Network, emphasized that it prohibited the manufacture, sale, and import of cigarette packets containing fewer than twenty (20) cigarette sticks. However, allowing the manufacture of "kiddie packs" for export to Sudan, which is also a Party to the Convention, contradicts WHO FCTC obligations, which requires parties to "adopt and implement effective measures and cooperate, as appropriate with other Parties

in developing appropriate policies for preventing and reducing tobacco consumption, nicotine addiction and exposure to tobacco smoke" (Article 5.2(b)).

Prof. Dr. Matiur Rehman, Professor of Pulmonology said that there is an urgent need for increased public awareness and education on the risks associated with smoking and the tobacco industry's tactics. By fostering a more informed public, we can build stronger support for tobacco control measures and encourage healthier behaviors among youth.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager at Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), added his perspective on the issue. "The tobacco industry's focus on Pakistan's youth is evident in their push to introduce 10-stick packs. This strategy is not just about expanding their market

but about targeting vulnerable young populations. The government must recognize these tactics and the potential harm they pose to both public health and the economy. Allowing the sale of such packs will increase the number of smokers, elevate health care costs, and ultimately compromise the future well-being of our youth."

He further added, "For years, Pakistan has successfully implemented regulations banning the sale of single sticks to protect young people from smoking. The recent push by tobacco companies to manufacture 10-stick packs under the guise of export arrangements represents a dangerous threat to public health. These packs are likely to find their way into the local market, jeopardizing the well-being of Pakistani youth and compromising our public health efforts."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,225.98	77,740.30
Day's High	Day's Low
78,434.16	77,926.53
Index Value	Change
10,086,561,059	+ 485.68
Percentage	Time
+0.62%	2 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,174.71	-108.65
Percentage	Time
-1.31%	2 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,536.07	-811.90
Percentage	Time
-2.01%	2 Aug, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
35,909.70	-2,216.63
Percentage	Time
-5.81%	2 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.8	186
Bahrain Dinar	741.05	749.05
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	301.6	303.65
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
New Zealand \$	169.15	171.15
Norwegian Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.95	74.65
Singapore Dollar	202.4	204.4
Swedish Korona	26.6	26.9
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	75.8	76.45
UK Pound Sterling	356.8	356.35
US Dollar	279.2	280.4

Sindh to distribute 200,000 solar system kits among low-income families

Bureau Report

KARACHI: As many as 200,000 solar home systems (SHS) would be provided to low-income households selected through the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) data in all districts of the province, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday.

"By the end of October first batch of 50,000 SHS kits would reach Karachi for onward distribution," he said at the signing ceremony of framework agreements for solar systems at the CM House.

Earlier this month, the provincial government proposed solar panels and 100 units of free electricity to the impoverished residents of the province who are struggling with the electricity crisis.

The provincial energy minister had described it as "good news" for the people.

Murad said that the Sindh Solar Energy Project (SSEP) was being executed for Rs27.4



billion with the \$100 million financial support of the World Bank.

"The Solar Home Systems would consist of an 80-100W Solar PV Plate, a minimum 18 AH Lithium-ion battery, one DC fan, three LED bulbs and a mobile charging facility," he said.

The chief minister added that the system's estimated cost was around Rs55,000, including transport, taxes and duties and would be provided to eligible low-income families at around 80 per cent subsidy.

While sharing the criteria, the CM said that the selection of low-income households was made using the BISP register of low-income households as the criteria for household eligibility. The poverty scorecard ranging from 21 to 50 has been initially used.

The BISP data ranging from 0-20 are those households, having no capacity of paying at least Rs6,000 for a solar home system kit, the CM said and added that such poorest households would be provided solar kits under the Annual Development Program of the Energy Department.

IPPs issue

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Office FPCCI Karim Aziz Malik shaking Hands with President Asif Ali Zardari In the meeting with the President of Pakistan over the IPPs issue. Former Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr. Ejaz Gohar was also present.



Costly IPPs should be acquired if govt has no second option: WAPDA chief

Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: The federal government should acquire independent power producers (IPPs) over the next few years if a review of the agreements signed with them was not possible, the Water & Power Development Authority chairman has said.

