

Spirit of Indonesian Independence continues to burn despite rain in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD (10/8): More than three hundred Indonesian nationals along with their families gathered this morning at the Embassy of the Republic Indonesia in Islamabad. Despite rain, they remained enthusiastically join the pre-event series to celebrate the 79th anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day on 17 August 2024.

"Thank you for coming to all Indonesian nationals from Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujrat, Sialkot, Faisalabad, and Abbottabad," said Mr. Ferry J. Murdiansyah, Chief of the Indonesian Embassy's Committee of the Independence Day 2024 in his welcoming remarks. He also appreciated the presence of all coordinators who have helped the Embassy in protection mission towards its nationals in Pakistan.

The pre-event is marked by great festivity. A highly anticipated, joyful aspect of the Independence Day celebration is the indispensable tradition of the sport events and fun games that take place nationwide and across the globe supported by the Indonesian missions abroad. In Islamabad, the pre-event begins with fun walk at the Diplomatic Enclave. All participants wear T-Shirt in national fervor and spirit of red and white representing the colors of the Indonesian flag. Regardless of age, there are fun activities for everyone.

Covering a distance of 3 kilometers the fun walk finished back at the Embassy where the participants were greeted by refreshments and surprise gifts. Later, various games described as 'Lomba 17an' in the Indonesian language got underway featuring hotly contested various events such as badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and futsal.

The Indonesian traditional popular games like Tug of War (Tarik Tambang),



Wooden Clog Race (Lomba Bakiak), Sack Race (Balap Karung), Spoon-Marble Race (Lomba Kelereng), and coloring competitions for the kids were special features of the day. These games highlight the playful and amusing nature of the celebrations not only greatly entertained the participants and spectators but showcased Indonesia's rich cultural heritage as well. Apart from physical activity and amusement, the sports and fun games essentially symbolize the spirits of unity, friendship, and collaboration among Indonesian nationals.

Moreover, the Indonesian Chargé

d'Affaires while introducing the Indonesia's 79th Independence Day Logo and Theme, "New Nusantara, Advanced Indonesia", he further illustrated the momentous transition and the ambitious project of shifting the Indonesian capital city and administrative heart from the bustling city of Jakarta to Nusantara City which is greener and sustainable. "Nusantara is conceptualized and designed to be more than just a new capital city but it essentially represents a long term vision for the nation," he concluded.

"For sure, I am very happy. Meeting with my Indonesian friends and having

traditional meals together are such blessing for me," said Muna, an Indonesian national married to Pakistani from Kasur, Punjab. "I am coming to the Embassy not alone, but along with my Pakistani families. We really enjoy the event," added Andalusia from Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

To spice up the event, the special food stalls were set up by the Indonesian students, offering a choice of Indonesian popular scrumptious dishes such as Rendang (spicy meat dish), Nasi Goreng (fried rice), Nasi Padang (steamed rice served with various dishes), Mei Goreng (fried noodles)



and Soto or the traditional soups, and traditional Travel, that make the pre-event



much more.

The Indonesian Embassy highly appreciates the support and participation of Omar Travel, Super Crown Travel, Destiny Holiday Planners, A2Z Travel Solutions, Marwa Travel and Shelozon MPL, Al-Zohra Travel & Tours, OZ Travel & Tours, Akhtar Travel & Tours, and Crown Interna-

possible.

Following the pre-event, the Indonesian Embassy is currently preparing the Indonesian Expo 2024 at the Centaurus Mall on 16-18 August 2024 and the Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Embassy's premises on 17 August 2024 as the core event to celebrate the Independence Day.

FDA in action against encroachment in residential colonies, markets

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry, a vigorous operation is underway against illegal commercialization and encroachment mafia in residential colonies and commercial markets controlled by FDA. In this regard, the enforcement team of FDA, taking action, foiled the attempt to convert three residential plots into commercial buildings without approval, while a public interest plot in Sirsyed Town was taken away from illegal occupants. According to the details, the



FDA enforcement team headed by State Officer Anib Aslam Randhawa during the inspection foiled the attempt to convert three residential quarters into a commercial building without commercialization approval in Allama Iqbal Colony and stopped the construc-

tion. Plots sealed include Quarter No. E-265, N-265 and K-1. Property owners have been issued notices and directed to obtain formal approval for using residential houses for commercial purposes, otherwise strict legal action will be taken in case of further violations.

Minister says govt is working to address the issues of newspapers and journalists

Bureau Report

SWAT: Arshad Khan, Secretary Information and Public Relations Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said that the provincial government is working to address the issues faced by newspapers and journalists. He expressed these views during the inauguration of the new office of Daily Aaj Swat Bureau.



Arshad Khan said that the government is aware of the problems faced by newspapers and journalists and is making comprehensive plans to address them. He added that the government is also working on a plan to bring social media in line, so that it can be used to convey people's issues to the authorities instead of spreading propaganda and false news.

Karachi Arts Council organized awareness seminar titled 'Aatiya-e-Ummid' along with a blood donation camp.

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's Medical and Social Welfare Committee collaborated with the Patient Welfare Association, organized a seminar titled "Aatiya-e-Ummid" (Gift of Hope) at the Haseena Moin Hall. The seminar focused on raising awareness about blood donation and thalassemia. Several prominent medical professionals, including Chairman of the Medical and Social Welfare Committee Dr. Qaisar Sajjad, Consultant Hematologist Noor ul Ain, Chief Oncologist and Pediatric Oncologist Dr. Uzma Imam, Gastroenterology and Hepatitis Specialist Dr. Huma Qureshi, Expert in women's health Prof. Dr. Riffat Jaleel, and Shariah Advisor Maulana Mufti Hussain, shared their insights. Dr. Qaisar Sajjad emphasized the importance of health, stating, "Health is wealth, and it is heartening to see the enthusiasm of the participants today." He acknowledged the common perception that the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi only hosts cultural programs like dramas, music,



and dance. However, this institution also addressed health related issues. He highlighted that the council's Medical and Social Welfare Committee has been active in providing significant support during crises such as floods, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandem-

ic. Dr. Sajjad credited the success of these initiatives to the personal interest and tireless efforts of the President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmad Shah. He also mentioned that the council has established a clinic where members can receive free check-

ups. During her speech, Dr. Noor ul Ain emphasized the importance of good health for blood donation, noting that donors should weigh more than 50 kg and have a hemoglobin level of at least 12.5. She dispelled the misconception that women cannot donate blood, explaining that women can donate if they are healthy and free from any illness, although they typically have lower hemoglobin levels than men. Maulana Mufti Hussain addressed the religious perspective on blood donation, clarifying that individuals are not the sole owners of their blood and that helping others by donating blood is a virtuous act. He added that a husband can donate blood to his wife. Dr. Uzma Imam highlighted that cancer patients often have reduced bone marrow capacity to produce blood, making them dependent on blood donations. She advised that before any surgery, the patient's hemoglobin level should be at least 10. Prof. Dr. Riffat Jaleel advocated for premarital thalassemia testing to prevent the disease, noting that such tests can also be conducted during pregnancy.

Attack Police continues crackdown against criminal elements, 7 accused arrested

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: About 5 kg of Chars, 33 liters of liquor and 2 pistols of 30 bore were recovered, separate cases were registered.

According to the details, following the special instructions of the District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, the Attock Police is continuing the crackdown against the criminal elements. 1600 grams of Chars recovered from the possession of Shahia Hasan Abdal On the other hand, Bisal police station arrested the notorious drug dealer Haider Zaman son of Amir Zaman and Waheed Iqbal son of Muhammad Iqbal, residents of Bisal Tehsil Jand along with drugs and arrested 1520 grams of Chars from accused Haider Zaman. And 1400 grams of hashish was recovered from Waheed Iqbal. Similarly, police station Bahtar arrested the liquor seller Bin yamin son of Karam Khan and Muhammad Riaz son of Khan Muhammad of Humak Fateh Jang along with liquor while the police team of Jand police station arrested Vishal son of Chand Lal r/o Kohat. A pistol with 30 bore ammunition was recovered from his possession.

Commissioner announces extensive plantation on Aug. 27 to plant more saplings



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: With the intervention of Commissioner Silwat Saeed, Chak 534 g. B. 27 in Jaranwala. Acres of government land were handed over from the occupiers. The land was occupied by the mafia for three decades. Commissioner Silwat Saeed gave the goal of handing over the land to the Department of Forests, Revenue and Police. After the hand-over, a special meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Faisalabad. Additional Commissioner Coordination Mossawer Ahmad Khan Niazi, Divisional Forest Officer Ansar Rasool and Assistant Commissioner General Dr. Abid Mumtaz Khan Syal were also present. He announced to conduct extensive plantation on August. He said that youth, students, civil society and farmers will be involved in the plantation to set a record of planting more saplings in one minute. He also planned to build a large nursery on five acres of land. The Commissioner said that saplings should also be provided to the farmers. He said that on the orders of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, there will be a competition to plant saplings in the districts on Independence Day and the district administration who planted more saplings in the division will be given a prize and certificate of appreciation.

Chief Traffic Officer Farhan Aslam took charge of his post



Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Farhan Aslam took charge of his post. He said that improvement of traffic system and better traffic flow on roads is the first priority. Public service and welfare of the force is the main mission. He said during the meeting of the officers. He said that any kind of corruption in the institution is intolerable. DSPs of all circles and in-charges of all branches of traffic headquarters had an introductory meeting with the Chief Traffic Officer. On this occasion, he added that along with traffic enforcement, traffic education and Awareness campaigns will also be given attention. Citizens should be treated with courtesy and kindness.

Zia Muhyiddin elected President of Pakistan Cleft Lip and Plate Association Kharian

Anwar Chohan

KHARIAN: Deputy Commissioner Gujarat Safdar Hussain Wark issued the notification to the Chairman of Skyways Group Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin for the chairmanship of Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association Tehsil Kharian. Chairman Dr. Ijaz Bashir, Azizul Rehman Mujahid, Mirza Ashfaq Bashir and Khalid Sohna were also present. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Gujarat Safdar Hussain Wark said that Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin Tehsil Kharian is the world-class center for free treatment of children with cleft lip and palate problems. Ayesha Bashir Cleft Hospital will conduct an awareness campaign and make it possible to provide resources for free treatment of deserving children. All abilities will be used for the promotion of this great mission. He said that Ayesha Bashir Cleft Hospital Gujarat is a unique and great project in which work is being done to decorate the faces of disappointed and hopeful children.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:54 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 5:01 pm
Maghrib 6:59 pm
Isha 8:31 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 115
Bomb Disposal 115
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 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
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Karachi Industrialists celebrate Arshad Nadeem's gold victory

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Industrialists in Karachi have expressed immense joy over Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem's historic achievement at the Paris Olympics, where he won a gold medal for Pakistan. They have hailed his victory as a priceless gift for the nation on Independence Day. Additionally, the arrival of Dr. Salah bin Mohammad Al-Budair, Imam of Masjid Al-Nabawi, in Pakistan has been deemed a blessed occasion.

Prominent industrialist and founder chairman of the All-Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association, Abdul Shakoor Khatri, praised Arshad Nadeem for bringing international recognition to Pakistan through his outstanding performance, making the entire nation proud.

Indian forces' tyranny, HR violations in IIOJK reach new high after revocation of Article 370: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick has said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A by India on August 5, 2019 has further compounded the miseries of inhabitants of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as the occupation forces further intensified the series of tyranny and human rights violations in the scenic valley to silence the dissenting voices.

Mushaal, who is wife of incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, in her speech as a chief guest in a seminar titled "Kashmir Dispute - Latest Imperatives and Way Forward" organized by NIMA said that the abrogation Articles 370 and 35A which stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special autonomous status, has not only altered

the constitutional framework of the region but has also triggered a series of human rights violations and raised serious concerns about the future of its people.

She said that the unilateral revocation of Articles 370 and 35A by the Indian government has been viewed as an attempt to integrate Kashmir fully into the Indian Union, but it has come at a significant cost.

Former SAPM said that the international community, including the United Nations and various human rights organizations, has expressed grave concern over the situation, documenting widespread human rights abuses and the use of excessive force by security personnel.

Yasin Malik's wife informed the audience that the issuance of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, seen as a tool to alter the region's demographic composition, has further fuelled

fears of an erosion of Kashmir's unique identity and culture.

Mushaal said that it is crucial to acknowledge the ongoing human suffering and the need for a just and peaceful resolution. "The way forward must involve renewed diplomatic efforts, dialogue between all stakeholders, and a commitment to upholding the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, adding that she said that the international community must play a proactive role in facilitating a resolution that ensures peace, stability, and respect for human rights in the region".

Mushaal said that the world must not turn a blind eye to the plight of Kashmiris, and it is imperative that efforts are made to address their grievances and pave the way for a future where justice and peace prevail.

President NIMA; Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI (M), Executive Director Centre for



International Strategic Studies Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani, Ambassador Nadeem Riaz, Advocate Taimur Malik, Ahmer Bilal Soofi and all other speakers and audience attended the seminar.

Preparations of Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: Vendors displayed National flags and badges attraction for customers along Murree Road in the city, ahead of upcoming Independence Day on 14th August.

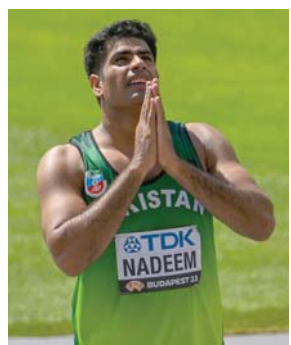


Photo: Online

Imran Malik announces to write a book and make a film on Arshad Nadeem

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Internationally renowned and author of several books, gold medalist columnist and former diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Imran Malik has written a book on the famous national hero Arshad Nadeem, who won the gold medal in the Paris Olympics and broke the Olympic record in javelin throw. It has been announced that the film will be made. In his statement on Saturday, he said that Arshad Nadeem's



success is being appreciated in the United Nations and due to his great success, Pakistan has

also received a lot of recognition around the world. Especially in our neighboring countries, Pakistan is being talked about a lot and programs about Arshad Nadeem's life and achievements are being shown on various channels. He further said that Arshad Nadeem, who belongs to a poor family and did not even have access to international standard equipment and facilities, did what he did with his tireless hard work, dedication, hard work and passion which impressed the whole world. Surprised. His victory

brought Pakistan to an unimaginable position. Imran Malik said that the book written on the life of Arshad Nadeem and the film to be made will be a torch for the present and future generations. Our youth will be able to learn a lot from the tireless work, struggle and success of Arshad Nadeem, who did not let his hard work and courage diminish even in difficult circumstances and did something that will be written in golden letters in history. Will be remembered forever. Arshad Nadeem is certainly proud.

Citizens laud CJP on IWMB transfer case, urge action on Margalla Hills Land Acquisition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Citizens, sustainable development experts and environmentalists have come together to express their heartfelt appreciation for the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa, for his decisive intervention in reversing the government's controversial decision to transfer the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) from the Ministry of Climate Change to the Ministry of Interior. This crucial action was lauded during a recent high-profile webinar focused on the conservation challenges facing the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

The webinar on the subject "Threats to Margalla Hills National Park - the

way forward" was organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) here on Saturday. An overwhelming participation included well-known environmentalists Asif Shuja Khan, Azhar Qureshi, T. A. Bhutta, Amara Javed, Mushtaq Gill, Asif Khawaja, MuhMmad Sarmad Khan, Amar Abbas, Ambreen Hussain, Fatima Noor, Fatima Anwar and Saleh Hyat.

During the webinar, participants raised alarms about a disturbing request letter currently circulating, issued by the military estate department. The letter has sought the government approval to acquire 3,481 kanals of land within the Margalla Hills National Park under the "pretext" of defense and security

needs. Environmentalists have categorically opposed this move, arguing that it threatens to disrupt the ecological balance of the park and could lead to further encroachments.

"We strongly urge the Chief Justice to take Suo Moto notice of this issue," said Azhar Qureshi, an environmentalist. His suggestion was supported by other activists in a unanimous call.

Another participant, T. A. Bhutta pointed out that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) side of the Margalla Hills National Park has already been compromised by illegal land grabs.

Asif S Khan also urged the Prime Minister to convene the National Environment Council's meeting as soon as possible to discuss the national environ-

mental degradation and climate change challenges.

Amra Javed highlighted the growing threats to the Margalla Hills National Park from various commercial activities, including the construction of housing units, hotels, playlands and resorts.

"The Margalla Hills National Park is a vital ecological and recreational asset for the residents of Islamabad and beyond," said Amar Abbas.

Jawad Zaki, an environmental engineer, while highlighting several significant threats to the Margalla Hills National Park said: "The IWMB lacks the authority to enforce protection measures, such as imposing fines, which limits its effectiveness in safeguarding the park.

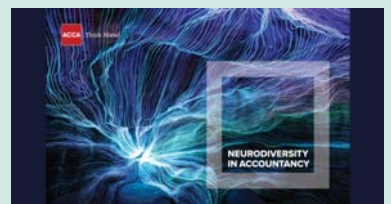
Embracing neurodiversity brings business benefits, says new ACCA report

City Desk

LAHORE: ACCA's latest report 'Neurodiversity in accountancy' explores the growing awareness by employers that those who are neurodivergent have real value to bring to an organisation. The report highlights targeted hiring programmes that have actively sought out neurodivergent talent to undertake specific roles.

It's estimated between 15-20% of the population are neurodivergent. As a result, organisations have a moral responsibility to include and support neurodivergent individuals, creating workplace environments where everyone's challenges are supported and strengths are celebrated, and where neurodivergent individuals can thrive.

This report shares stories of individuals who are neurodivergent within the accountancy profession and ultimately celebrates thinking differently, representing organisations as diverse as accountancy firms EY and Cooper Parry, recruitment firm Michael Page Malaysia, HMRC (the UK's tax authority) and The Ritz London hotel). Numerous benefits to organisations were cited, from brand recognition and winning new business to accessing previously untapped talent pools. Bringing innovation, creativity and other valuable skills to the organisation was also recognised as a key benefit. Ultimately, a proactive approach in this area has an impact on creating value for an organisation, both financially and socially.



CEO CBD Punjab-UK High Commissioner Discuss UK Based Universities' Establishment At CBD NSIT City

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: To enhance academic opportunities and position CBD NSIT City, Lahore, as a premier educational hub, CEO Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), Imran Amin, and Dr. M. Faisal, the High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom, met in London to discuss proposals for the establishment of UK-based university campuses at NSIT City. Director Marketing CBD Punjab, Wasem Siddiq, and Sameer Aftab Sial, Director Architecture and Planning CBD Punjab, were also present during the meeting.

The meeting focused on creating collaborative opportunities that would not only benefit students in Pakistan but also strengthen educational ties between the UK and Pakistan. The proposed initiative is set to provide Pakistani students with access to world-class education and foster an environment of innovation and research at NSIT City, which is poised to become Pakistan's first and largest IT city.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, while highlighting the strategic importance of NSIT City said, "NSIT City is envisioned as a state-of-the-art educational and technological hub. By bringing UK university campuses to Lahore, we aim to provide our youth with unparalleled opportunities for higher education and professional growth. This collaboration will not only uplift the educational standards but also drive economic growth by attracting investments and fostering innovation."