"Every agreement in the world has the possibility of a review. No agreement is water-tight, provided that both parties agree that the circumstances demand that we should review it," Lieutenant General (ret) Sajjad Ghani said while appearing on Rubaroo aired on Aaj News on Saturday.

"If such a review is not possible from the IPPs, then my opinion and advice would be that in the coming years, the Government of Pakistan should acquire the more expensive IPPs themselves," he added.

Many economic experts blame the past governments for signing expensive power agreements with the IPPs. According to economist Kaiser Bengali, the government was even paying for the electricity that was not produced.

The economist stated that the cost-plus revenue, capacity payments, and dollarised payments to IPPs were also a disaster.

PIAF wants review of contracts with IPPs to reduce energy cost

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF Anjum Nisar Group) has stressed the need for reviewing power purchase agreements, recommending forensic audit of the Independent Power Producers with a view to restore the viability of country's energy sector.

In a meeting, which was attended by the representatives of all major sectors of trade and industry in the provincial capital, posed their full confidence in the leadership of Mian Anjum Nisar and his group of PIAF, as the Front has been splitting into two groups.

PIAF patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar along with its chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that instead of excessive borrowing, including the recent IMF \$7 billion financing, the Ease of Doing Business is vital to put the country's



economy back on track.

The PIAF, which has been allying with the Founders to rule the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for last over quarter century, has a setback, dividing into parts, paving the way for a full-fledged and open election of the business commu-

nity in the Lahore Chamber being held in Sept this year.

PIAF Chairman Fahimur Rahman Saigol said that the opposition groups are cheating on the claim related to the ownership of PIAF, and have sent them legal notices and now the matter is in the court.

Karachi to get new industrial zone

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Director General Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Syed Shujaat Hussain said that a new industrial zone will be established in the Surjani area after more than 30 years in Karachi.

Speaking as a chief guest at the Federal B Area Association of Trade and Industries (FBATI), he said that the industrial zones will accommodate new industrial units in state-of-the-art structures, providing essential infrastructure and utilities to industries to cater to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The planned industrial zone will be called the Surjani industrial zone, which will generate economic activities and jobs for the residents of Karachi.

DG KDA added that the Surjani industrial zone will

be developed within the next three years that will also develop the adjacent residential societies. More than 500 plots, ranging from 500 to 2,000 acres, will be available through a private developer to set up industrial units, he added.

President Federal B Area Association of Trade and Industries (FBATI) Syed Raza Hussain highlighted the issues and challenges facing industries and industrial zones in Karachi due to dilapidated infrastructure and rampant.

He said that major roads and intersections of industrial zones should be developed to maintain the smooth flow of cargo and passenger traffic. On the other hand, authorities should also remove encroachments within the industrial zones and road sides on an immediate basis.

Employer of the Year Award Ceremony

Responsible business practices promotes decent work and enterprise sustainability: Malik Tahir

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Malik Tahir Javaid, President of the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), emphasized that the adoption of responsible business practices promotes decent work, enterprise sustainability, and social justice. He spoke at the National Conference on Responsible Business and the 10th Employer of the Year Award Distribution, held in Karachi. The ceremony, organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan with support from the International Labor Organization, aimed to raise awareness about responsible business practices and recognize the best practices demonstrated by enterprises.

In his opening remarks, the EFP president expressed his gratitude to Minister of Labor Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim for his presence and to the ILO for their collaboration on the session.

Minister for Labor and HR and the Chief guest at the National Conference and the 10th EOY awards, Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim,

extended his regards to the EFP, ILO and all the participants present at the conference. He exhibited appreciation to the awardees and highlighted how establishment of responsible practices within the employers' organizations enhances the economic conditions of the businesses, by allowing more freedom to workers which entails a dedicated and robust workforce.

Philippe Oliver Gross, the EU's Charge D'Affaires, in his video message portrayed the commitment towards advocating for fair and ethical business practices. He focused on the ideology of promoting free trade while ensuring that businesses comply with important regulations that support a sustainable economy.