Dr. Faisal emphasized the importance of such educational collaborations, stating, "This initiative is a testament to our commitment to fostering international partnerships that enhance the educational landscape in Pakistan. The Pakistan High Commission in the UK will extend full facilitation to ensure that CBD Punjab connects with potential investors and partners in the UK. We are optimistic that this collaboration will bring about significant advancements in the academic sector."

Dr. Faisal reiterated the Pakistan High Commission's role in facilitating these discussions, stating, "We are committed to supporting CBD Punjab in this endeavor and will leverage our connections in the UK to bring together the best minds and resources. This partnership has the potential to transform NSIT City into a global center of excellence."

Vendor arrested for hurling threats to price magistrate

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A vegetable vendor was arrested in Attock on Saturday for hurling threats and manhandling a price magistrate in the busiest business center at Peoples Colony in the limits of the city Police station. According to the first investigating report, the special Price Control Magistrate Asad Nawaz Satti has lodged a report that he was checking prices of daily food items at Peoples Colony, a vegetable vendor later identified as Rooh Ullah was encroaching the state land and selling vegetables at exorbitant rates. When the official price list was asked from him, he in the presence of dozens of people not only hurled threats at him but also manhandled him. Later Police registered a case and sent him behind the bars.

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A medal that save our country from Humiliation

Being a nation of 250 million people and experiencing one failure after another of our sportspersons in the Paris Olympics was heart-breaking. These defeats were not due to the failure of the players to perform in the sports arena but rather a reflection of our collective failure in almost every discipline compared to developing or developed nations.

However, it was perhaps divine intervention that nurtured an honest, pure, dedicated, and talented soul for years, saving us from a total whitewash at the Olympic Games and giving the entire nation priceless moments to relish, celebrate, and cherish.

This moment, like for me and my wife, who did not even blink, fearing to miss the golden moments of glory yesterday, came when our only "HERO" Arshad Nadeem made history. He set a record in javelin throw that no one had ever achieved in the past and which will be difficult to break in the near future. His victory was a beacon of hope and pride, reminding us of the potential we hold as a nation when our talents are nurtured and supported.

Today, all our family members stood with pride once again before the TV screen, watching as the gold medal was garlanded around our hero's neck while our national anthem played in the background. This filled our hearts with overwhelming emotions and brought tears to our eyes. We were at a loss for words to thank Almighty Allah and Arshad Nadeem for giving us such an exalted

moment of glory. His achievement saved us from feeling dejected, humiliated, gloomy, and sad.

Pakistan's investment in education, health, vocational training, sports, professional training, and research and development significantly lags behind both developed and many developing countries. Pakistan allocates approximately 1.7% of its GDP (\$4 billion) to education, in stark contrast to the 6.2% and 5.5% (\$800 billion) spent by developed countries and around 9.6% and 9.1% of their GDP spent by some developing countries. In terms of healthcare, Pakistan's expenditure is also minimal, around 2.8% (\$6 billion) of GDP, whereas developed nations often spend between 10-12% (\$4 trillion) of their GDP on health. In research and development (R&D), Pakistan spends less than 0.3% (\$ 700 million) of its GDP, which pales in comparison to countries like South Korea and Israel, which invest over 4% (\$90 billion) of their GDP in R&D. Similarly, vocational training and sports in Pakistan receive minimal financial support.

Pakistan's neglect in the sports arena is even more pronounced. The sports budget does not exceed \$40 million annually, which includes funding for the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), various sports federations, and infrastructure projects. There is a lack of a robust network of sports acad-

emies and educational institutions dedicated to nurturing young talent. Talent identification programs are sporadic and limited in scope. The economic model for sports in Pakistan is underdeveloped, making the sports economy unattractive and disorganized compared to successful sports nations.

Enhanced training facilities and access to world-class coaching are virtually non-existent. Comprehensive athlete support programs, including nutrition, sports science, psychology, and medical care, which ensure athletes remain in peak physical and mental condition, are unknown in Pakistan. The integration of sports science and medicine to produce consistently high-performing and medal-winning athletes is absent. This systemic neglect hampers the potential of Pakistani athletes and prevents the country from achieving significant success in international sports competitions.

We know that investment in grassroots programs ensures a steady pipeline of talent by nurturing young athletes from an early age, and long-term investment in these programs will make our sportspersons a dominant force in their respective sports, enabling them to regularly win medals at the Olympics. Structured competitive platforms, such as the college sports system, provide athletes with the necessary experience and expo-

sure, which is crucial for producing numerous Olympic medalists. We are also well aware that financial support and scholarships allow athletes to focus on training without financial burdens, resulting in sports dominance. International exposure and exchange programs help athletes gain experience and improve performance, leading to consistent success in events like the Olympics and World Championships. These strategies, if implemented effectively, can transform Pakistan's sports landscape and elevate our athletes to international acclaim.

Ironically, despite knowing what needs to be done to create a sustainable sports ecosystem, our politicians, bureaucrats, both military and civilian, and businessmen have failed to take the necessary actions to lift our country from its abyssal despair. Instead, they have created a haven for themselves and their families in Pakistan and abroad. Their children receive quality education, healthcare, training, and capacity building comparable to the privileged in any developed country. Meanwhile, the masses are left to rely on divine mercy and special prayers, with little support or opportunity for improvement. This stark contrast highlights the deep inequalities and neglect that have hindered the nation's progress in every sector, including sports. This time around, divine intervention did the magic; next time, it may not.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Arshad Nadeem, Made History

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem has made history by clinching the country's first-ever track and field medal at the Olympics as he claimed gold in the men's javelin final in Paris.

The 27-year-old dethroned defending champion Neeraj Chopra of India and broke the Olympic record at the Stade de France on Thursday.

Nadeem threw his arms up in celebration after breaking the Olympic record on his second throw that landed at a stunning 92.97 metres – the best in the world this year.

Chopra, comfortably ahead in qualifiers and favourite to win, looked off his best form. His best of 89.45 metres was also his only valid attempt as he fouled on his five other attempts.

Grenada's Anderson Peters won bronze with 88.54 metres, a redemptive moment for the two-time world champion after he failed to make it to the final at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

However, the night belonged to the humble man from Mian Channu, a small town in the eastern Punjab province, who came back from a knee injury early this year and made history for his country despite the dilapidated athletics facilities in the cricket-mad nation.

Of Pakistan's eight previous Olympic medals, six came in men's hockey and one each in men's wrestling and boxing.

Nadeem's achievement also marked the first medal by Pakistan for eight Olympics, with the last medal coming in 1992 as the men's hockey team won bronze in Barcelona, Spain.

The government has issued a special postage stamp on the occasion of 77th Independence Day to honour the Paris Olympics' gold medalist Arshad Nadeem and the freedom struggle of the Pakistani nation and its achievements.

The initiative had been taken on the special directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a news release issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Saturday.

The special postage stamp has been titled "Azm-e-Istehkam" which is a testament to the country's commitment to development and prosperity.

A picture of the Javelin Thrower Arshad Nadeem has been added to the stamp to pay tribute to him for winning a Gold Medal and setting a new Olympic record by throwing the javelin at a distance of 92.97 meters at the Paris Olympics 2024.

According to the news statement, the freedom struggle of Pakistan's nation and its symbolic importance have been highlighted by adding an image of Minar-e-Pakistan to the stamp.

The stamp issued by the Government of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, would continue to remind the future generations not only about the struggle and sacrifices made by our ancestors for freedom, but also the commitment of the government for the development of Pakistan.



Independence Day: Azm-e-Istehkam postage stamp issued to honour Arshad Nadeem, freedom struggle.

Defense Budget: Vital for Ensuring Our Survival - III

Pakistan has long grappled with internal security challenges posed by terrorist organizations and militant groups. From the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to sectarian extremists, these entities have destabilized regions within the country, targeting civilians and security forces alike. A well-equipped military is indispensable for conducting counter-terrorism operations, dismantling terrorist sanctuaries, and restoring peace and stability in affected areas. Advanced military capabilities, including intelligence gathering, precision strikes, and special operations, are pivotal in effectively neutralizing terrorist threats.

role in ensuring the security, safety, and reliability of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. Secure command and control systems, storage facilities, and effective defense mechanisms are crucial components of Pakistan's nuclear deterrence strategy. A well-equipped military reinforces Pakistan's deterrence posture, reduces risks of nuclear conflict, and promotes strategic stability in South Asia.

Beyond its primary defense roles, Pakistan's military also plays a critical role in disaster response and humanitarian assistance during natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts. Rapid deployment capabilities, medical aid teams, and logistical support are essential in providing timely relief to affected populations and supporting national resilience efforts. The military's humanitarian initiatives underscore its commitment to civilian welfare and demonstrate its role as a pillar of national unity and support during times of crisis. A robust and well-equipped military contributes significantly to Pakistan's socioeconomic progress by fostering a secure environment that supports economic growth, encourages investment, and facilitates infrastructure development. The stability and peace maintained by the military allow the government to prioritize key socioeconomic initiatives such as education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. Moreover, military-led development projects in remote and underserved

areas promote inclusive growth and strengthen national resilience against both external threats and internal challenges.