Majid Aziz, former president EFP, emphasized the importance of responsible business practices for the Employers of Pakistan, especially for getting the benefits provided by the GSP+ framework. He pointed out that businesses should prioritize not only profits but also the social welfare of their communities. He pointed

out adhering to these principles will help creating a positive business environment and attaining sustainable mutual benefits.

Yulia Bazhenova, Head of the TextILES Project at GIZ, thanked the EFP, ILO and congratulated the awardees for their impressive performance throughout the year. She explained the purpose of establishing the Responsible Business Helpdesk by GIZ and said it is a key resource for businesses looking to adopt responsible practices and compliance with conditionalities by the GSP+ and the EU due diligence framework.

A panel was set to scale up action on advancing responsible business practices which consisted of Mr. Saghir Bukhari, Senior Programme Officer ILO Pakistan, Ms. Kiran Zubair Labor Rights Specialist, Human Rights Department, Govt. of Sindh, Ch. Saad Muhammad, Deputy General Secretary Pakistan Workers Federation, and Mr. Mustafa Ahmad, General Manager Sustainability and ESG, Artistic Milliners. The panelist highlighted the impor-



tance of responsible businesses and informed how their respective departments and organizations are supporting and contributing to respond to the challenges of sustainable development and compliances.

At the recent awards ceremony, several companies were honored for their exemplary business practices. The CEO of the Year Awards were presented to Feroze1888 Mills Ltd and K-Electric Limited. The Position Holder Awards were given to Feroze1888 Mills Ltd, Lotte Chemical Pakistan Limited, K-Electric Limited,

Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited, Pakistan Mobile Communications Limited, Harbin Electric International Company Limited, Pak Arab Refinery Limited, Masood Textile Mills Ltd., Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited, and Nishat Mills Limited (Apparel Division). Additionally, 36 companies received Recognition Awards for their commitment to responsible business practices beyond mere compliance, while 7 companies were awarded Participation Awards for their efforts in promoting best business practices.

Pfizer's Assets Acquisition, CCP Grants Approval

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of certain assets of M/s. Pfizer Pakistan Limited by M/s. Lucky Core Industries. This acquisition is facilitated by a set of agreements including the Frame Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreements.

The acquisition encompasses several well-known pharmaceutical products and their respective registrations, manufacturing technology, know-how, and associated trademarks for Ansaid, Ponstan, Ponstan Forte, Basoquin, Deltacortril, Lysovit, Corex-D, and Mycitracin. Lucky Core Industries, a publicly listed company in Pakistan, is engaged in manufacturing various chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The Seller, Pfizer Pakistan Limited, is a public unlisted company that manufactures, imports, and markets pharmaceutical products in Pakistan. Its parent company, M/s. Pfizer Inc., is a publicly listed biopharmaceutical and biotechnology company based in Delaware, USA.

The CCP's market assessment identified the relevant product markets as 'Antirheumatic Systemic, Vitamins, Systemic Corticosteroids, Cough & Cold Preparations, Antiprotazoal & Anthelmintic, and Topical Antibacterial & Antivirals', with the geographic market being Pakistan.

This transaction is classified as a horizontal merger, resulting in a minor increase in the market presence of Lucky Core Industries across the relevant markets. The CCP has determined that the acquisition will not lead to dominance in any market, thus granting swift approval.

This strategic acquisition is poised to enhance the technological advancement in Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector, fostering innovation and ensuring a competitive market landscape. The CCP's approval underlines its commitment to upholding fair competition, benefiting consumers, and encouraging growth and investment in the industry.

Double standards in media reporting at Paris 2024

Xinhua

PARIS: The New York Times reported on Tuesday two Chinese swimmers tested positive for metandienone, a banned steroid, in 2022, but had their provisional suspensions lifted.

The Chinese Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) have both provided comprehensive explanations that legitimize their handling of these cases.

The CHINADA acted swiftly by provisionally suspending the athletes pending thorough investigation, which concluded in late 2023. The probe found that the positive results were a consequence of the inadvertent ingestion of tainted food, clearing the athletes of any wrongdoing.

The World Anti-Doping Agency corroborated CHINADA's findings, stating that multiple tests and extensive investigation, including the analysis of food samples and nutritional supplements, supported the conclusion that meat contamination had caused the positive tests.