The Pakistan Army, as a fundamental pillar of national defense and security, is actively engaged in a continual process of modernization and capability enhancement to address evolving threats and strategic demands. Ensuring the full readiness of the Pakistan Army is essential for safeguarding national sovereignty and enhancing regional stability. This modernization effort entails upgrading equipment, enhancing operational capacities, and integrating state-of-the-art technologies to effectively respond to contemporary security challenges. The Pakistan Army has focused on acquiring advanced weaponry such as tanks, artillery systems, and air defense systems to bolster combat effectiveness and operational capabilities. Recent acquisitions, including tanks sourced from China and Turkey, along with domestically developed drones and missile systems, underscore efforts to enhance both conventional and asymmetric warfare capabilities. Investments in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, including drones, satellites, and surveillance equipment, have significantly strengthened the army's ability to gather real-time intelligence, monitor borders, and conduct precise strikes against terrorist targets. Collaborations with international partners and advancements in indigenous technologies have further augmented Pakistan's ISR capabilities.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Changing climate and its influence on Pakistan

Manahil Saqib

In today's fast paced world, we face various challenges and difficulties but regardless of those, climate change is one of the most crucial matters in the present time. Previously, our ancestors had no knowledge about climate change and hence it was not a concern back in the day. However, in today's contemporary world the entire focus is on the impact of climate change and how to prevent the adversities of climate change.

In recent years, signs of climate change and global warming were very evident, especially in the south Asian region and other developing countries. The problem faced by developing countries is that they are not responsible for global climate changes but unfortunately, these countries suffer the most from harsh impacts of changing climate.

Keeping in view the geostrategic positioning of Pakistan, and the changing dynamics of climate, Pakistan is prone to severe disasters and catastrophic events soon.

Challenges faced by Pakistan from changing climate

One of the most recent examples of climate changes in Pakistan is the floods of 2022, resulting in deaths of approximately 1800 people and economic loss of 15.2 billion dollars (about \$47 per person in the US). Besides that, Pakistan is inclined towards facing natural disasters annually, including droughts, earthquakes, and flooding. Moreover, in the past century, the annual temperature increase was around 0.63 Celsius across the country and the sea level across the Karachi coast has risen by 1.1mm (about 0.04 in) per year.

The changing climate not only influences the environment but also impacts the economy and general health of the state. The country, being an agricultural state, depends on agricultural land and is highly disturbed by the changing dynamics of the climate.

In the aspect of economic growth and development, climate change influences the agricultural productivity, economic costs, and energy sector of Pakistan. And on the other hand, it causes waterborne diseases and heat related issues in aspects of public health.

Apart from this, the advent usage of fossil fuels and lack of technological advancements of Pakistan leads to a setback in development.

Overall, climate change opposes significant and multifaceted challenges to Pakistan. Staying in the bubble of ignorance is not a solution to Pakistan's issues faced by climate adversities and there is a desperate need for a proper solution for these problems by our government.

Suggested WAY FORWARD TO TACKLE climate change as a developing country?

While addressing the climate changes in a developing country, it revolves around a series of implementation of strategies and policies consisting of mutual efforts by the local government and on an international level. It requires both technological advancements and old school practices. There are various comprehensive efforts that could be done to save our environment. On an international scale, funds can be provided for saving the underdeveloped areas across the globe and mutual efforts can be done for saving the planet.

Promoting renewable energy resources, strengthening government policies, having sustainable agriculture and a resilient infrastructure are few ways of solving problems related to climate change.

Considering the dynamics of Pakistan, a way towards progression includes transformation of the food system. The country needs to promote a smart climate system along with that it needs a significant investment in urban planning and Development, so in case of floods or earthquakes the aftermath is not too brutal.

In addition to this, Pakistan needs to enhance its water security system. It needs improvement in water storage, management and needs ways to overcome scarcity. Along with that, Pakistan needs to diversify its energy resources.

Overall, the problems faced by climate change can be overcome by a collective effort. By doing so the multifaceted challenges of climate change can be easily resolved.

Climate change is a global issue and needs attention. Staying in the bubble of ignorance will only enhance the problems of climate change and it makes it difficult to live through these problems. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive strategy that integrates policy reform, technological innovation, and community engagement. By taking such measures, Pakistan can overcome the adverse effects of climate change and build a more resilient future for its people.

Written is student of national defence university, Islamabad.

China's Long Daoyi, being the world's top diver and a rising rapper, has captivated fans at Paris 2024 and back at home as well

Spokesman Report

PARIS, (XINHUA): Long Daoyi is one of the world's top divers. Last week, he and teammate Wang Zongyuan clinched the gold in the men's synchronized 3m springboard event at the Paris Olympics.

But he isn't just an Olympic champion—he's also a rapper, a side of him that remained largely unknown until his recent victory. In his song "Changba Street Kid," which went viral online, he raps, "They say I am too crazy and tell me to behave, but I don't care what they say to me..." Released in July, just before the Paris Olympics, Long not only composed the track but also performed it himself.

"It's really incredible; he is a diver and a rapper. How does he balance these two things?" one of the 2,000 comments on his song marveled.

On Friday, Long made a memorable

appearance at Champions Park, a venue where fans could meet and interact with Olympic medalists. As the only Chinese athlete present that day, he immediately captivated the crowd. Wearing the Chinese delegation's uniform and a pair of sunglasses, Long confidently took the stage, moving to the rhythm of the live music. With his hands raised high, he matched the beat perfectly, energizing the atmosphere.

Under the Eiffel Tower, Long stood tall, arms wide open as if embracing the world. "In my impression, Chinese athletes are usually shy. Long is such a different guy," a local fan remarked.

What that fan might not know is where Long comes from. He hails from Changba Street in Rongjiang County,



in China's southwestern Guizhou Province—a place also known for the famous Village Super League (VSL).

The VSL, also known as "Cun Chao," quickly became a hit both in China and globally in 2023 for its grassroots spirit and festive atmosphere.

Beyond football, Rongjiang has also become a hub for gymnastics in Guizhou, with athletes from the area winning several world championships

in gymnastics and rock climbing in recent years.

Long grew up surrounded by this sporting environment. Born in 2003, he began training in gymnastics at the Rongjiang County Children's Amateur Gymnastics School at the age of four. At seven, he was selected to the Shijiazhuang City Sports School in Hebei Province, where he switched to diving. By eight, he was already part of the Hebei Province Diving Team.

In his song, Long raps, "I am a kid from Changba Street... If I fall into a trap, I have to work harder. I'm not afraid."

With a gold medal around his neck and a hit song to his name, Long Daoyi's story has only just begun. As he continues to dive into new challenges and rap his way into the hearts of fans, the world will be watching closely—eager to see where his unique talents take him next.

RIPHAH International University Strengthens Ties with South Korea through Diplomatic Visit



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation led by RIPHAH International University's Chancellor Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan recently visited the South Korean Embassy in Islamabad. During this visit, the delegation had an engaging meeting with His Excellency Mr. Park Kijun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Pakistan. DVC RIPHAH Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan was also present.

The meeting focused on exploring areas of mutual interest, particularly in the fields of education and the promotion of Korean language and culture. Chancellor Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan also informed his Excellency about RIPHAH International University's students who are currently in the process of applying for student exchange visas to Republic of Korea.

As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing cultural exchanges, RIPHAH International University is pleased to support and promote an upcoming Korean cultural event. The event is scheduled to take place this year, during October at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Sports Complex.

This collaboration reflects RIPHAH International University's dedication to fostering international partnerships and cultural understanding.

Compliance with Supreme Court directions is a constitutional obligation of executive institutions. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) organized a Conference titled "Overcoming the Implementation Challenge to Court Verdict(s)" to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the landmark judgment on minorities' rights (SMC No. 1/2014). Honorable Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah was the Chief Guest of the Conference. The speakers included; Peter Jacob, Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Dr. A. H. Nayyar, Dr. Aslam Khaki, Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Saqib Jillani Advocate, Shafique Chaudhry, Jennifer Christine and Jayaa Jaggi, while Faaria Khan was the master of the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah took note of the implementation challenges to the court verdict, and assured to take it to the conclusion to ensure that the judgment on minorities' rights is fully complied with in letter and spirit. He stressed that the implementation of court verdicts is a constitutional obligation of the executive institutions, and the disregard of court verdict is tantamount to a violation of the constitution. He emphasized that faith should be a matter of personal conviction, and all citizens of Pakistan have equal rights as guaranteed in the constitution of Pakistan. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah emphasized that state institutions must effectively implement constitutional provisions to protect minorities from violence and violations, introduce strategies and policies to promote social harmony and tolerance, and protect the religious and cultural heritage of all communities, and establish institutions to address the grievances of minorities.

Peter Jacob, the Executive Director at CSJ, stated that the non-compliance of the Supreme Court Judgment on minorities' rights in the past 10 years is evident, the weakness lies at all tiers of governance, hence an all-out effort is required to address this dysfunction of the implementers. We also need specialized platforms, including the implementation committees, monitoring bench, and for long-standing issues a National Commission for Minorities Rights.

Saqib Jillani Advocate stated that I have been appearing before the Supreme Court bench for the past six years, watching over the implementation of Minorities Judgment as a legal counsel on behalf of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), and Cecil and Iris Foundation (CICF). I have seen lethargy on the part of the administration regarding the implementation of the directives in the judgment.

An academic and researcher, Dr. A. H. Nayyar stated that the most significant judgments of the Supreme Court of Pakistan underscored the plights of minorities and charted out the path to remedy the wrongs, however, they have remained unimplemented by the executive over ten years.

Dr. Shoaib Suddle said that the court orders on minorities' rights have not been fully complied with, and one-man commission has been facing challenges due to the lack of progress made by government institutions. He urged that the implementation bench of Supreme Court must be constituted to carry out regular proceedings and empower the one-man commission with powers of contempt which will contribute to improving the implementation of the judgment.

Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash said that the four orders of the judgment speak broadly about issues that deal with hate speech, tolerance, and human rights violations. This judgment has significance for the enforcement of the rights of all citizens of Pakistan.

The conference was well attended by lawyers, academics, human rights defenders and journalists, wherein the speakers raised their serious concerns over the lack of seriousness on the part of the federal and provincial governments to address human rights violations, and called upon the government to take concrete measures to protect religious freedom and minorities' rights in accordance with the directions of the Judgment issued by Tassaddiq Hussain Jilani, then Chief Justice of Pakistan in 2014.

The report revealed that the Sindh government achieved the highest compliance score with 9 out of 25, followed by the Punjab government with an 8/25 score. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments achieved implementation scores of 6/25 and 5/25 respectively. The federal government had the lowest compliance score, reflecting stalled progress in adhering to court directions.

Float of Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Workers are busy in preparing a float of Pakistan provinces historical places in connection with Independence Day on 14th August, outside Pindi Arts Council in the city.



Photo: Online

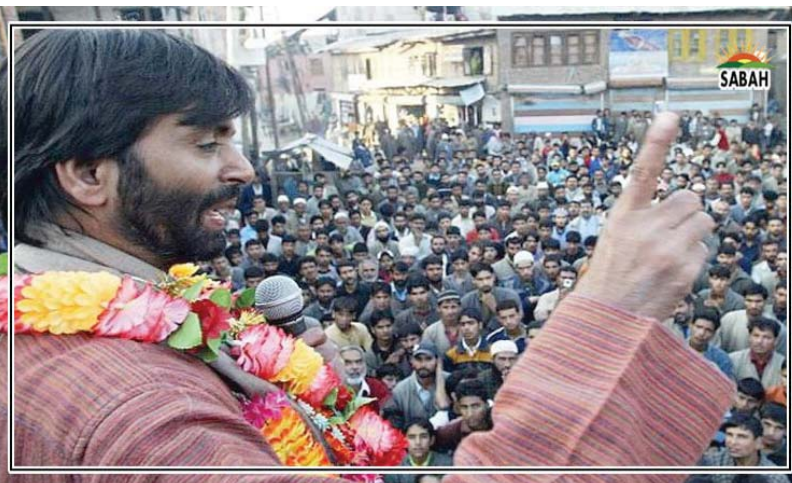
Let Justice Prevail for Mohammad Yasin Malik: Dr. Fai

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON, D. C.: One of the most recognizable leaders of Kashmiri resistance movement, Mohammad Yasin Malik, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, appeared virtually before Delhi High Court for court proceedings. Mr. Malik had pleaded to be produced physically before the court and had objected to conduct proceedings through virtual mode. But the court rejected his plea. National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India is asking for death penalty of Mr. Malik. The next hearing will be on September 19, 2024. One wonders what his crime is. Earlier trial court had said that crimes committed by Malik struck at the 'heart of the idea of India' and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu and Kashmir from the union of India. Associated Press reported that Yasin Malik said during the trial, "Terrorism-related charges leveled against me are concocted, fabricated and politically motivated" and that "If seeking Azadi (Freedom) is a crime, then I am ready to accept this crime and its consequences."

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum on Peace & Justice said that "It is a historical fact that Mr. Malik actively campaigned for the candidates of the Muslim United Front (MUF) during the election 1987. It is universally accepted that the Indian machinery grossly rigged the 1987 elections to install the puppet Farooq Abdullah Government in Kashmir. That became the catalyst for a number of Kashmiris, including Mr. Malik and his close associates to start an uprising against the Indian occupation. Armed revolt against the illegal Indian occupation then erupted in 1988. Malik picked up the gun against Indian rule.

He was wounded and captured in a battle in August 1990. In media interviews, he has maintained that he was driven to "armed struggle" because the Indian state did not allow any space for non-violent protests. However, in 1994, a delegation headed by Ambassador Kuldeep Nayyar who was sent by Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao to meet with Mr. Malik, assured him that all case will be dropped against him if he renounces violence. Later, Ambassador Kuldeep Nayyar wrote in Rediff.com on August 7, 1999, "The first militant, Yasin Malik, who raised



his gun at a public meeting in the heart of Srinagar, has turned nonviolent and vegetarian. Now he is a follower of Mahatma Gandhi."

Dr. Fai quoted Bharat Bhushan, a seasoned Indian journalist, who wrote in 'The Telegraph' on February 4, 2007, "The president of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the first to wield the gun in Kashmir, is today training youngsters in non-violent politics. He uses a curious mixture of religion — Sufism — and non-violence in an attempt to build a constituency for peace in Jammu and

Kashmir."

Dr. Fai added that it is worth mentioning here that Dr. Shri Prakash in his book, 'Twenty Tumultuous Years Insights into Indian Polity' on page 568 writes, "The Kashmiri anger actually began with the mass rigging of elections in 1987. There is no use putting life in a corpse. Kashmiri leaders from Farooq Abdullah downwards have lost their credibility, they are totally irrelevant." And, Amy Waldman wrote in the New York Times on August 24, 2002 that "Rigged elections in Kashmir in 1989 helped trigger the armed uprising

belong to any member state of the United Nations, then the claim of trial court that Mr. Malik intended to secede from India does not stand. "Terrorism-related charges leveled against me are concocted, fabricated and politically motivated" and that "If seeking Azadi (Freedom) is a crime, then I am ready to accept this crime and its consequences," Yasin Malik said during the trial, reported by Associated Press.

It may be an eye-opening experience for trial court judge to know the following. "A lady asked me other day, 'Why Gorbachov would not agree to the Lithuanian demand for independence from the Soviet Union?' I countered with the question: 'Do you believe that Kashmir belongs to India?' 'Yes, of course' she said. 'That is why?' I said, 'There are too many Russians who wrongly believe that Lithuania belongs to the Soviet Union, just as you believe that Kashmir belongs to India,'" — Minoo Masani, Former Indian Ambassador to Brazil, Dalit Voice, Bangalore, Aug. 1, 1990.

The plan and intentions of the current fascist regime are more sinister when it comes to the case of Yasin Malik. The International community must take cognizance of that historical behavior of India.

By eliminating peace-loving leaders like Yasin Malik, the Indian regime is closing any avenues of peace in the region and pushing the youth of Kashmir towards actions that can be detrimental to the peaceful resolution of Kashmir conflict.

We appeal to the United Nations and other world powers, including Biden Administration to shed their protracted silence and earnestly impress upon the Indian government to let international standards of justice prevail and free Mohammad Yasin Malik.

that India estimates has taken more than 35,000 lives."

Now, coming back to the ridiculous assertion of trial court that 'crimes committed by Malik were intended to forcefully secede Jammu and Kashmir from the union of India.' It might be asked since when has Jammu and Kashmir become part of India. Is not a fact that under all U. N. Security Council resolutions agreed between India and Pakistan, endorsed by the Security Council, Kashmir does not belong to any member state of the United Nations? If Kashmir does not

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,569.58	77,874.22	
Day's High	Day's Low	
78,823.13	78,051.08	
Index Value	Change	
9,690,245,992	+695.36	
Percentage	Time	
+0.89%	9 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,168.10	+23.13	
Percentage	Time	
+0.28%	9 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,553.18	+106.69	
Percentage	Time	
+0.27%	9 Aug, 1:18 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
35,025.00	+193.85	
Percentage	Time	
+0.56%	9 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.75	187.56
Bahrain Dinar	739.12	744.62
Canadian Dollar	204.25	207.70
China Yuan	38.3	38.7
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	304.60	306.81
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.65	911.80
Malaysian Ringgit	58.75	59.55
New Zealand \$	169.15	171.15
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	725.45	729.82
Qatari Riyal	76.29	77
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.55
Singapore Dollar	202	206.3
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.75
Swiss Franc	319.35	325.35
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.65	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	355.65	357.65
US Dollar	279.30	280.40

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Vision: Pollution & Smog-Free Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In the light of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision for the elimination of smog along with eliminating hazardous impacts of climate change has been transformed into Punjab's maiden grand plan. 'Punjab Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024' has been given a final shape. It has been decided to submit it in the cabinet meeting for approval.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb presided over a meeting in which it has been decided to submit 'Punjab Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024' in the cabinet meeting. Secretary Environment & Climate Change presented the proposed manuscript in the meeting and gave a detailed briefing in this regard as well.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb lauded the manuscript quality of 'Punjab Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024' and commended the team on making dedicated efforts in its preparation. The Senior Minister directed that 'Punjab Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024' manuscript should be sent to all the relevant stakeholders. It was decided in the meeting to expedite 'Plant for Pakistan' campaign, making green investment in the affected sectors along with incorporating 'Climate Change Education' in the educational



curriculum. The proposal to conserve and utilise rain water in the government buildings along with launching these experimental programs in various districts was reviewed in the meeting. The proposal to establish 'Water Quality Monitoring System' to assess quality of water along with introducing laws to control underground water was also reviewed.

The proposal to introduce latest methods in the Irrigation system for water conserva-

tion along with establishing small dams in the Pothohar and Rohi areas was unanimously agreed. The proposal to launch a 'Special Management Plan' to save South Punjab from famine was comprehensively reviewed in the meeting.

The proposal to grant climate-friendly interest-free loans to small scale business persons was put forth in the meeting. Secretary Environment while giving a briefing apprised that the motive behind undertaking such formi-

dable steps is to generate better capability to counter and cope up with the hazardous climate change effects. The climate change is not only increasing earth's temperature but intensity of heat as well. The destructive effects of climate change are coming to surface in the shape of frequent occurrence of floods, famine and forests fire incidents.