The allegations against CHINADA reflect a deeper issue of bias and double standards in the portrayal of doping cases involving athletes from different countries.



The CHINADA is justified in defending its actions and integrity against allegations of cover-ups. The agency emphasized that meat contamination with prohibited substances is a global phenomenon, noting that many similar cases have occurred elsewhere.

Conversely, the U. S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) recently exonerated American track and field athlete Erriyon Knighton, who tested positive for the potent anabolic agent trenbolone. USADA attributed the result to meat contamination, allowing Knighton to

compete in the Paris Olympics without suspension.

This decision has drawn criticism for apparent double standards, as trenbolone is not frequently found as a contaminant, and similar cases have typically resulted in four-year suspensions. WADA is currently re-examining Knighton's case and considering an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

CHINADA's handling of doping cases stands in sharp contrast to USADA's leniency towards American athletes. This discrepancy raises questions about fair-

ness and the integrity of anti-doping enforcement.

The Chinese swimming team, among the most tested ahead of the Paris Olympics, has undergone rigorous scrutiny.

According to World Aquatics, swimming's global governing body, Chinese swimmers were tested on average 21 times from January 1 to the start of the Games. In comparison, Australian and American swimmers were tested only four and six times on average, respectively.

Despite the extensive testing and media scrutiny, Chinese athletes remain resilient. Pan Zhanle, who won gold and set a new world record in the 100m freestyle at the Paris La Defense Arena on Wednesday, acknowledged the rigorous testing regime but maintained a positive outlook. "All of the tests have not affected me much and I'm not annoyed by it. It's a part of the rules," the 19-year-old said.

As the Paris 2024 Games approach their midway point, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the importance of "fair play" with an unbiased approach to anti-doping enforcement and media reporting. The equal treatment of all athletes is paramount to the integrity of sports at these Olympics and beyond.

"Allah gave me the chance," says internet sensation Yusuf Dikec on medal victory

A Sports

Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec made headlines at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024 by securing a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

What made his victory even more remarkable was that he achieved this feat without the proper shooting gear.

The 51-year-old Dikec teamed with Seval Ilayda Tarhan to claim his first Olympic medal in his fifth appearance. He made his debut back in 2008 at the Beijing Olympics.

Dikec and Tarhan competed in the nail-biting final against Serbia's Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec, who came from behind to win the gold. Meanwhile, Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh secured the bronze medal.

Meanwhile, Yusuf Dikec finally opened up on his major success, which he achieved with a ground-breaking yet relaxed demeanour, and thanked Almighty Allah for the outcome before dedicating his medal to the Turkish state and nation.

"I am very happy that we won the medal. Allah gave me the chance to do this," said Dikec.

"I present my medal to the great Turkish nation and state," he added.

He further commented on his reason



for success, which was aiming with his both eyes open and no special equipment.

Notably, most shooters rely on specialized eyewear for improved accuracy and ear protectors to block out noise during competitions but Yusuf Dikec ditched each of the equipment and yet managed

to win a medal at the Paris Olympics.

"I did not need special equipment. I am a natural, a natural shooter," Dikec told Turkish media.

"Success doesn't come with your hands in your pockets," he was quoted as saying. Throughout his illustrious career

spanning over two decades, Yusuf Dikec has achieved remarkable success, securing numerous gold medals in prestigious events such as the ISSF World Championships, ISSF World Cup, European Championships, and European Games.

Pakistani contingent excels in Malaysian Open Taekwondo

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Pakistani athletes won many medals in the ongoing Malaysian Open Taekwondo Championship being played at Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Pakistani athletes won many medals in the ongoing Malaysian Open Taekwondo Champi-

onship in Kuala Lumpur. In the two-day competitions, Pakistani athletes presented a brilliant performance on the opening day and won two gold, three silver and six brown medals.

Umeema won gold in Fight, Silver in Pair poomsae and bronze medal in Individual poomsae, Hania won gold medal in Individual poomsae,



silver medal in Fight and Bronze in Pair poomsae. Mohammad Mustafa Afridi and Imran

Ahmad in individual categories won bronze medal, Muhammad Ahmad in individual poomsae

got silver medal, Waqar Afridi won bronze and Hashim won bronze medals in pairs.