Punjab is emitting approximately 95 thousand kilotonnes of green house gases and 7 thousand 17 kilotonnes health injurious gases. High temperature hot spots persist in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Mianwali, DG Khan, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Sargodha, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Multan.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said, "Climate change is a global issue which pertains to human life and death. The climate change effects are causing a colossal loss to the global climate and destruction to human lives as well. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision is to save the human and animal lives. Besides undertaking concrete steps, awareness needs to be imparted to all segments of people about the importance of planting trees so as to save the climate from toxic effects of injurious and poisonous gases."

Secretary Environment & Climate Change Raja Jahangir Anwar, CEO Urban Unit Omer Masood, Climate Socialists and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

Hard Work

MULTAN: A laborer on the way pulling a heavily loaded handcart to deliver the stuff to shops at Bohar Gate.



Photo: APP

REAP and TDAP Mark USD 4 Billion Milestone with Sustainable Celebration

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), in association with The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), proudly announces a landmark celebration commemorating a USD 4 billion export achievement milestone. The event titled "FOUR-The Quadra Legacy" was held at the historic Mohatta Palace, marking the first time a sustainability-focused event of this magnitude took place at this iconic venue.

The celebration honored the achievement of USD 4 billion in rice exports by REAP, showcasing the remarkable success of Pakistan's rice export industry. The event also paid homage to the rich heritage and symbolism of the number 4 in Islamic architecture, with Mohatta Palace as the backdrop. Emphasizing eco-conscious practices, the event featured zero waste initiatives, utilizing recyclable and compostable materials, renewable energy sources, and informative displays on sustainability. It symbolically represented the immersive experience of 'chaar bagh' (four gardens), intertwining the four elements of nature: earth, air, water, and fire. The event also featured an exclusive performance by the legendary Shafiqat Amanat Ali, along with Khumariyaan and Lenny Massey an opening act designed to engage all senses and celebrate Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

Mr Chela Ram Kewlani, Chairman-Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), shared his thoughts, "Our journey to achieving USD 4 billion in rice exports is a story of perseverance and vision.. We also look forward to pushing the USD 4 Billion achievement to USD 6 Billion in the coming months"

She Loves Tech Karachi kick-starts with strong support from Unilever

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: She Loves Tech, the world's largest women-led startup competition, launched its Karachi round, organized by CIRCLE Women Association with Unilever Pakistan Ltd. as a venue partner, Startup Syndicate as a round partner, and Sapphire as the merchandise partner.

Held at Unilever Pakistan Ltd, Awari Towers in Karachi, the competition brought together innovative women-led tech startups, industry experts, and ecosystem collaborators. The event saw the participation of 8 shortlisted women-led startups competing for a chance to compete in the National Finale in August. The winners of the National Finale will advance to the She Loves Tech South Asian Regional Round.

The event was also graced by Mr. Amir Paracha, CEO at Unilever Pakistan Ltd, Sadaf Abid, CEO and Founder at CIRCLE Women Association, along with an esteemed panel of judges. The panel of judges included Atayab Tahir-Co Founder & CEO at HugoBank, Jehan Ara-CEO at Katalyst Labs, Ahmed Ayub-Chief Strategy Officer of Conrad Labs, Majida Maya Malik-Head of Product Growth at SpurSol, Shameem Rajani - COO of Genetech Solutions, and Maha Shahzad -Founder of BusCaro.

ICCI, CDA join hands to promote sports in Islamabad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has highlighted the crucial role of public-private partnership in building a robust sports ecosystem, emphasizing that this collaboration is vital for promoting a happier and healthier lifestyle for leading a pleasing life. During a meeting with Director Sports and Culture, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Malik Atta and his team here at the Chamber House, Bakhtawari discussed potential areas of cooperation to encourage sports development in Islamabad. The meeting focused on harnessing the collective strengths of both sectors to create a thriving sports culture in the capital city.

ICCI President said that Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem made history by winning the first-ever Olympic gold medal for the country in athletics with an Olympic record of 92.97 meters in the javelin throw and that it will be matter of pride for the Chamber to celebrate this victory in collaborate with the CDA.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) also emphasized the crucial role of collaborative efforts



in promoting healthy activities in the city. He stressed that such initiatives are vital for the benefit of the youth, who are the future nation-builders.

Director Sports and Culture CDA Malik Atta, while highly appreciating the ICCI especially its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the continued support to the CDA with regard to the resolution of business community's problems for the ease of doing businesses pledged all out cooperation of the Authority for the purpose by adding that

Chamber's collaboration will actually be a great service not only to the Department but the residents also.

He said that a Committee comprising ICCI and CDA representatives will be formed at the earliest to finalize the modalities and implementation on the plan.

Those present in the meeting also include Chaudhry Maqsood Tabish, Dr. Usman, Malik Bashir Awan, Sajid Iqbal, Nasir Chaudhry, Imtiaz Abbasi and Chaudhry Irfan.

Prices Of Flour Bags Further Reduced In Punjab. Minister Bilal Yasin

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: On the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab, the prices of flour bags have been further reduced. The Punjab Food Department has issued a notification for a reduction in the prices of 10 and 20 kg flour bags across the province.

Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin said that in the provincial capital Lahore, the price of a 20 kg flour bag has been reduced by an additional Rs 70, and will now be sold at Rs 1730 instead of Rs 1800. In Sheikhupura, the 20 kg flour bag will be available at Rs 1640, a reduction of Rs 100.

Further reductions have been made in other cities: Jhelum, Chakwal, Pakpattan, and Narowal (Rs 80), Multan, Sahiwal, Sargodha, and Attock (Rs 60), Rawalpindi, Hafizabad, Sialkot, Nankana, and Okara (Rs 50), Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Chiniot, Khushab, Bhakkar, Lodhran, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, and Rahim Yar Khan (Rs 40), Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Wazirabad, and Mandi Bahauddin (Rs 30), and Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, DG Khan, Khanewal, Vehari, and Mianwali (Rs 20).

GRASP's Impact Shines at Food Ag Expo 2024

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), made a significant impact at this year's Food Ag Expo 2024. Representing 22 districts across Sindh and Balochistan, the project highlighted Pakistan's rich diversity in food and agriculture products on the global stage.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, graced the GRASP pavilion with his presence. During his visit, he engaged with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from rural areas, learning firsthand about their innovations and challenges. The Prime Minister also met with ITC Director Escipion Joaquín Oliveira Gomez, expressing his appreciation for ITC's unwavering support to Pakistan's business communities.

In conjunction with the expo, GRASP organized a seminar focused on exporting food products to the European Union. Global trade experts

shared their insights with Pakistani traders, covering critical topics such as the EU Green Deal and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The seminar aimed to equip local businesses with the knowledge and strategies needed to navigate these upcoming regulations and explore new markets for Pakistani food and agriculture products across Europe.

On the second day of the Expo, Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries, Mr. Jam Kamal, visited the GRASP pavilion. He commended the SMEs for their remarkable

efforts and expressed his admiration for their success in securing global orders, despite operating with limited resources and capacity.

At the GRASP pavilion, SMEs are successfully securing international orders for a range of products, including mangoes, dates, banana fiber, and various by-products of agriculture. Exporters from Europe, Africa, and Asia have shown keen interest in these high-quality offerings, marking a significant achievement for the participating SMEs.

To date, the GRASP project has



provided vital support to over 30,000 SMEs in Sindh and Balochistan. The project continues to improve the business environment for these enterprises

while assisting federal and provincial governments in developing policies that enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's SMEs.

Five key questions over USADA's anti-doping practices

Xinhua

PARIS: International media reported on Wednesday that the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) had exonerated athletes who tested positive for doping in exchange for them acting as "informants." The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) subsequently issued a statement criticizing this practice for its "contravention of World Anti-Doping Code."

This news quickly garnered widespread attention from the media, athletes and sports officials at the Paris Olympics, raising common concerns.

Question 1: Why did the U. S. shift from recognizing cannabis as a banned substance to pushing for its removal from the prohibited list?

Background: In 2009, U. S. star swimmer Michael Phelps was suspended for three months for using cannabis, and some sponsors decided not to renew their contracts with him. Over time, the call to remove cannabis from WADA's Prohibited List has grown stronger in the U. S. What caused this change? In the eyes of Americans, what are the criteria for including a substance on the banned list?

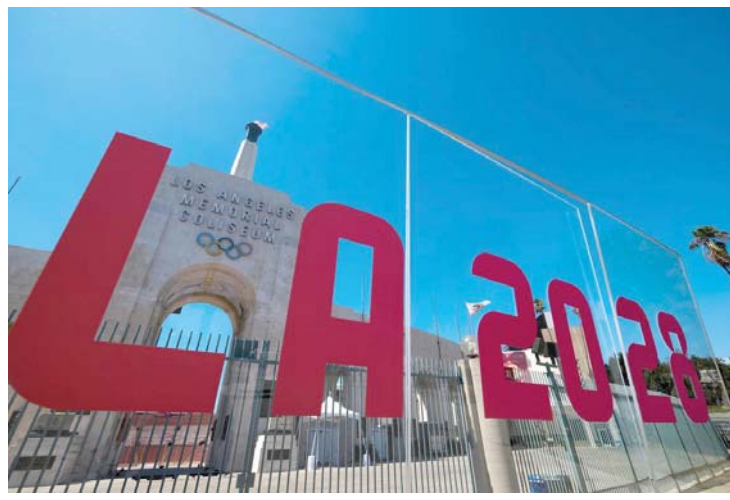
Question 2: How can the fact that

most U. S. athletes operate outside WADA's global anti-doping system not undermine fair competition with athletes from other countries?