MS Dhoni shares insights about his bond with Virat Kohli

A Sports

LAHORE: Former India captain and legendary wicketkeeper batter MS Dhoni opened up on his relationship with Virat Kohli, fondly remembering his running between the wickets with the star batter.

Dhoni established himself as one of the greatest captains in the history of cricket, mainly due to his leadership that powered India to the T20 World Cup in 2007, Cricket World Cup in 2011 and ICC Champions Trophy in 2013.

Meanwhile, Kohli made his international debut under Dhoni's captaincy in 2008 and went on to become one of the best batters in the world.

Despite not getting to meet frequently, MS Dhoni emphasized the mutual respect he shared with Virat Kohli.

"We have been colleagues who played for India for a very long time. He (Kohli)

has been amongst the best when it comes to world cricket. It is not like we meet very often, but whenever we get a chance, we make sure that we go on the side and chat for some time. We will talk about what is going on, so that is our relationship," Dhoni said.

"And the fact that I could bat a lot with him during the middle overs was a lot of fun because we used to take a lot of twos and threes in the game, so it has always been fun," he further added.

Remember, Virat Kohli made a major revelation during the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2022 that MS Dhoni was the only one to contact him when he left India's Test captaincy earlier that year.

"When I left Test captaincy, I only received a message from one person and I have played with that person in the past. That person is MS Dhoni, anyone else did not message me. Many people

have my number, and there are many people who give me suggestions on the TV," Kohli stated.

"When you have genuine respect and connection with someone, you are able to see that because there is security from both sides," he maintained.

The star batter also denied any insecurities with Dhoni before shedding light on how one-on-one suggestions are better than those given in front of the entire world.

"I don't want anything from him and he does not want anything from me. I was never insecure from him and he was never of me. I can just say that if I want to say something to someone, I will reach out individually," Kohli said.

"Even if you want to help. If you want to give a suggestion to me in front of the TV or the whole world, it does not hold any value to me. You can talk 1-1, I see



things with utmost honesty. It is not like I do not care, but you see the things how they are," he added.

Two more matches decided in National Women's Football Club Championship 2024



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The National Women's Football Club Championship 2024 continued to deliver thrilling action on the second day of its final stage at Jinnah Sports Complex, Islamabad.

In the first match of the day, Legacy WFC dominated the field with a stunning 11-0 victory over Diya WFC. Kainat and Eman were the standout players, each scoring three goals, showcasing their remarkable talent and contributing significantly to their team's triumph while Malika, Roshnan, Alina, Nazalia and Karishma each netted a goal, demonstrating the team's cohesive performance.

The second match saw a tightly contested battle between Jafa WFC and Highlanders, ending in a 1-1 draw. Nazima scored for Jafa WFC, while Khatoon equalized for Highlanders WFC.

Central Park Cricket Club made the history



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Central Park Cricket Club made the history all over the Pakistan in Club level cricket and organized the three day cricket match and won the match in basis of 1st inning lead Central park 1st inning scored 232 for all out in 56.5 overs Saad Siddiqui 92 and Ali Kashif 46, Ibrahim Khuram 47/4

Young lucky star 1st inning 162 for all out in 57-overs Abdull wassay 42 and Hassan Muddasar 40, Muhammed Zaman 8/3 and Saad Siddiqui 25/2 central park in 2nd inning 117/10 zain Ul Hassan 35 and Azam Ali 25 Ibrahim Khuram 9/3 and Muhammed 21/3

Young lucky star in his 2nd inning 95/6 in 22-overs match Hassan Ali 44 runs. Ahsan kaleem excellent bowling and took 35 for 5 in 2nd inning.

Officials

Kamran Ch Referee
Jawaid Ashraf, Qaiser Waheed on field umpires
and Azhar Hussain Scorer
Chief guest Mr. Umar Hameed gave away the prizes among the players

Saad Siddiqui best player Ahsan kaleem best bowler from Central park and Ibrahim Khuram best bowler from y. kully

Legacy WFC wins match in National Women's Football Club C'ship



Sports Desk

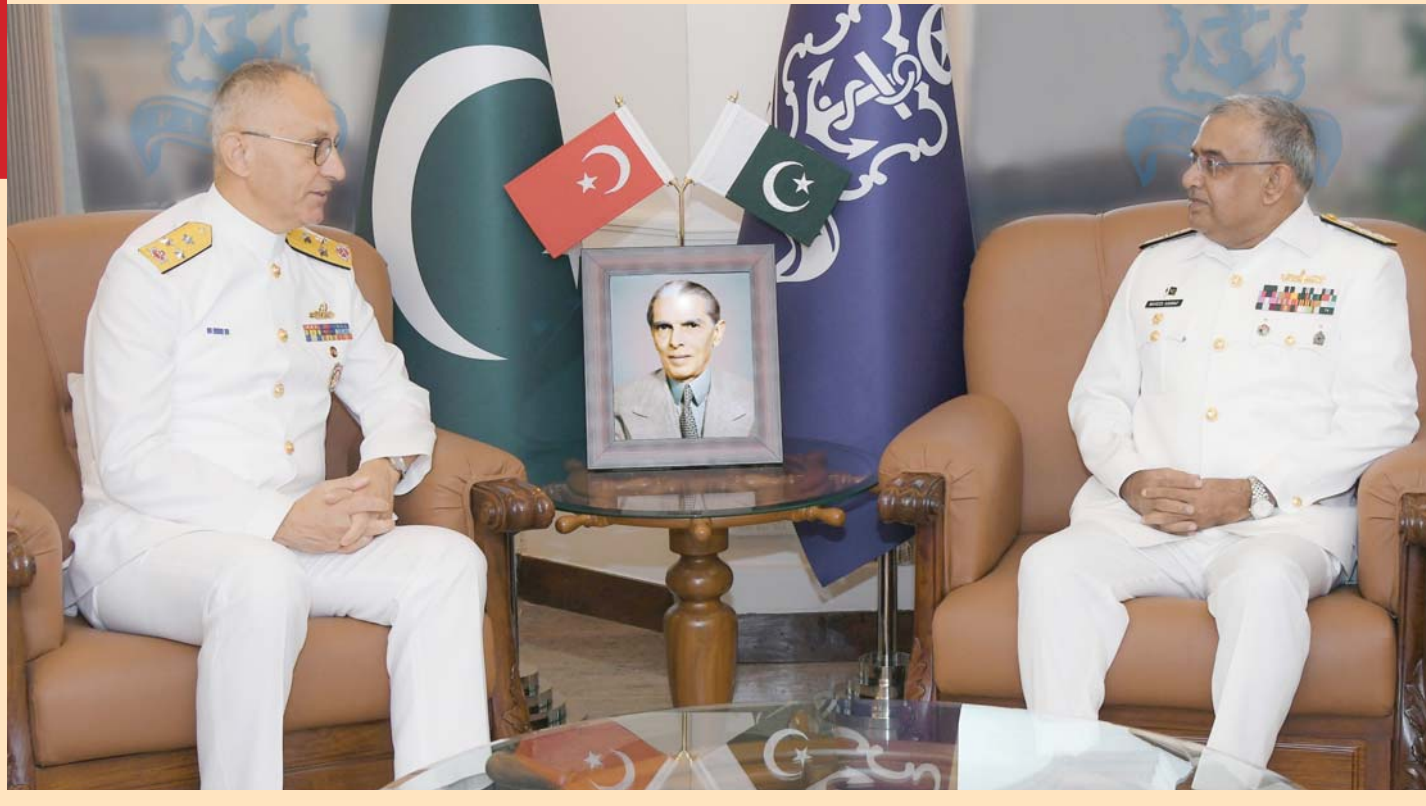
ISLAMABAD: Legacy WFC earned victory while match between Jafa WFC and Highlanders ended in a draw of the National Women's Football Club Championship 2024, played at Jinnah Stadium of the Pakistan Sports Complex here Saturday.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Vice Admiral Ibrahim Ozdem KOCER, Chief of Staff Turkish Naval Forces Command at Naval Headquarters.