Background: WADA President Witold Banka stated at the 142nd session of the International Olympic Committee: "90 percent of U.S. athletes are not under the jurisdiction of the World Anti-Doping Code. I am referring to professional and collegiate leagues. According to data released by the U. S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee on July 10, 75 percent of U. S. elite athletes participating in international competitions come from the collegiate system, including the NCAA. This means that most U. S. elite athletes originate from a system operating outside globally recognized clean sport standards." So, how are these athletes from U. S. professional leagues and the NCAA tested? What is the frequency of testing, and what are the standards for penalties? How can fair competition be ensured under two different anti-doping systems?

Question 3: Where does the U. S. "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" place existing international rules with its extraterritorial jurisdiction?

Background: The core of the



"Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" lies in its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Under this law, individuals involved in doping, aside from athletes, may face criminal penalties, and its scope includes international events with U. S. athletes, events sponsored by companies with U. S. operations, and events broadcast in the U. S. The law effectively grants the U. S. judicial authority over doping-related fraud in nearly all major international events, including the Olympics, but it does not apply to domestic

professional leagues such as the NBA or NFL, as these do not fall under the "major international sports competitions" defined by the Act.

Meanwhile, hundreds of countries and stakeholders worldwide have signed UNESCO's "International Convention against Doping in Sport," adhering to the World Anti-Doping Code and supporting the existing global anti-doping framework. When the U. S. enforces extraterritorial jurisdiction over doping violations, it clearly

conflicts with the unified global anti-doping system. Where does this leave existing international rules? Will other countries also enact legislation to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction, and ultimately, whose interests will be harmed?

Question 4: With the U. S. hosting the Los Angeles Summer Olympics and the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, can international sports participants avoid the threat of the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act"?

Background: In the case of the contamination of trimetazidine involving 23 Chinese swimmers, the U. S. used the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" to leverage domestic judicial and political means to investigate, extending its jurisdiction and summoning FINA Executive Director Brent Nowicki, which created a sense of crisis in the international sports community. The Paris Olympics are nearing their conclusion, and the next Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, with Salt Lake City hosting the Winter Olympics in 2034. Although the U. S. Olympic Committee Chair, the 2034 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics Organizing Committee Chair, and the Governor of Utah have all expressed support for WADA's work under the

World Anti-Doping Code and pledged to do everything possible to alleviate concerns in the international sports and anti-doping communities about the U. S. anti-doping system, can these promises be fulfilled? Can international sports participants avoid the threat of the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" while competing in the U. S.?

Question 5: Why is the U. S. so strict in overseeing anti-doping efforts in other countries, yet covers up and tolerates doping violations domestically? What is the basis for the U. S. allowing "informant" athletes to escape suspension?

Background: On August 8, WADA issued a statement accusing the USADA of covering up and tolerating doping violations while criticizing other countries' anti-doping agencies. In at least three serious doping cases, the USADA did not impose suspensions on athletes in exchange for them acting as "informants," without notifying WADA or following procedures. WADA considers this a clear violation. Allowing athletes who have used banned substances to continue competing threatens the integrity of sports. Is this fair to other athletes competing in the same events?

Diving to gold

PARIS: Long poses for a photo with the Eiffel Tower at the Champions Park for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, Aug. 5, 2024.

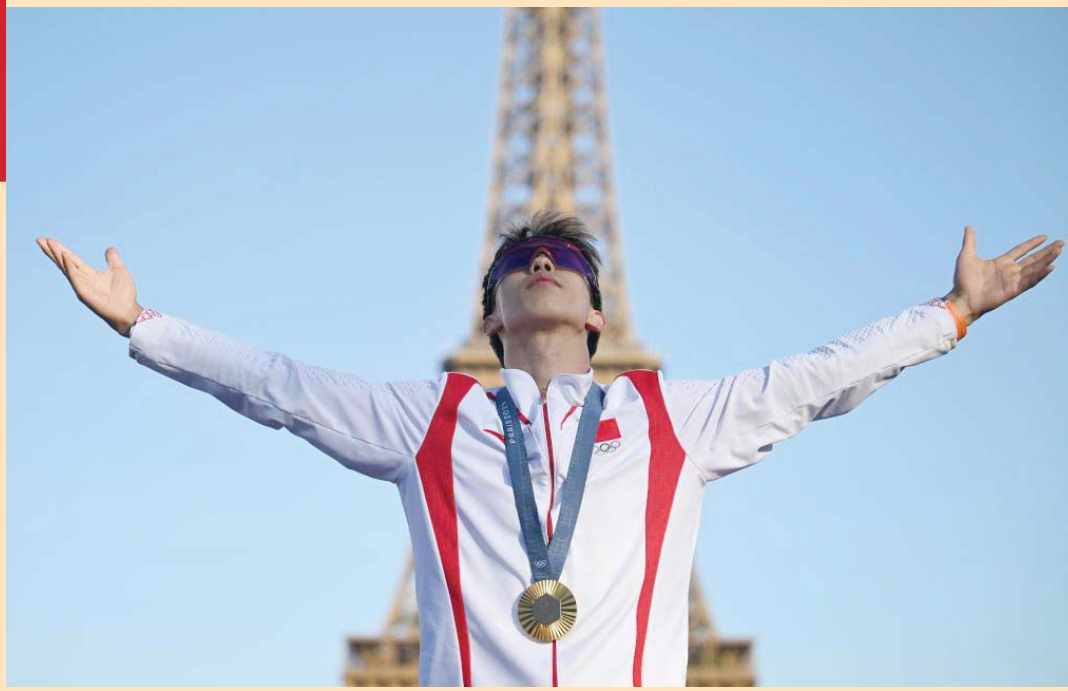


Photo: Xinhua/He Canling

Sprinter Knighton dodges media following men's 200m final amid doping controversy

Xinhua

PARIS: American sprinter Erriyon Knighton, embroiled in a doping controversy, finished fourth in the men's 200-meter final at the Paris Olympics on Thursday. However, his abrupt departure from the media zone without taking interviews has only fueled further suspicion regarding his eligibility to compete.

Knighton tested positive for the banned steroid trenbolone during an out-of-competition test on March 26. The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) opted not to impose a suspension, attributing the positive result to contaminated meat. This decision allowed Knighton to compete in the Paris Olympics qualifiers, a move that has sparked widespread concern. China's Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) publicly questioned USADA's handling of the case, calling for an independent investigation into what it described as a serious breach of the World Anti-Doping Code and a



potential cover-up of anti-doping violations.

Olympic regulations require all athletes to pass through the mixed zone for media interviews before leaving the venue. However, after the 200-meter final, Knighton was absent, leaving reporters waiting in vain. His absence stood in stark contrast to his teammate, Kenneth Bednarek, who won the silver medal and spoke

openly with the media. Even Noah Lyles, who had tested positive for COVID-19, made a masked appearance to share his experiences.

When asked about Knighton's whereabouts, a U. S. team staff member informed reporters that Knighton had already left and did not stop for interviews. Fellow journalists reported that Knighton hurried past the American

TV reporters' interview area without saying a word.

"Knighton's silence is particularly striking given the ongoing scrutiny of doping practices," commented one pundit. "Questions remain as to why the typically outspoken Knighton has chosen not to address the media, leaving the doping controversy surrounding him unresolved in the public eye."

Bangladesh cricket team to arrive in Lahore on 13 August



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that the Bangladesh men's cricket team will arrive early in Pakistan to prepare for the two ICC World Test Championship fixtures in Rawalpindi and Karachi from 21-25 August and 30 August-3 September, respectively.

Originally scheduled to arrive on 17 August in Islamabad, the Bangladesh team will now land in Lahore on the morning of 13 August. The team will train at the Gaddafi Stadium from 14-16 August before traveling to Islamabad on 17 August to hold practice sessions at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 18-20 August.

The PCB had extended an invitation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to send their team earlier, ensuring they have adequate and fair training opportunities ahead of the ICC World Test Championship matches.

PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, "Sports is not only about winning and losing, it's also about comradery. I remain confident that the extra training sessions in Lahore will allow the players to showcase their best skills and talent on the global stage."

"We are delighted that the BCB have accepted our offer and we look forward to welcoming the Bangladesh men's cricket team in Lahore on 13 August with our traditional hospitality. This will allow them to have three additional days of training and practice at one of our iconic venues before proceeding to Islamabad as originally planned."

BCB Chief Executive Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said, "We thank the PCB for giving the Bangladesh cricket team the opportunity to have additional training in Pakistan. This will certainly help the players to acclimate to the conditions and prepare better for the ICC World Test Championship series."

This will be Bangladesh's first tour of Pakistan since 2020 when they played three T20Is in Lahore and one-off Test in Rawalpindi. Bangladesh also played two ACC Asia Cup 2023 matches in Lahore against Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bangladesh is one of the seven sides that will feature in next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan. Other six sides are: Afghanistan, Australia, England, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

The PCB will provide further details regarding Bangladesh's training, practice sessions, and media opportunities in due course.

All arrangements completed to organize Azadi Marathon



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that all the arrangements have been completed to organize the Azadi Marathon and Family Fun Race in a befitting manner. It will be biggest marathon in the history of Punjab province. He said this while addressing a ceremony at SBP E-

Library on Saturday. Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Chand Perveen and all Divisional and District Sports Officers of the province attended the ceremony.

All the participants of ceremony were given necessary guidelines for the successful holding of Azadi Marathon and Family Fun Race scheduled to be organised on August 11 (Sunday) under the auspices of Punjab Sports Department.

Addressing the ceremony, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the 12-km Azadi Marathon and 3-km Family Fun Race will kick off from Liberty Chowk at 7.00am. "Punjab Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Khokhar will be the chief guest at the marathon race. Besides him, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Muzaffar Khan Sial and a large number of sports personalities will also be present on this occasion," he informed.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal further said that medical booths, information desks and water points will be set up at several points of the route to cope with any medical emergency. "Around 5,000 male and female athletes will participate in the Azadi Marathon. All the participants of Azadi Marathon and Family Fun Race will be provided best facilities," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that Sports Board Punjab's officials will be deputed at starting and finishing points to conduct both the races smoothly and successfully. "Besides this, there will be several volunteers to extend any kind of guidance to participants of Azadi Marathon and Family fun race he added.

Friendly cricket match between Multan Police and Press Club highlights police-media relations



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A friendly cricket match played between Multan Police and Press Club Cricket Teams at Divisional Sports Ground Multan, in which Multan Police won the match by performing brilliantly. SSP Operations Multan Rana Arslan Zahid participated in this match as a special guest.

At the end of the match, SSP Operations Arslan Zahid while talking to the media said that such sports competitions are not only beneficial for physical health but also strengthen the relationship between the police and the journalistic community.

He said that Multan Police is committed to promoting community policing, and such activities play an important role in further enhancing trust and cooperation between the police and the public. President Press Club, Shakeel Anjum also expressed his views on the occasion. He said that this kind of friendly competition improves relations between journalists and police and creates a positive atmosphere. He appreciated the efforts made by Multan Police for the promotion of sports and expressed hope that such competitions will continue to be held in the future.

Finally, SSP Operations congratulated the winning team and encouraged all the players. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed the game, and the match strengthened the relationship between the police and the journalistic community.

Javelin man with a lack of resources

Maheen Khan

Recently, Arshad Nadeem, the javelin man, set a record and won a gold medal in the Paris Olympics 2024 as the son of the land of Mian Chinnu with limited resources. But he left all the lack of resources behind and made the nation proud.

He is the inspiration of all Pakistanis. Without any government support, he went

and won. But my concern to the editor is that if we win a gold medal in the Olympics without government support, we will be bright in every sport if sports federations boost our young talent. We can win medals in boxing, weight lifting, wrestling, shooting, and many more. Sports unite us as a nation, bringing closure and a chance to celebrate and cherish.

We must build the first Pakistan Sports Board and sports federations without political interference and conflict of interest. And make sure the allocation

of sports money is fairly spent on athletes. The benefits of sports federation are that every athlete grows and goes with the process and support. It is the responsibility of our government to help financially and physically.

We need the proper sports system and process to strengthen our athletes. Due to a lack of resources, finances, and management, our nation struggles in sports. However, with our limited resources, winning a gold medal would be a historic achievement, as Pakistan

has immense talent in cricket, football, boxing, javelin, snooker, gymnastics and more.

The mournful sports authority returned 38 crore to the government because they had no clue how and where to spend this money. Meanwhile, Arshad Nadeem needs financial support.

Athletes need the best coaches, environment, and facilities to prepare for worldwide competitions.

She can be reached at mk5668704@gmail.com

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting on up-gradation of Islamabad Police Stations on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Al-Taba'een School Massacre, failure for the international community: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates confirmed that the crime of the "Al-Taba'een School Massacre" was caused by the failure of the international community and its institutions, including the Security Council, to assume its responsibilities to stop the genocide against the Palestinian people, in addition to its continued failure to provide international

protection for our people. It also stressed that the illegal Israeli occupation is an occupation that has nothing to do with humanity, and it must be held accountable and punished for its crimes, and the countries and parties complicit in committing all these crimes must be held accountable and punished.

The Foreign Ministry indicated that granting Israel immunity from punishment, not punishing it, and encour-

aging it makes it continue to commit massacres in the occupied Palestinian territory, the most recent of which is the heinous massacre in the Al-Taba'een School in the Al-Daraj neighborhood in the Gaza Strip, which houses displaced persons and forcibly displaced people, in which more than 100 martyrs and hundreds of injuries were claimed.

The Ministry called on the international community and

its institutions to work immediately to stop the aggression against our people in the Gaza Strip as it is the only way to protect civilians, and to activate accountability tools, including the International Criminal Court issuing arrest warrants against Israeli war criminals to deter and prevent the commission of more crimes. It also calls on the UN Security Council to convene immediately, to implement its decisions, and to compel

Israel, the illegal occupying power, to comply with international law and international legitimacy resolutions.

The Ministry directed all its ambassadors abroad to work to expose this crime and call on all countries to take all necessary steps to punish this criminal system, and to condemn this crime and other ongoing crimes in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, including Jerusalem.

Belt and Road chief Qaiser Nawab lauds Sindh's vision for green energy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Qaiser Nawab, President of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD) and a globally recognized youth climate leader, held a significant meeting with Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, the Minister of Planning and Development and Energy for the Government of Sindh, at Sindh House, Islamabad. The meeting centered on the Sindh government's ambitious plans to switch to renewable energy as a key strategy in combating climate change.

Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah shared his



vision and mission for renewable energy in Sindh, emphasizing the province's vulner-

ability to climate catastrophes, including flooding and heatwaves. He highlighted

the Sindh Government's proposal to allocate Rs. 25 billion over the next five years

to provide free rooftop solar home systems to 2.6 million off-grid households. This initiative, aimed at delivering cheap and sustainable electricity to the people of Sindh, is set to begin in August, with solar panels being distributed across every division and district by the end of the month.

Qaiser Nawab praised the Minister's forward-thinking initiatives, noting the significant impact of renewable energy on improving the quality of life for Sindh's residents. He also commended Minister Shah's contributions in his previous portfolios, recognizing his consistent efforts to empower the people of Sindh.

Islamabad prepares for grand Independence Day celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, visited F-9 Park on Saturday to review preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations, dubbed AzadiFest.

The event promises to be an extravagant display of patriotism, entertainment, and community engagement.

Various programs have been arranged in F-9 Park, including a musical concert, fireworks, and Islamabad's first-ever drone show.

A tree planting area will also be designated, allowing families, youth, and children to participate in the festivities.



Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that

the celebrations cater to all segments of society.

He also stressed the need for a comprehensive traffic plan, efficient parking arrangements, and separate entry gates for families, children, and youth to minimize congestion.

Security arrangements will be foolproof, with Islamabad Police instructed to take necessary measures. The media will have designated areas to cover the events and fireworks.

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad will oversee the overall arrangements for AzadiFest-related activities at F-9 Park. With these preparations in place, Islamabad is set to celebrate Independence Day in a grand and memorable manner.

Recently Commissioned PNS Hunain Commences maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The recently commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN departed from Constanta, Romania for maiden voyage to Pakistan. Earlier, Fleet Commander of Romanian Navy, Rear Admiral Cornel COJOCARU also visited the ship and called on the Commanding Officer.

Upon departure, PNS HUNAIN conducted Passage Exercise with

Romanian Navy ship LASTUNUL. PNS HUNAIN is the 3rd of the 4 Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being constructed at DAMEN Naval Shipyard Romania.

PNS HUNAIN is equipped with state of the art weapons and sensors. The addition of PNS HUNAIN will bolster Pakistan Navy's combat potential in safeguarding maritime frontiers and ensuring maritime security in the Arabian Sea and beyond.

Chairman Senate congratulates Arshad Nadeem for winning the gold medal

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani congratulated Arshad Nadeem for winning the gold medal in javelin throw competition in Paris Olympics and making the country's name shine all over the world and said that Arshad Nadeem continued his success and made Pakistan proud. Arshad Nadeem's achievements have made the nation proud. We all pay tribute to Arshad Nadeem. Arshad Nadeem has created an atmosphere of happiness for the people of Pakistan by setting a world record.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that Arshad Nadeem has created a new history by breaking the 118-year Olympic record with his tireless work and dedication. Arshad Nadeem's victory is a message to all of us that with hard work and dedication one can achieve any position.



Arshad Nadeem is a ray of hope for the nation. He further said that the passion and dedication of Arshad Nadeem not only turned his dreams into reality but also gave hope to the new generation that with hard work and dedication, a person can turn his dreams into reality.

Social media platforms face internet disruption in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Social media users are facing difficulties due to severe disruption of internet services in various cities of Pakistan for the second consecutive day on Saturday.

Messaging applications including WhatsApp as well as other social media apps began experiencing slowdowns since Friday. The situation improved in the evening but complaints spiked again.

The disruption of internet services is causing problems for many people.

On the other hand, reports have also emerged of messages not downloading on WhatsApp.

Internet disruption: What is 'web monitoring system' undergoing

upgrade in Pakistan. Damaged cables in Red Sea disrupt internet services globally.

Internet, social media disrupted in Pakistan after Imran Khan's arrest.

Downdetector reported on Friday that WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram have been experiencing slowdowns for several hours. The website again reported a spike in the complaints on Saturday.

However, NetBlocks, another important platform monitoring internet restrictions, has not reported any anomaly in Pakistan internet traffic.

The disruption comes in the wake of reports that Pakistani authorities are testing a firewall to block and filter out unwanted social media content.

Government 'mulls' early closure of markets in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A suggestion is under consideration to close the markets early in Punjab to control the economic pressure started after exorbitant electricity bills, sources said on Saturday.

Sources within the Planning Commission stated that a decision had been made to seek suggestions from all four provinces regarding the proposal to close shops earlier.

Under the plan, shutting shops at 7pm could reduce electricity bills by up to 25% as power tariffs increase manifold from 6pm to 11pm.

Such a proposal always faced

opposition from traders, who neither want to be part of the tax net nor want to close their shops early, they added.

The aim of such a proposal was to promote part-time business activities in markets in the evenings, sources said and added that all countries, including the United States, Britain, China, Europe, Thailand, and Malaysia, close shops at 7pm and Pakistan would have to change its old routine for progress.

This is not a new suggestion as the Pakistan Democratic Movement-led government also suggested this in December 2022.