Chief Of Staff Turkish Naval Forces Command Visits NHQ

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, 03 AUG 24: Turkish Navy Delegation headed by Chief of Staff Turkish Naval Forces Command Vice Admiral Ibrahim Ozdem KOCER, visited Naval Headquarters for 6th Pakistan Navy

Turkish Navy Expert Level Staff Talks.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the visiting dignitary was received by Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami.

Later on, the Turkish Chief of Staff called on Chief of the

Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Both the dignitaries discussed professional matters of common interest.

Visiting Admiral appreciated Pakistan Navy's contribution in collaborative security through various initiatives, including contribution in CTFs 150 and 151,

conduct of Exercise AMAN and Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP).

During the Staff Talks, wide ranging matters related to operations, training and technical domains came under discussion. The visiting delegation appreciated strong bilateral

relations and discussed further opportunities of collaboration.

Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy brotherly relations and navies of both the countries collaborate in various domains including joint production and upgradation of various platforms and systems.

Ahsan Iqbal stresses boosting exports to overcome economic challenges

City Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal has emphasised that increasing exports is the only way out for Pakistan to achieve economic growth.

Addressing the 28th Textile Asia International Trade Fair 2024, organised by Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) at Expo Centre Lahore on Saturday, he said Pakistan had vast resources and potential but there was a need to focus on productivity, quality, and innovation to enhance competitiveness, profitability, and economic development.

The planning minister mentioned that approximately 550 companies from seven countries were participated in the expo, adding that trade fairs and expos like this was a tool to boost exports of any country. He stated that boosting exports was essential for economic development, as

it would not only strengthen the Pakistani Rupee but also contribute to national prosperity. He asserted that enhancing exports was crucial for Pakistan to escape its debt burden and improve economic condition.

Ahsan Iqbal criticised opposition for focusing on protests rather than offering constructive solutions to the country's issues. He underscored the need for unity among all stakeholders to overcome political differences and achieve progress.

Addressing the current economic difficulties, he described the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme as a temporary solution, referring to it as a 'bitter pill' that Pakistan must eventually move beyond. He emphasised that export growth should be a top government priority, highlighting its importance for a stable economy.

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Ameer Muqam criticizes KP govt for corruption, demands probe into scandals

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Ameer Muqam here on Saturday criticized provincial government for corruption and said that PTI leadership should solve problems of people rather than issuing misleading statements and threatening opponents.

Addressing a press conference in PML-N Secretariat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that mudslinging, targeting and threatening would not benefit the people of KP who are confronted with daunting problems of unemployment, peace and deteriorating law and order situation.

He said that the provincial government should seriously consider the scandals of wheat, medicines and forest that are question marks on the performance and credibility of KP government.

Ameer Muqam said that the KP province was facing a 'power battle' for personal benefits and those who were elected to serve people were involved in corruption and minting money, adding that provincial ministers had also admitted ongoing corruption, mismanagement and plundering of public resources.

He said we desire that electricity crises should be resolved but the existing situation demands political insight coupled with mutual consensus. He said that torching of grid stations and forcibly acquiring control of supply stations would further aggravate the situation and negatively impact people living in KP. The federal minister said southern districts are facing worst law and order situation but the provincial government has done nothing tangible to strengthen Counter Terrorism Department and law enforcement agencies.

CM Maryam meets secretary emergency services to discuss launching air ambulance

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Secretary Emergency Services Doctor Rizwan Naseer in which matters pertaining to launching 'Air Ambulance' project and 'Motorway Rescue 1122 Services' were discussed. Doctor Rizwan Naseer gave a briefing about the air ambulance project and also apprised about the air ambulance pilot run. Various matters with regard to shifting the patients from Bahawalnagar and Mianwali to the far-flung areas through the air ambulance service were discussed.

Doctor Rizwan Naseer gave a briefing about the landing arrangements of air ambulance in various cities. Matters relating to new airplanes about the air ambulance service also came under discussion in the meeting.

It was agreed to use the helicopter of CM Punjab so as to immediately shift a patient in case of an emergency situation arising in the Central Punjab. Secretary Emergency Services expressed his gratitude to CM Punjab on granting permission to use the official helicopter in case of any untoward situation.

The Chief Minister expressed her satisfaction on launching the air ambulance project. She directed to undertake all possible steps for launching the rescue services on the motorways at the earliest.



The CM said, "The life of every patient is highly precious and patients dwelling in the far-flung areas can be shifted to a big hospital for their treatment through the air ambulance service. The air ambulance service is being launched for the facilitation of the people of Punjab as precious lives can be saved in an emergency situation. Rescue 1122 ambulance service will be available at the motorways interchange. In case of an accident, the swift availability and reaching of a rescue ambulance service at the motorways will become possible."

She added, "Punjab will be the first province for launching the ambulance service at the motorways. The Punjab province not only has become a role model in Pakistan but in South Asia as well with regard to timely provision of rescue services." Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman was also present on the occasion.

Federal Minister and State Minister of Finance Visit RTO Lahore



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, visited the Regional Tax Office (RTO) Lahore, today. They were warmly received by Chief Coordinator Tajir Dost Scheme Mr. Naem Mir, Member Operations Mir Badshah Khan Wazir, Chief Retailers Registration Nazia Zaib, Chief Commissioner RTO Lahore Mr. Ahmad Shuja Khan, and their teams, along with trade representatives. During the visit, the Federal Minister inaugurated the Central Secretariat for Tajir

Dost Scheme in Lahore. RTO Lahore provided a comprehensive briefing on the Scheme's operations and impact.

The Finance Minister appreciated the performance of Tajir Dost Scheme in Lahore and stressed the importance of its effective implementation and the collection of advance taxes. The Federal Minister also engaged with trade representatives, listening to their suggestions on improving the Scheme. He instructed that these recommendations be implemented efficiently to enhance the Scheme's effectiveness.

RTO Lahore currently holds the leading position in Pakistan with the highest number of trader registrations, totaling 24,814 till date.

PM orders Azad Kashmir to take all possible measures to clear landslide area

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has directed the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to clear landslide area to restore normal flow of traffic on the main highway.

The PM said this after inspecting landslide hit area near Dulai that blocked the Muzaffarabad-Rawalpindi high way to all sorts of traffic yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the landslide debris should be cleared as soon as possible to restore normal flow of traffic on the highway.

He said that traffic should be diverted towards alternative routes so that the people do not face any kind of problem.



On this occasion the PM was given a detailed briefing on the measures being taken by the state disaster management authority. DG SDMA told the PM that the administration, officials and staff of all the relevant departments were present at the spot and heavy machinery was being used to clear the debris.

Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Director General State Disaster Management Authority Masoodur Rahman and other relevant officials were also present on this occasion.

India fails in weaken Kashmiris freedom spirit for plebiscite: Mushaal

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Saturday said that India failed to weaken the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom and right to self-determination despite its tyranny and unilateral move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan, she was wife of illegally detained Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that the international community and world human rights organizations should ban terrorist organizations like RSS.

She said that immense discussion was held on the Indian initiative of August 5, 2019, at the global level and in India itself, adding that India wanted to resettle non-state residents, including retired army officers in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal said that India was leasing Kashmir's land to

foreigners and giving a false impression that the situation had returned to normal IIOJK, adding that Kashmiri people had mentally prepared themselves by looking at Indian illegal actions.

After August 5, she said that the direct control of religious and tourist places and forest land had been taken over by the New Delhi government. Kashmiri people were being deprived of jobs quota and bank accounts of Kashmiris were also sealed.



PM chairs meeting to finalize ...

Continued from Page 1

of India on August 5, 2019.

The prime minister would also issue an important policy statement. Pakistan, Kashmiris and the international community had rejected the Indian steps to end the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

On the Youm-e-Istehsal Day, special walk would be held and events would be organized at the federal

level, in the provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

Special transmission would be broadcast to shed light on the efforts of the leadership of the Kashmir freedom movement, sacrifices of Kashmiris and the facts about Indian oppression.

Federal ministers, advisors and high level officials attended the meeting. The prime minister was briefed on the preparations regarding the Youm-e-Istehsal Day.